



Eco-Justice Ministries

Eco-justice: "the well-being of all humankind on a thriving Earth"

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MEET THE ENCYCLICAL

– resources for the important environmental teaching from Pope Francis –

An on-line version of this page with clickable links is at www.eco-justice.org/EncyclicalLinks.pdf

Download the Encyclical:

- The easiest path to the official Vatican text is on the site LaudatoSi.com. There's also a short discussion on that page, by Fr. Robert Barron, about the influence of "the great twentieth century theologian and cultural critic Romano Guardini" on Pope Francis and the Encyclical.
- <http://sperolaus.com/2015/06/laudato-si-epub-download/> has the Encyclical in ePub and Kindle formats, and in a well-formatted full-page PDF (51 pages with some web links to footnotes -- much more practical than the Vatican version)

An excellent overview and summary:

- *A Reading of Laudato Si': Understanding Pope Francis on Our Common Home*, by John D. Whitney, S.J. (20 pages) -- <https://www.stjosephparish.org/files/150.pdf>

Helpful videos:

for personal use, or to introduce the Encyclical to an audience:

- *Top 10 Things You Need to Know about Pope Francis' Laudato Si'* (4:22)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_lqFTYLc_4
RomeReports.com -- *Breaking Down the Pope's Encyclical* (4:12)
<https://youtu.be/qOr-NATQacQ>
The short video on water issues in Bolivia used in the "Meet the Encyclical" workshop
Christian Aid in Bolivia - water privatisation and climate change
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0qmDNrpD20>

Audio commentary:

- *Love Thy Planet: Pope Francis and Climate Change discussion with local faith leaders*
A one-hour talk-radio interview with Rev. Peter Sawtell and Vi Thorgren (a Catholic Climate Ambassador) on July 3, 2015. -- <http://www.kgnu.org/connections/7/3/2015>

Eco-Justice Notes related to the Encyclical:

Eco-Justice Notes is a weekly e-mail commentary from Eco-Justice Ministries.

- *A Politician vs. the Pope* -- addressing the comments made by Sen. Rick Santorum a few weeks before the release of the Encyclical -- <http://www.eco-justice.org/E-150605.asp>
- *The Encyclical and Bold Dialogue* -- A "day after the release" analysis of the content and purpose of the Encyclical -- <http://www.eco-justice.org/E-150619.asp>
- *A US Dialogue with the Pope* -- not the Encyclical, but comments on the Pope's speeches during his visit to the United States -- <http://www.eco-justice.org/E-150925.asp>

Online Video Course:

- This course about the Laudato Si' Encyclical was produced by Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Religions for Peace, in partnership with the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. There are six units, ranging from 18 - 31 minutes.
<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/online-course-laudato-si>

Study guides:

We have looked at several study guides to the Encyclical, which cover quite a range of styles and content. They are listed here in a very subjective order of preference, with a brief description, and with one sample question related to the materials in chapter 5 of the Encyclical.

National Catholic Reporter

<http://ncrnews.org/documents/NCR%20Readers%20guide.pdf>

Six or seven sessions of about an hour -- A short summary paragraph outlines each chapter, with 9-12 questions for each chapter. ("There are lots of questions. Use the ones you find helpful for discussion.")

Chapter 5, question 10: "What does Francis mean when he says, 'There is a need to change "models of global development"'? What is wrong with the current models? What would the new models look like?"

Archdiocese of Washington

<http://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Laudato-Si-Study-Guide.pdf>

Eight sessions of about an hour -- Following the chapter topics, the guide has several (6-9) questions for each chapter, including the introduction. There is a final session on "How to Live the Teaching" with 10 questions.

Chapter 5, question 5: "What is Pope Francis' assessment of the practice of selling carbon credits? Are they a viable solution? If so, how? If not, why not?"

Sisters of Loretto

<http://www.lorettocommunity.org/membersite/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Laudato-Si-FINAL.pdf>

Seven+ sessions of 1 -1.5 hours -- The Loretto guide has several (4-7) questions for each chapter, including the introduction. (These seem to be a sub-set of the questions from the Archdiocese of Washington.) There is also a set of questions (from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops) on "how to live the teaching", and a couple of questions on "a reason to hope".

Chapter 5, question 5: "How can we recognize and confront the possible conflicts between environment and jobs, and work for the common good and solutions that value both people and the earth?"

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

http://presbypeacefellowship.org/sites/default/files/LaudatoSiStudyGuide_0.pdf

Seven 1-hour sessions -- For the introduction and each chapter, there is a very short summary, and three questions.

Chapter 5 (session 6), question 2: "What does it mean when Francis says we sometimes have a 'magical conception of the market,' and why is it important to avoid this?"

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/laudato-si-discussion-guide.pdf> (or go to <http://www.usccb.org> and work through the menus)

One or more sessions of one hour -- The guide from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (office of Justice, Peace and Human Development) does not follow the chapter outline of the Encyclical, but rather has 2 or 3 questions on each of 13 themes (Our Common Home, A Moral and Spiritual Issue, We Are Not God, etc.). A few short quotes from the Encyclical are offered for each theme. (**NOTE:** this is by far the shortest study plan, and thus the most superficial. By not following the chapter outlines, it seems to avoid some of the more challenging aspects of "lines of hope and action.")

Creating a Culture of Solidarity, Encounter and Relationship, question 2: "What values should instead be reflected in our local, national and global relationships, and in our conversation around addressing environmental issues? What changes in attitudes, perspectives, and actions might these values lead to?"

Please contact Eco-Justice Ministries to discuss Encyclical study options for your congregation, or to explore transformative ministries of the broad scope envisioned by the Encyclical.