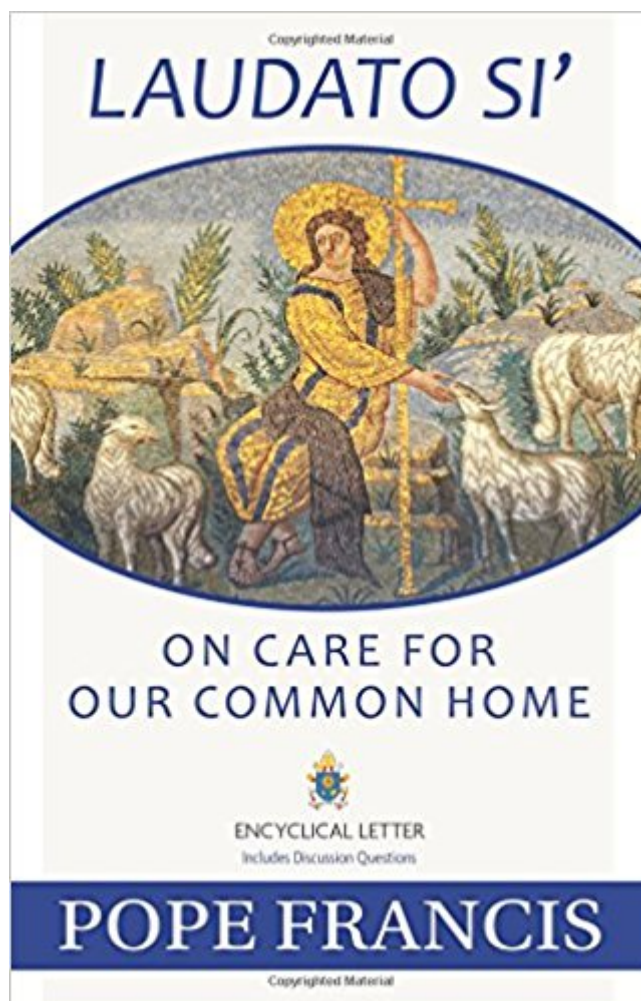


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Laudato Si -- On Care For Our Common Home



Synopsis

In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him! Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* In his second encyclical, *Laudato Si : On Care of Our Common Home*, Pope Francis draws all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home. We as human beings are united by the concern for our planet, and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Pope Francis letter joins the body of the Church's social and moral teaching, draws on the best scientific research, providing the foundation for the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows. *Laudato Si* outlines: The current state of our common home The Gospel message as seen through creation The human causes of the ecological crisis Ecology and the common good Pope Francis' call to action for each of us

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Customer Reviews

The title *Laudato Si* means "Praise be unto you." The title is taken from the writings of St. Francis of Assisi, the namesake of the author of this book, Pope Francis. St. Francis of Assisi used this phrase to praise the earth and all its creatures and features as an expression of God. Just as St. Francis referred to all living creatures as our "brothers" and "sisters," the Pope issued this Encyclical to apply these sentiments to the modern day to address the issue of environmental degradation. This present book, *Laudato Si*, is that Encyclical, a

clear, passionate, devotional explanation for the modern world to realize the consequences of the degradation of the planet and a plea to cherish and rediscover the lost reverence and respect for the earth's natural environment. This book is a book on the environment like no other. Rather than recommending short-term technological or political solutions, Pope Francis states that before cleaning the environment the human race must first clean its own inner house and change its own attitude to itself and others. Disrespect for the environment is an act, and any act originates from a mental attitude. If polluting the environment is the result of a human mental attitude, it would be simple for Laudato Si' to simply say, "Don't pollute." Pope Francis however goes further: What are the psychological impulses and motivations behind that attitude? Here is where Laudato Si' gets interesting. Pope Francis digs deep into the human psyche to identify the psychological drives which support an attitude and act to disrespect the environment. What the Pope believes may surprise the reader. Pope Francis characterizes the degradation of the environment not only as a crime against the planet and to all its inhabitants, but as a sin against God. God after all created the planet and the planet and all the creatures who live on the planet are God's gift to Humankind. However, Pope Francis identifies other impulses and motivations which result in the disrespect for this planet. They include Slavish infatuation with technology. Technology should assist the people which creates that technology and offer solutions to clean the environment. The reality is that technology only offers band-aid solutions to clean the environment and the technology invariably becomes the master of humans, not the other way around. The insatiable appetite for profit and financial gain regardless to the consequences to the environment or to other people. In his most innovative explanation for the root cause of pollution, the Pope identifies the "exultation of the Subject," in other words that sense of individuality which only reinforces a division between man and nature. Rampant, unbridled Consumerism, which treats every item produced as disposable impermanent object. The desire to dominate, whether that domination is to another object or over another human being. The degradation of the environment, then, is not simply throwing your Coca Cola can out the window, but is symptomatic of the mental and spiritual maladies which plague the world. These maladies find expression not only in polluting the environment, but in other social ills. The Pope identifies income and wage disparity, social injustice, and poverty, to name a few. Pope Francis does not limit his discussion to environmental pollution. The Pope criticizes present-day excesses in neo-liberal ideologies, global capitalistic corporations, and free-market economies, all of

which are also symptomatic of the same disrespect that leads to ravishing the environment. In the final analysis this is a book of literary beauty. The talking points in this review do little justice to the prosaic grace and devotional eloquence found in this book. It is a book that can be enjoyed on many levels. It is highly recommended.

Pope Francis continues to challenge not only Catholics but all people of faith to see that faith is not just a once a week obligation. Nor is it limited to cultural and political ideals. He calls us to broaden our perspectives and see that we all creatures and that we have been given the responsibility for the care of all creation, our common home. Francis gives a full treatment to this subject with a solid grasp of the problems facing our planet and the complex systems that brought us to our current situation. He calls to totally integrate our faith to everything we do knowing that no solution can be found without honoring the dignity of each human life, and then to all of creation. This was a wonderful read and completely worthwhile. G Carlson AZ

An amazing study of the role religion and spirituality must play in the environmental movement to solve the problem of climate change. Pope Francis uses everyday language to call upon each person to recognize their responsibility to take care of our common home. He calls for a spiritual conversion to stop our rampant consumerism at the expense of the world's poor. This book can be used for group discussions in parishes of every denomination. It does not choose political sides but encourages dialogue with between family, friends, government officials and corporations. This very readable, beautifully written and spiritually grounded book is an excellent example of the leadership role Pope Francis has taken to meet the #1 challenges of the 21st Century.

Pope Francis is here to care for our earth. We need to listen to his advise if we want to make this a better world. So grateful for this excellent book!!

This Pope is on fire! Timely. Elegant. Crucial. A must read for anyone interested in the moral implications of climate change, whether Catholic or not.

We have an amazing spiritual leader in our generation. Hope and pray he touches the masses to take action that saves our home on this earth. He has touched my heart

A message for our time coming from a long tradition and broad perspective. Be patient with it.

As expected

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