

**ENCYCICAL LETTER  
LAUDATO SI'  
OF POPE FRANCIS  
ON CARE FOR OUR  
COMMON HOME**

**QUESTION AT THE HEART OF  
THE ENCYCICAL:**

**"What kind of world  
do you want to  
leave to those who  
come after us?"<sup>160</sup>**

**Concern for the environment  
is no longer optional.**  
A person of faith should show  
even more responsibility  
regarding creation, which is  
a gift from God.



**THE TITLE**

Taken from St. Francis' prayer: *Canticle of the Creatures*. It reminds us that the earth "is like a sister with whom we share our life." 1 "This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her."

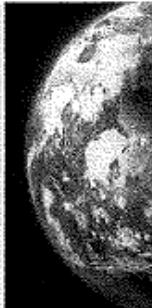


**INCLUDE IN YOUR  
EXAMINATION OF  
CONSCIENCE:**  
How have I lived in  
communion with all  
creatures and with  
nature?

**THE MESSAGE**

"Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home."<sup>18</sup>  
We are capable of rising above ourselves, "choosing again what is good, and making a new start."<sup>205</sup>

**Laudato Si' is a  
call to conversion  
and action,  
an invitation to  
change direction  
by taking on the  
task of caring for  
our common  
home.**



**MAIN THEMES**

1. the relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet
2. the conviction that **everything in the world is connected**
3. the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology
4. the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress
5. the value proper to each creature
6. the **human meaning** of ecology
7. the need for direct and honest debate
8. the serious responsibility of **international and local policy**
9. the throwaway culture and the proposal of a **new lifestyle**



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Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, "**Laudato Si'**" (Praised Be)\* will be released on June 18, 2015

\*The title is taken from St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures*, a prayer praising God for creation



**What is an encyclical anyway?**

- "encyclical" means "circular letter" FROM THE GREEK "EGKYKLOS"; "KYKLOS" MEANS A CIRCLE
- Encyclicals are formal letters written by popes meant for teaching
- They contain the pope's views on church teachings and doctrine on a particular topic
- They may be addressed to Catholics and all people of good will

Pope Francis' upcoming encyclical will be the first to focus directly on the environment

Pope Francis  
has always  
shown concern  
for the  
environment...

He chose his  
papal name after  
the patron saint  
of ecology:  
St. Francis of Assisi



In his inaugural Mass, he called on everyone to be:  
**"protectors of creation, protectors of God's  
plan inscribed in nature, protectors  
of one another and of the environment"**

The first encyclical  
was released by  
Pope Benedict XVI in

**1740**

Number of  
encyclicals by  
recent popes

François 2013-present	Benedict XVI 2005-2013	John Paul II 1978-2005
2	3	14

Popes have  
written over  
**300**  
encyclicals  
in total

François  
2013-present

Benedict XVI  
2005-2013

John Paul II  
1978-2005

Pope Francis' 1st Encyclical

YEAR: 2013

TITLE: "Lumen Fidei"

(The Light of Faith)

THEME: the theological virtue of Faith  
THIS COMPLETES THE WORK THAT POPE BENEDICT XVI  
STARTED BEFORE HIS RESIGNATION

Pope Francis' 2nd Encyclical

YEAR: 2015

TITLE: "Laudato Si"

(Praised Be)



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