

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2015

Statement by Archbishop J. Peter Sartain **Regarding Pope Francis's encyclical letter *Laudato Si*** **(Praise Be)**

“In his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis has put a human face on the issue of ecology and caring for creation. This teaching document, which is consistent with the teaching of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI and other recent popes, is an urgent call to Christians, people of other faith traditions and those of no faith to protect our earthly home and our brothers and sisters who inhabit it.

“As the title makes clear, the pope's letter praises God for the gift of creation and reminds us that every human person is a part of creation, with inherent dignity and deserving of our respect and care. To understand this better we need, as Pope Francis states, an “integral ecology” that recognizes the relationship not only between human beings and nature, but also with God, with ourselves and other human beings.

“We here in the Northwest live in an area of incredible natural diversity and beauty, so we are especially grateful to the Holy Father for raising awareness about the need to “care for our common home.” We should also be mindful that his encyclical letter challenges us to recognize that our individual decisions often have far-reaching consequences for the natural world and for other people, most especially the poor. As we answer the pope's call to action, I urge everyone to join with him in giving grateful praise to our loving God for the great gift of creation.”

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