

Missionary Oblates
Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation
www.omiusajpic.org



*Reflecting on the one-year anniversary of Laudato Si':
On Care of Our Common Home
Laudato Si' Week - June 12 - 19, 2016*

Introduction

Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home was released at the end of May 2015 and has been described by Catholic leadership as the Church's 'marching orders for advocacy.' The Church has led in this role of awareness raising, advocacy and educating both ordinary citizens and church leaders on the issues covered in the encyclical. Within the last year the encyclical was on the agenda at the U.S. Congress and White House. It has been publicly embraced by various faith traditions and referenced by prominent world leaders, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki- Moon and U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. It was a major talking point at the high-powered UN Climate Summit in Paris last year.

A year ago Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate joined the world in welcoming *Laudato Si'*. We have since worked to integrate the document's themes into our justice and peace issues.

As we observe the encyclical's one-year anniversary, we invite you to join us as we reflect on a few of the encyclical's themes. Please use this resource with your church groups and ministries to spark conversation and share your faith. (*Theme descriptions and reflection questions adapted from US Conference of Catholic Bishops Laudato Si resources, 2015*)

Faith Consistent Investing is A Moral and Spiritual Challenge. The ecological crisis, Pope Francis writes, is a summons to profound interior conversion—to renew our relationships with God, one another, and the created world.

The lessons of the global financial crisis have not been assimilated, and we are learning all too slowly the lessons of environmental deterioration. (#109)

Questions for faith sharing

1. Are you aware of companies that abuse our common home or make their profit from exploitation from the poor? What kind of business do you support with your daily decisions?

Human Dignity is a Call to Solidarity. We are one human family and have a shared responsibility for others and for creation. Wealthy countries have a responsibility to reduce consumption of non-renewal resources and should help poorer nations develop in sustainable ways.

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A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings. It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted. (#91)

(Question for faith sharing)

1. How do you integrate your concern for our common home and your concern for the poor?

Integrity of Creation means Care for God's Creation. God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. Now we have the responsibility to care for and protect it and all people, who are part of creation. Protecting human dignity is strongly linked to care for creation.

A fragile world, entrusted by God to human care, challenges us to devise intelligent ways of directing, developing and limiting our power. (#78)

We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather one complex crisis, which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged, and at the same time protecting nature. (#139)

(Questions for faith sharing)

1. What actions are you taking to protect and preserve our common home for future generations? What habits have you acquired during that one-year journey? What habits have been the most challenging or the most difficult to keep?

Consistent Life Supports Life and Protects Creation. Concern for nature is incompatible with failure to protect vulnerable human beings, such as unborn children, people with disabilities, or victims of human trafficking.

Creation is of the order of love. (#77)

(Question for faith sharing)

1. Has your concern for our common home led you to care more about your fellow human beings, for example the unborn, people on death row and people with disabilities?



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Prayer of the Faithful on the one-year anniversary of Laudato Si'

(We encourage you to use this Prayer of the Faithful during the Laudato Si' anniversary week of June 12 -19, 2016)

We celebrate the one-year anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si' in the coming days. As we have been called to care for our Common Home, God's Creation, let us deeply commit to prayer "and actions" and affirm our stewardship of our planet and the world's most vulnerable.

1. We pray for Pope Francis and all the Church's leaders; that they continue to lead us in advocating for a right relationship with the earth in this complicated contemporary world. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. We pray for the world's political leaders; those who made a tremendous effort to come together as a global community in 2015 and advance the Paris Climate Agreement. Guide them as they strive to keep the global temperature increase? below the ideal level of 1.5 degree Celsius and uphold other important tenets of the agreement. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. We pray for our world's poor and vulnerable most affected by Climate Change; unable to get proper water, food, and housing for a daily living; may our continued awareness and solidarity give them life. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. We pray for the Oblate Ecological Initiative and people who connect with Oblate spirituality; let us bring our words to action and always stand for the common good. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Ever living God, source of all beauty, hear our prayer and grant us your mercy. Bind us as sisters and brothers living together with the peace and joy that can only come from you, our Creator. May you guide us as we serve each other and serve you. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.