

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Laudate Deum

To:
All people of good will
On the Climate Crisis
From: Pope Francis

November, 2023

Vol. 9, Number 3



"Eight years have passed since I published the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*, when I wanted to share with all of you, my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet, my heartfelt concerns about the care of our common home. Yet, with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point."

Laudate Deum, #2

On October 4th Pope Francis issued a "sequel" to *Laudato Si'* entitled *Laudate Deum*, "Praise God". Unlike his encyclical promulgated over eight years ago, *Laudate Deum* is a short 73 paragraph document of approximately 8,000 very powerful words. In these paragraphs Pope Francis presents the sobering reality of our suffering planet including the irreversible damage that has already been done to ecosystems. He calls out climate-deniers and chides international politics for failing our children. Last of all, Pope Francis points a finger at the United States for its "irresponsible lifestyle" that contributes more emissions per capita than any other nation.

You may not be inclined to want to read any further...but we must. We must let it sink into our very souls that our common home is suffering. As I read this apostolic exhortation, it seems to me that Pope Francis is absolutely heartbroken at what is happening to our planet and all her beings. Acting the prophet, he can't hold back. Nor can we. I urge you, as hard as it may be, to read *Laudate Deum*. Reflect on it. Pray with it. Hold this document in one hand as you hold a picture of your children, grandchildren, grandnieces and grandnephews in the other.

Then take to heart the ever-hopeful words of Pope Francis: "Each new generation must take up the struggles and attainments of past generations, while setting its sights even higher. This is the path. Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day." LD #34. What is yours to do today? What is ours to do together this decade to heal our common home?

"In conscience,
and with an eye to the children who will pay for the harm done
by our actions, the question of meaning inevitably arises:

"What is the meaning of my life?

What is the meaning of my time on this earth?

And what is the ultimate meaning of all my work and effort?"

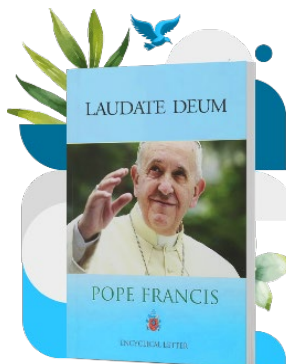
LD #33

Reflection

Spend some quiet time reflecting on this quote.

How do you see the meaning of your life, your time on Earth and the meaning of your work within the context of the climate crisis?

What stirs in your heart as you think of the future for your children, grandchildren, grandnieces and grandnephews?



Read *Laudate Deum*:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html

November
JPIC Days of Remembrance

November 3
St. Martin de Porres
Patron of Race Relations

November 9
Birthday of Rev. Thomas Berry



November 13
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Patron of Migrants

November 19
World Day of the Poor

November 25
International Day for
Elimination of Violence
Against Women

November 29
International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People

Pope Francis Identifies the Damages and Risks of the Climate Crisis



"Some effects of the climate crisis are already irreversible, at least for several hundred years, such as the increase in the global temperature of the oceans, their acidification and the decrease of oxygen. This is one of the many signs that the other creatures of this world have stopped being our companions along the way and have become instead our victims." LD #15



"The same can be said about the decrease in the continental ice sheets. The melting of the poles will not be able to be reversed for hundreds of years. For this reason, we are now unable to halt the enormous damage we have caused. We barely have time to prevent even more tragic damage." LD #16



"Certain apocalyptic diagnoses may well appear scarcely reasonable or insufficiently grounded. This should not lead us to ignore the real possibility that we are approaching a critical point. There is no turning back. We cannot state with certainty that all this is going to happen, based on present conditions. But it is certain that it continues to be a possibility, if we take into account phenomena already in motion that "sensitize" the climate, like the reduction of ice sheets, changes in ocean currents, deforestation in tropical rainforests and the melting of permafrost in Russia, etc." LD#17

"What is being asked of us is nothing other than a certain responsibility for the legacy we will leave behind, once we pass from this world." LD #18

"If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries, we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact."
LD #72



"There is the need to realize that there are no lasting changes without cultural changes, without a maturing of lifestyles and convictions within societies, and there are no cultural changes without personal changes."
LD #70

What to expect from COP28:

"The United Arab Emirates will host the next Conference of the Parties (COP28). It is a country of the Persian Gulf known as a great exporter of fossil fuels, although it has made significant investments in renewable energy sources. Meanwhile, gas and oil companies are planning new projects there, with the aim of further increasing their production. To say that there is nothing to hope for would be suicidal, for it would mean exposing all humanity, especially the poorest, to the worst impacts of climate change." LD #53

"If there is sincere interest in making COP28 a historic event that honors and ennobles us as human beings, then one can only hope for binding forms of energy transition that meet three conditions: that they be efficient, obligatory and readily monitored. This, in order to achieve the beginning of a new process marked by three requirements: that it be drastic, intense and count on the commitment of all." LD #59

"To the powerful, I can only repeat this question: "What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold on to power, only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so?" LD #60

Live Laudate Deum: Take Action and Sign Faith Leaders Statement for COP28

At COP28 (November 30 – December 12), faith leaders will deliver a statement calling on world leaders to support a Loss and Damage Fund to mitigate the detrimental and unjust impacts of climate change already affecting poor people. Many Global South nations contribute the least to the climate crisis yet pay the heaviest price of other nations' operations.

As people of faith, we see and feel the suffering of people across the world due to climate change. We are called to challenge this, to show solidarity, and help build a just world where everyone can thrive. Please sign your name to this statement to show your support for this vital cause and join the chorus of voices calling for climate justice at COP28.

Eng: <https://campaign.sciaf.org.uk/loss-and-damage-moral-case-action-english>

Sp: <https://campaign.sciaf.org.uk/p%C3%A9ridas-y-da%C3%B1os-argumentos-morales-para-actuar>

Fr: <https://campaign.sciaf.org.uk/pertes-et-pr%C3%A9judices-les-arguments-moraux-pour-agir-fran%C3%A7ais>

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