

Living Social Justice.....Laudato Si

Summer Focus: *Call to Action on Behalf of Future Generations*

“Laudato Si” is addressed to “every person on the planet” and is a call for a new way of looking at things, a “bold cultural revolution”. (3,114) We face an urgent crisis and now is the time to act since because of our actions, “the earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth”. (21) A change of heart is needed now on behalf of future generations. Still the document is hopeful, reminding us that because God is with us, we can strive both individually and corporately to change course. We can awaken our hearts and move towards an “ecological conversion” in which we see the intimate connection between God and all beings, and more readily listen to the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor”. (49) Pope Francis notes that the final aim of an encyclical on ecology is not just sustainable economies and immediate international action on climate change but also the praise and worship of the Creator. (87)

Ponder:

- Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations (67).
- Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded (13).
- Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who follow us (159).

- We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters (2).
- Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption in order to combat global warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it (23).

Pray:

Reflect on the following excerpt from “A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation”:

Triune God, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

“Laudato Si” (246)

Practice:

Have a conversation with a younger person about their environmental concerns.

Explore the following websites:

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

www.interfaithpowerandlight.org

www.arcworld.org