



Laudato Si Study Guide Young Adult Group

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Laudato Si is an example of how a 13th
Century Saint Influenced Pope Francis to
Address the Serious Climate Crisis in the 21st
Century

Pope Francis, while influenced by many factors within today's world, the Catholic Church, and modern science, calls on the influence of the man often described as the first ecologist, St Francis of Assisi.





Laudato Si

Pope Francis issued this encyclical, subtitled, “Care for Our Common Home,” in 2013.

He was not the first Pope to address this issue, but followed in the footsteps of Popes Benedict XVI, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Paul VI.





Why the Title Laudato Si?

Pope Francis chose his title from Francis of Assisi: “Laudato Si, mi Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord.

Francis of Assisi reminded us that our common home is like “a Sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful Mother who opens her arms to embrace us.”

Pope Francis reminds us that our Sister Earth is now crying out to us for help. Who would not help their Sister/Mother when she cries out?

We are all in this together!

Pope Francis reminds us that science, technology, the Church, all churches and religions, and all humanity face issues we can only resolve together



Pope Francis says of St. Francis

Saint Francis is “the par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integrated ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the field of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians.”



Saint Francis Quoted Scripture

“Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker.”

Wisdom 13:5





Laudato Si; Chapter One

What is Happening to Our Common Home: Pope Francis outlines the crises we face—pollution and climate change, throwaway culture, our carbon footprint, production and consumption, water issues (especially the availability of clean water for the poor), loss of biodiversity, extinction of flora and fauna.

He calls on us to work together and to invest in research.

He unites the ecological crises with the quality of human life and the breakdown of society. We must hear “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” as St Francis did.

Laudato Si; Chapter Two

The Gospel of Creation

Pope Francis talks about the Light offered by faith, explains the wisdom offered in scripture, and harmony Francis of Assisi experienced with all creatures seeing this as sign of healing.

Scriptures point to God's rest from labor and even letting the land "rest." The prophets too praise God's creation.

Scripture points to the entire universe as being God's handiwork.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that "God wills the interdependence of creatures." Saint Francis's Canticle is listed on page 65 of the document, and we are directed to spend time gazing on Creation.



Laudato Si; Chapter Three

The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis:

We must admit of responsibility in the crisis of Sister Earth and use our technology and science to resolve this crisis.

We have the freedom to limit and direct technology to its uses in creating a more human, more social, more integral change.

We are losing the hope in a happy future; we need to move forward in a bold cultural revolution. Everything is interrelated.

The tradition of monasticism is not an escape from the world but makes one become more protective and respectful of the world



Laudato Si; Chapter Four

Integral Ecology

Environmental, Economic, and Social Ecology

The environment is the relationship between nature and society.

“The whole is greater than the part.” (Evangelii Gaudium)

Consumerism is part of the problem.

Exploitation harms the environment, the culture, and human beings (especially the poor)

Ecology in our daily lives: What can WE do?

The common good vs. individualism

Laudato Si; Chapter Five

Lines of Approach and Action

Dialogue on the international levels—look at what other countries are doing.

Eliminate global poverty. Il Poverello understood poverty on a global level even if he didn't have the science available to us today.

Dialogue on national and local issues; remove environmental issues from the realm of political polarity.

Religion and science must work together

Technologically advanced societies must encourage more sober lifestyles and reduce energy consumption

The background image shows a geothermal landscape with several tall, conical rock formations in shades of red, orange, and yellow. Steam is rising from the ground around these formations. In the foreground, there are terraced, mineral-rich pools in various colors like blue, green, and yellow. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light clouds. The overall scene is a natural wonder, likely a national park or similar protected area.

Laudato Si; Chapter Six

Ecological Education and Spirituality

A new lifestyle is needed, less selfishness, greed, consumerism—more interdependence.

All is not lost. We are capable of change. We must use our God-given ability to respond to God's grace at work in our hearts.

Environmental education is the start—action is the next step!

Don't feel you are an insignificant part of the change.

St Francis was one man who drew others to his cause. Eight centuries later, Pope Francis took his name and is continuing his mission to have humankind treasure all God's Creation.

What is Your Next
Step?
What is Our Next Step
as Community?

