

## Laudato Si & Agape

### Supplies for Session:

- Technology to show videos (laptop, projector/TV)
- Prepare videos to show
  - [CST 101: Care for God's Creation](#)
  - [The Vanishing Water of Bolivia](#)
  - [Laudato Si – CRS High School Animated Brief](#)
- Laudati Si quotes printed & cut for 8 groups (available at end of document)
- 8 copies of worksheet printed (JPG at end of document, PDF on registration website)
- Pens

### Note on Timing

- If your session is 45 minutes: shorten the Catholic Social Teaching discussion, don't show the video about Bolivia, and give them a little less time in the Laudato Si groups.

### Opening Prayer (3 min)

Walk Lightly (Linda Joes/CAFOD)

Each leaf, each petal, each grain, each person, sings your praises, Creator God.

Each creature on the earth, all the mountains and great seas show your glory, Spirit of love.

And yet the hand of greed has patented and plundered your splendor, has taken and not shared your gift, has lived as owner of the earth, not guest.

And so the ice is cracked, the rivers dry, the valleys flooded and the snowcaps melt.

God our Father, show us how to step gently, how to live simply, how to walk lightly with respect and love for all that you have made. Amen!

### Introduce Session Goals (1 min)

- Learning about Catholic Social Teaching: Care for God's Creation & Pope Francis' Encyclical: Laudato Si
- Discuss Climate Change and its impact not only on the earth but also God's people
- How does this all connect to Agape and our migrant/farmworker brothers & sisters?

### Opening Video (10-12 min)

- Watch on YouTube: [CST 101: Care for God's Creation](#)
- Follow up with a discussion:
  - What did you hear/learn in this video?
  - How is caring for the environment an expression of our faith?
  - How is the call to care for God's creation connected with our concern for the life and dignity of every person—both at home and around the world, now and in future generations?
  - In your own community or globally, what examples have you encountered of environmental contamination or climate change affecting vulnerable persons?

## Connections to Agape (5-7 min, 10-12 min if Bolivia video is shown)

Ask: How might climate change connect to the people Agape Service Project serves?

- Give people the opportunity to think-pair-share with a partner or group of 3. Then ask for a few responses.

A few responses in case your students are stumped:

- **Push/Pull Factors:** There are many push and pull factors that motivate individuals and families to leave their home countries and migrate to a new country. Some of these push factors deal with the negative impact of climate change on their home country. Natural disasters, draught, crop destructions, etc. negatively affect their ability to live off the land and to find employment.
  - Two examples of Catholic Relief Services working in Central & South American countries where the impacts of climate change are pushing families to leave:
    - [The Vanishing Water of Bolivia](#) (Would HIGHLY recommend showing this 5-minute video to paint the picture of the impacts of climate change on 'sending countries')
    - [The Giving Trees: Fighting Climate Change and strengthening Communities in Nicaragua](#)
- **Agriculture:** Our brothers and sisters we serve through Agape are directly impacted by the climate as farm workers. The time frame of the harvest season, the amount of income they are able to make, the use of pesticides, the temperatures they work in, etc. are all impacted by the climate.

## Diving into Laudato Si (25 min)

- Watch: [Laudato Si – CRS High School Animated Brief](#) (5 min video)
  - Brief discussion after: What did you hear/learn?
- Laudato Si Quotes
  - Split the team members into 8 groups, give each group one of the sections of quotes from Laudato Si (at end of document) and one of the worksheets to fill out (JPG at end of document, PDF on registration website)
  - Tell them their mission: Read their quotes, summarize quotes into one category title, write a summary statement in user-friendly language, come up with 1 action connected to category (fill out the worksheet with all of these)
    - Tell them they'll have 10 minutes, so take their time with it
- Worksheet Sections for your reference:
  - In Laudato Si, Pope Francis talks about: (Summary Category/Word)
  - He says, " ... " (Select one of the quotes reflecting this category)
  - What this means to us: (summary statement in user-friendly language)
  - One thing we can do is: (1 action connected to this category)
- When all groups are done, have them share their worksheet to learn from each other

**Closing Prayer (2 min)**

O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect of  
And care for your Creation.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

O Lord, help us to recognize the sacredness of all of your  
Creatures as signs of your wondrous love.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

O Lord, help us turn from the selfish consumption of  
Resources meant for all and to see the impacts of our  
choices on the poor and vulnerable.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

# LAUDATO SI & AGAPE

## Instructions:

- Read your collection of quotes from Laudato Si
- Summarize the themes into one category title
- Write a summary of the quotes in your own words
- Come up with 1 action connected to this category

**ONE THING  
WE CAN DO  
TO LIVE  
LAUDATO SI:**

**WHAT POPE FRANCIS' WORDS  
MEAN TO US:**

*(Your own summary of all of the quotes)*

**IN LAUDATO  
SI, POPE  
FRANCIS  
TALKS ABOUT:**

*(Category Title)*



**POPE FRANCIS SAYS**

”

*(Your favorite quote from the collection)*

”

**MADE BY THESE  
CHANGE MAKERS:**

*(Your names)*

## Laudato Si Quotes

### Poverty

"Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest."

"The worst impact of the environmental crisis will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades."

"Let us not only keep the poor of the future in mind, but also today's poor, whose life on this earth is brief and who cannot keep on waiting."

"Frequently, we find beautiful and carefully manicured green spaces in so-called "safer" areas of the cities, but not in more hidden areas where the disposable of society live."

## Water

"Sources of freshwater are necessary for health care, agriculture, and industry."

"Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts, which impede agricultural production."

"Some countries have areas rich in water while others experience drought."

"One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor."

"Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right since it is essential to survival."

## **Pollution/Environmental Issues**

"Some forms of pollution are part of people's daily experiences."

"The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth."

"The shape of our planet is closely linked to a throwaway culture."

"A number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to a great concentration of greenhouse gasses released mainly as a result of human activity."

"The loss of forests and woodlands is directly related to the loss of species, which may hurt extremely important resources in the future, not only for food but also for curing diseases."

"Extinction of mammals or birds is likely. Ecosystems also require fungi, algae, worms, insects, reptiles and a variety of microorganisms because they all play a critical role in maintaining equilibrium of a particular place."

"Ecology studies the relationship between living organisms and the environment in which they develop."

## Mental Pollution

"Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending."

"When people become self-centered, their greed increases."

"The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs to buy, own, and spend."

"We should strive for the capacity to be happy with little."

"The media contributes to mental pollution. Its influence can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously."

"Technology and media have replaced real relationships with others."

"With all the challenges, face-to-face relationships now tend to be replaced by a type of internet communication, which enables us to choose or eliminate relationships at whim."

"Today's media does enable us to communicate and to share our knowledge and affections. Yet at times they also shield us from direct contact with the pain, fears and the joys of others and the complexity of their personal experiences."

## **Humans have contributed to the destruction**

"Earth herself is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor."

"Our contribution, smaller or greater, to the disfigurement and destruction of creation should be examined."

"We should acknowledge our sins against creation."

"If we scan the regions of our planet, we immediately see that humanity has disappointed God's expectations."

"We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us."

"People may well have a growing ecological sensitivity but it has not succeeded in changing our harmful habits of spending and throwing away."

## Everything is Connected & Important

"Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and a commitment to resolving the problems of society."

"Each creature reflects something of God and has a message to give to us."

"We read in the Gospel that Jesus says of the birds of the air that not one of them is forgotten before God."

"If someone has not learned to stop and admire something beautiful, we should not be surprised if he or she treats everything as an object to be used and abused."

"When we speak of the environment, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and society."

"Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves, or just a place where we live. We are part of nature, included in it and in constant interaction with it."

## What can we do?

"Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away our joy or hope."

"Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good."

"The issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle."

"This must be translated into new habits."

"These habits include-avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can be reasonably consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or carpool, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices."

"Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it."

"Practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture, which shows peace and friendship."

"We need to learn to give, not just give up."

"We need to move gradually away from what 'I' want to what God's world needs."

"Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity, and a deep love for the land."

## Humanity

"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."

"Human beings are creatures of this world, enjoying a right to life and happiness. So we cannot fail to consider the effects of people's lives on environmental deterioration."

"Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home."

"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements, and talents."

"Urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together."