



Laudato Si' Week — May 21-28, 2023

A Review of Laudato Si' by Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ

RE-SOURCE #1 — February 2 — May 27, 2023

This is the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' letter to the whole world on the care of creation, an occasion for rejoicing in the progress being made to bring LS to life. Communities around the world are asked to view the film "The Letter." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII&t=6s>

Because our mission is to help others believe that God lives and acts in the world, the better we understand that world, the deeper can be our response to our call.

Laudato Si': On Care of Our Common Home enriches readers' understanding of the "wholeness" of creation and of our place within this sacred communion of subjects.

The entire document contains strong messaging about creation and practical steps needed to care for our "beautiful mother." The Introduction — just 16 paragraphs — deserves special attention because it provides a solid grounding for the rest. It highlights the spirit of St. Francis — a favorite of the pope who took his name, but also one of Cornelia's favorite saints. It emphasizes that caring for the poor and caring for Earth's life systems are inseparable.

Almost every page of the document contains phrases that merit consideration and/or contemplation. Some samplings:

... the earth herself [note: not "itself"], burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor....

... we ourselves are dust of the earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

... we are called to accept the world as a sacrament of communion....

... Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and joy.

... Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the suffering of the excluded.

... God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement.

...Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

May 21 - 28, Laudato Si' Week, is a good time to review the entire document. For Laudato Si' Reflection Resource: <https://ecospiritualityresources.com/?s=laudato+si>

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!