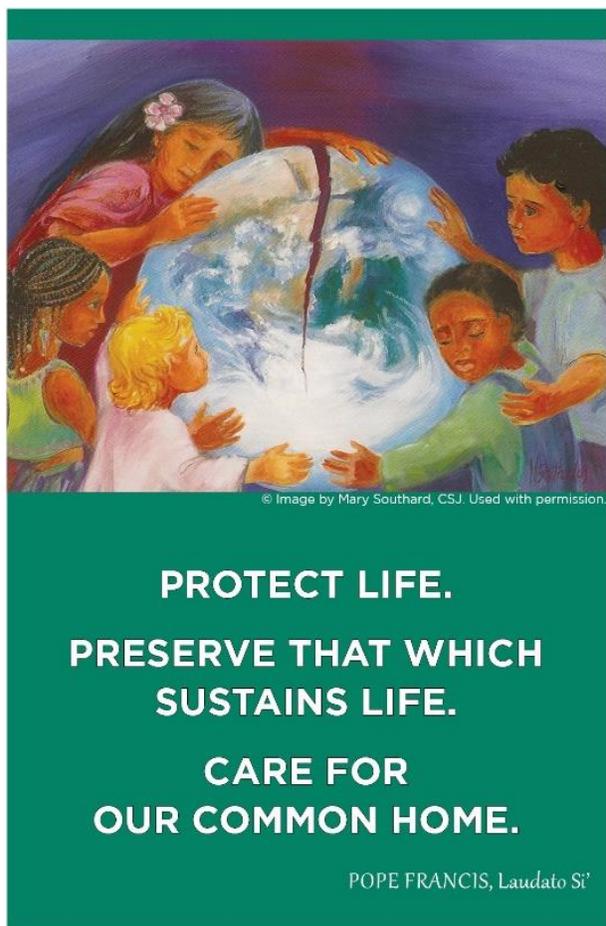


## Resources to Celebrate the Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*



### Sixth Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*

The sixth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* (May 24, 2021) offers an opportunity to engage in prayer, learning, and reflection on the Church's call to Care for Creation. As we observe this anniversary, consider learning more about this encyclical of Pope Francis. Read *Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home* [here](#). The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides various bilingual resources located on its website at: [www.usccb.org/environment](http://www.usccb.org/environment). The USCCB has also produced a *Laudato Si'* Discussion Guide in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) which includes prayer resources.

On April 22, 2021, the Sisters of Mercy and several parishes in the Charlotte Region sponsored the webinar "Catholics and Creation Care" featuring presenter Dr. Catherine Wright (St. Matthew Church parishioner and Wingate U.

faculty member), who last year published [Caring for Our Common Home: A Practical Guide to \*Laudato Si'\*](#). This webinar is available for viewing at: <https://boxcast.tv/view/catholics-and-creation-care-688898>.

### Let us pray to Holy Mary, Mother of God for the Care for Creation

In May, we celebrate the Holy Mother of God. May is known as Mary's month. In May, we also celebrate the anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, the encyclical of Pope Francis on the Care for Creation. In Chapter 8, beginning with section 241 of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis offers a reflection on Mary, Queen of All Creation. These words of reflection have been [incorporated into a PowerPoint meditation](#) with 19 slides of photos from around the world. Let us pray to Mary and ask for her help to be better stewards of creation. The PowerPoint presentation was created by Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. (CAFOD has a role similar to that of Catholic Relief Services, the global humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Bishops).

## Resources to learn about the Church's teaching on the Care for Creation

As we celebrate this month the sixth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* - On Care for Our Common Home, the encyclical of Pope Francis, please consider taking the opportunity to explore more deeply the Church's teaching that we must the care for creation. The encyclical is available to read [here](#) in multiple languages. Also, find [here](#) a two-page summary resource developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Lastly, three brief quotes from Pope Francis, Pope Benedict XVI, and St. John Paul II are presented below:

*What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?* (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* - On Care for Our Common Home], 2015, no. 160)

*The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole.* (Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* [Charity in Truth], 2009, no. 48)

*We cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention to both the consequences of such interference in other areas and to the well-being of future generations.* (Pope John Paul II, 1990 World Day of Peace Message, no. 6)



### **A Prayer for Our Earth – from *Laudato Si'***

As we celebrate the sixth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, please consider praying **A Prayer for the Earth** which is found in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, one of two prayers he offers at the close of his encyclical.

*All powerful God, you are present in the 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 we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with your 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.*