

LAUDATO SI': ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Encyclical Letter

Pope Francis

“In his second encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home*, Pope Francis draws all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home. We as human beings are united by the concern for our planet and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Pope Francis' letter joins the body of the Church's social and moral teaching and draws on the best scientific research, providing the foundation for 'ethical and spiritual itinerary...' in this encyclical.

(Quote from the back cover of this Encyclical)

Introduction

The Ketteler Legacy for Justice Committee invites you to our creative summaries of each chapter of this timely encyclical. Many of you may have already read and prayed with this encyclical. So allow our efforts to rekindle your commitment to SEE, BE and DO what you can for the sake of all of creation.

To assist you as you **READ** it, we have summarized each chapter and we offer you the opportunity to capture the message in each chapter and hold the message in your heart..

Next we hope you will **REFLECT** and pray with what you are learning about yourself, your behavior, and your judgments with questions for your reflection that follow each chapter summary.

Lastly we hope that you will then **ACT** differently towards yourself, your neighbor, and all of creation, helping to take better care of our common home by addressing the social issues of our day for the sake of the poorest and most vulnerable among us which includes people of all races, cultures, gender, orientation, religions, our four legged, winged and finned sisters and brothers, as well as Mother Earth herself. Together we can make a difference. Alone is much more difficult and overwhelming.

In the name of our Founder, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, we challenge ourselves, Sisters and Associates of the Marie de la Roche Province, to carry on his legacy of social justice in our 21st century. We strive to be faithful to his vision, built on the Gospel of Christ Jesus. This is our call and challenge. We invite you to take these chapters that will be sent out, one each month, for six months beginning in October through March. There are only six chapters in the book. We on the KLJ committee, thank you in advance for responding to this invitation.

Together we can make a difference for our Common Home – Mother Earth and thus make Providence more visible in our world.

We invite you to begin this month's chapter reflection (Chapter One) with this prayer that is found on page 158 of the Encyclical by Pope Francis.

Opening Prayer: A Prayer for our Earth

“All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.” Amen

Please read the KLJ summary of Chapter One which follows these introductory pages.

NOTE: For your information: Laudato Si can be downloaded from the internet:

https://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf

In Spanish:

<https://www.oas.org/es/sg/casacomun/docs/papa-francesco-enciclica-laudato-si-sp.pdf>

Summaries of each chapter:

<https://thetablet.org/laudato-si-a-study-guide-and-summary/> or

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/files/resource/attachment/LaudatoSiSummaryandActionSteps.pdf>

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