



Laudato Si'

Catholic Social Teaching

Father of all,
Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
That we may live in right relationship –
With You,
With ourselves,
With one another,
And with creation.

Christ our Lord,
Both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the human family
By recognizing that we are all connected –
To our brothers and sisters around the world,
To those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,
And to future generations.

Holy Spirit,
Giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
Stirring to action the hearts of all—
Individuals and families,
Communities of faith,
And civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty,
and the cry of the earth, so that we may together
care for our common home.

Amen



St. Francis of Assisi

- Shows us how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace (#10)
- Fraternity, not mastery
- Glimpses of God's infinite beauty



Blessed Pope Paul VI

- The ecologic concern is “a tragic consequence” of unchecked human activity (#4)
- “the most extraordinary scientific advances, the most amazing technical abilities, the most astonishing economic growth, unless they are accompanied by authentic social and moral progress, will definitively turn against man” (#4)



St. Pope John Paul II

- Authentic human development has full respect for the human person, but must also be concerned for the world around us (#5)
- “The most profound and serious indication of the moral implications underlying the ecological problem is the lack of respect for life evident in many of the patterns of environmental pollution”



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

- “The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves” (#6)



Recurring Themes (#16)

- Relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet
- Conviction that everything in this world is connected
- Critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology
- Value proper to each creature
- Human meaning of ecology
- Need for forthright and honest debate
- Serious responsibility of international and local policy
- Throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle

What is Happening to Our Common Home

- Deterioration of the planet harshly affects the most vulnerable in our society (#48)
- No clear awareness of problems facing the poor because the decision-makers, media, and power centers are far removed from the problems themselves (#49)



What is Happening to Our Common Home

- Reduction in birth rate is NOT the solution (#50)
 - Undermines the dignity of the human person
 - Avoids real issue of consumerism
 - Demographic growth is fully compatible with an integral and shared development
- Church has no definitive answer, but understands need for honest debate among experts (#61)

The Gospel of Creation

- “Science and religion, with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both” (#62)
- Dominion does not mean domination (#67)
 - “till and keep” (Gen 2:15) implies mutual responsibility
 - Further implied in Ex 23:12 - rest on the seventh day is also meant “so that your ox and donkey may have rest” (#68)
 - Catechism of the Catholic Church: creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other (#86)
- Jesus himself lived in full harmony with nature (#98)
 - “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?” (Mt 8:27)
 - Often stopped to contemplate the beauty of nature – “Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest” (Jn 4:35)

The Gospel of Creation

- Psalms frequently encourage us to praise God the Creator (#72)
 - “Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created” (Ps 148:3-5)
- Recognize that every living creature is created to glorify God and see God reflected in all that exists (#87)
- Viewing creatures as sources of profit creates immense inequality, since most resources end up in the hands of a few powerful people (#83)

The Gospel of Creation

- We are called to help our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need
 - “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border, neither shall you gather the gleanings after the harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the sojourner” (Lev 19:9-10) (#71)
 - St. Pope John Paul II: “God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favoring anyone” (#93)
 - Rich and poor have equal dignity (#94)
- When these relationships are neglected, life itself is endangered (#70)
 - Story of Noah

The Gospel of Creation

- We should not neglect our human brothers and sisters for the existence of other creatures
 - “[At times] more zeal is shown in protecting other species than defending the dignity which all human beings share in equal measure” (#90)
 - Concerned if creatures are being treated irresponsibly but more indignant about the disparities in our own midst(#90)
- We cannot have a good relationship with nature if our hearts lack compassion for our fellow human beings (#91)
 - Inconsistent to protest animal trafficking while turning a blind eye on human trafficking or remaining indifferent at the undertaking to destroy another human life that is deemed unwanted

The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis

- Technology = power (#104)
 - Does not necessarily mean progress (#105)
- Technical remedy is not the only solution (#111)
 - Need to address culture changes, lifestyle changes, education, spiritual growth
- Remain optimistic about the future (#113)
- Recognize that humans are unique (#118)

The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis

- Culture of relativism is the same disorder that drives one person to take advantage of another (#123)
- Work is a necessity to human life (#128)
 - Should not be overtaken by technology
- St. Pope John Paul II – recognize technology as result of God-given human creativity, but should consider all aspects of life and ethics (#131)

Integral Ecology



- “We are faced, not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental” (#139)
- Need for “economic ecology” and “social ecology” (#141)
- Not a one size fits all solution; can lead to cultural deterioration (#144)
- Protect common areas to preserve “feeling at home” (#151)

Integral Ecology

- Relationship between human life and moral law, which is inscribed in our nature (#155)
- Principle of the common good (#156-158)
- Intergenerational solidarity is necessary (#159)
 - What kind of world are we leaving behind?
- Keep in mind today's poor and the poor of the future (#162)



Lines of Approach and Action

- Interdependence = one world with a common plan (#164)
- Ecological movement has made significant advances (#166)
- 1992 Earth Summit “human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development” (#167)
- Need for common and differentiated responsibilities (#170)
- Immediate results is driven to short-term growth (#178)

Lines of Approach and Action

- Environmental impact assessment needs to be part of the whole process (#183)
- Politics must not be subject to the economy (#189)
- Accept decreased growth in some parts of the world so that others can have healthy growth (#193)
- Technical solutions are useless if humanity loses its compass (#200)
- Dialogue is needed among various religions and among various types of sciences (#201)

Ecological Education and Spirituality

- Consumerist lifestyle leads to self-destruction (#204)
- Change in lifestyle=healthy pressure on powerful individuals (#206)
- We have the power to change! (#205)
- Ecological education must motivate people to change habits (#212)
- Importance of family in this role (#213)
- Role of the Church (#214)
 - Teach simplicity of life and grateful contemplation of the world

Ecological Education and Spirituality

- Interior conversion (#218)
- Community conversion (#219)
- Inner peace is closely related to care for the environment (#225)
- The Eucharist joins Heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation (#236)
 - Day of rest, centered on Eucharist, sheds light on the whole week and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor (#237)



At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.

— *Mother Teresa* —

AZ QUOTES

In Conclusion...

- Eternal life is coming (#243)
- In the meantime, we must take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us by the Lord (#244)



Questions?





“Many things have to change course,
but it is we human beings above all
else who need to change” (#202)

