

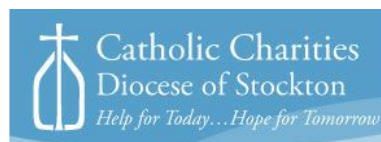
# ***Our Common Home: A Laudato Si' Toolkit***



*Marco Campagna/iStockphoto*



Presented by:  
The Environmental Justice Project  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton



## Hello and Welcome!

Before we start, please have a look at the questions below, and fill them out accordingly. Adapted from National Catholic Reporter (NCR), CatholicMom.com, and Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC)

### Questions to Consider:

What do you think an encyclical is, and do you think it is mandatory to accept it?

What has been your understanding of Laudato Si'?

Where have you seen harm inflicted on Sister Earth (Paragraph 2)?

### Opening Prayer

#### Prayer of Intercession

O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect of  
And care for your Creation.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

O Lord, help us to recognize the sacredness all of your  
Creatures as signs of your wondrous love.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

O Lord, help us turn from the selfish consumption of  
Resources meant for all and to see the impacts of our  
choices on the poor and vulnerable.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Why We Are Here** We are here to learn about Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si', meaning "Praise Be to You," it's importance, what the themes are, what Pope Francis says about them, and to respond to his call to action.

### An Encyclical

What is it?

Why is it important?

### Pope Francis' Laudato Si'

**Key Message:** Climate change is a moral issue for all Catholics and people of goodwill. Despite contributing the least to climate change, the poor and vulnerable suffer most from the consequences of improper care of the earth, and it is high time we take responsibility for our consumer-driven culture.



Goal of Laudato Si' A proposal to initiate an honest dialogue at every level of social economic and political life, to create understandable decision-making progress, and a reminder that nothing will work if we don't have a formed and responsible conscience, or have an ecological conversion.

Adapted from VIS.

### Questions to Consider

#### The encyclical makes us ask:

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?

What are we called to do in this world?

What can we do for the earth?

Adapted from VIS.

### Call to Action

“Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.” (19)

**Directions:** Brainstorm with your group suggestions on how we can answer these samples of Pope Francis' call to action.

#### The Call

- The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. (204)
- A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power. (206)
- We are faced with an educational challenge. (209)
- There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions (211)
- By learning to see and appreciate beauty, we learn to reject self-interested pragmatism. (215)
- Isolated individuals can lose their ability and freedom to escape the utilitarian mindset, and end up prey to an unethical consumerism bereft of social or ecological awareness. Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. (219)
- It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to:... (222)



## Our Response

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### Closing

#### Remember our goals:

- To get together to talk about the state of our environment and our relationship to it and to each other.
- To open our hearts to the crisis of both the environment and disadvantaged peoples.
- To take action together for the Common Good on all levels of society.

Adapted from VIS.

#### Have Hope!

**Yet all is not lost.** Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us. (205)

**We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world.** They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread. Furthermore, such actions can restore our sense of self-esteem; they can enable us to live more fully and to feel that life on earth is worthwhile. (212)



**Prayer**

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love.  
For it is in the giving we receive; it is in the pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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**Follow Us!:** Facebook: Environmental Justice Program  
Twitter: @EJStockton  
YouTube: Environmental Justice Project  
Instagram: EJPCCStockton  
Meet-Up: Environmental Justice in Action

**Further Resources: We can provide Advocacy Training, do book clubs, presentations, give resources, and more!**

Catholic Climate Covenant  
<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Catholic Rural Life  
<https://catholicrurallife.org/>

Catholic Ecology  
<http://catholicecology.net/>

Global Catholic Climate Movement  
<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>

CA Interfaith Power and Light Green Faith  
<http://interfaithpower.org/http://www.greenfaith.org/>

