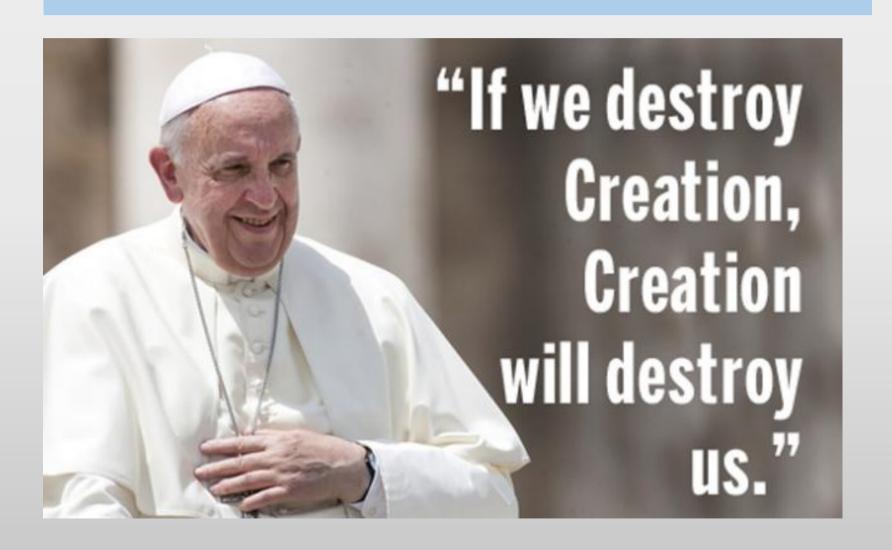




Laudato Si



St Francis of Assisi

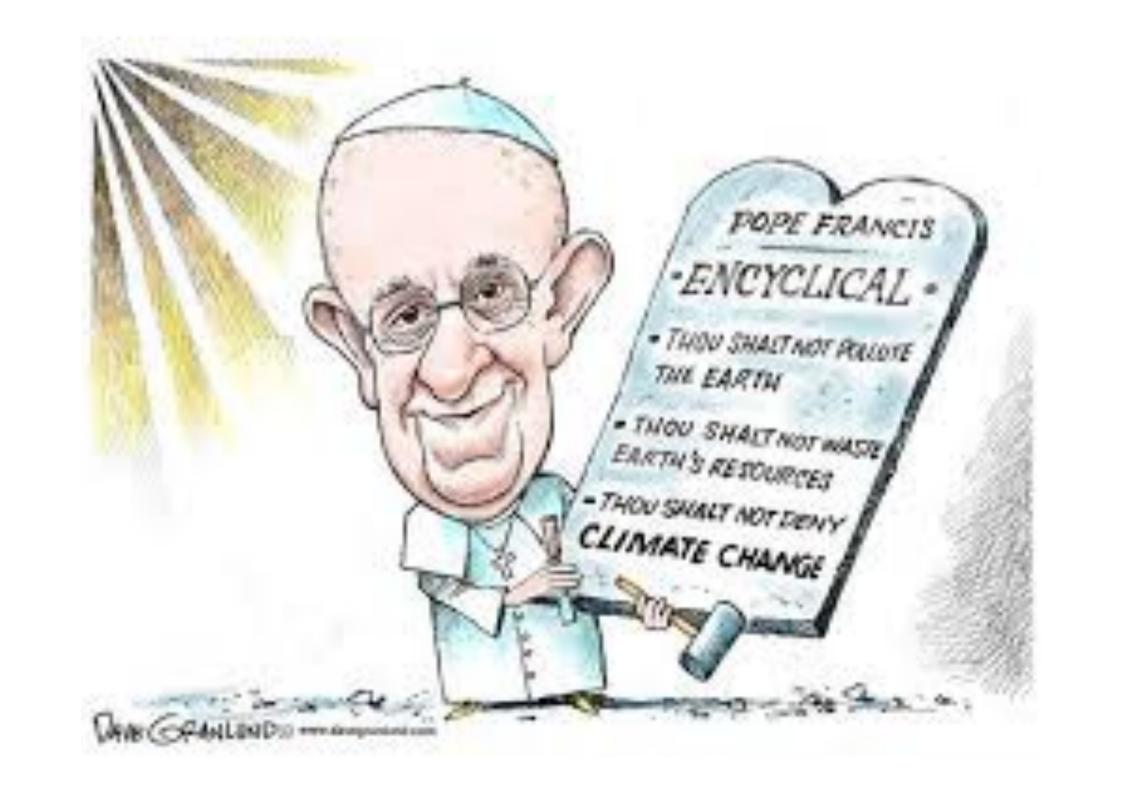
- "I believe that St Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically."
- He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself.
- He shows us how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.
- His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus.
- For Francis each and every creature was a sister/brother united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists.



Importance of Wonder & Awe

- If we approach nature and the environment without an openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters unable to set limits on our immediate needs.
- If we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up in us spontaneously.
- The poverty and austerity of St Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.





Introduction

- The current understanding of a Papal Encyclical dates back to 1740 when Pope Benedict XIV, on assuming office, wrote the first formal encyclical entitled "Ubi Primum" on the duties of bishops.
- "Laudato Si" is another first in that it is the first Papal Encyclical to address the issue of climate change and its consequences for the Earth and its biosphere.
- The focus of "Laudato Si" is "Care of our common home".
- It is one of the longest papal encyclicals ever (almost 40,000 words) and is addressed to the whole world.
- Its style is simple and direct, despite the complexities of the issues addressed.

Rationale

- Pope Francis published "Laudato Si" on 24th May, Pentecost Sunday, 2015.
- He was mindful of the 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate change which was scheduled to take place in Paris during the month of November 2015.
- Pope Francis wanted to focus attention on this important event, and present to the whole world a reflection on Climate Change from a faith perspective.
- In particular, he wanted to emphasise the outcomes for the world as a whole, and for the poor in particular, if the consequence of climate change continue to be ignored as has been broadly the case since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

Structure of the Document

- The document is comprised of an introduction followed by six chapters.
- Each chapter has a number of short paragraphs, with each paragraph having a particular focus.
- Pope Francis accepts without argument, the almost unanimous findings of the IPCC – the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- He focuses his attention on the implications of these findings for the whole earth community, human and non-human.

Papal Perspective

- Pope Francis is reflecting on climate change from a Christian faith perspective.
- The context for all of his reflections is the fundamental belief that the Earth and all it contains is a manifestation of Divine Creativity.
- He shows how this approach resonates with Patriarch Bartholomew from the Orthodox tradition whom he quotes in his opening reflection.
- From the Western tradition, the Pope chose St Francis as the epitome of an integral ecology which transcends the language of mathematics and biology and takes us to the heart of what it means to be human.



The World As a Sacrament

- "As Christians, we are called to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbours on a global scale. It is our humble belief that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail, in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet." par 9
- Francis's "response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for him each and every creature was a sister united to him in bonds of affection. That was why he felt called to care for all that exists." par 10

What is Happening To Our Common Home

- Pope Francis begins by reflection on the accelerating rate of change that characterises our current reality. He calls this phenomenon "rapidification".
- The goals of this "rapidification" are not geared to the common good, nor to an integral & sustainable human development.
- Change becomes a source of anxiety when it causes harm to our world, and the quality of life of much of humanity.
- The goal of the Encyclical is to enable people to become aware of what is happening to our world and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.

Global Pollution

- Pope Francis begins his reflection by focusing on global pollution and the serious consequences this has for humanity generally but particularly for the poor.
- Technology has responded poorly to this challenge and seems to be incapable of seeing the "mysterious network of connections" between all things".
- He asserts that solutions need to be global in character to be effective. The Encyclical pays particular attention to the pollution problem, and the amount of toxic waste that is being generated across the globe.
- "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more like an immense pile of filth."
- Industry is slow to acknowledge the consequences this pollution has for all living things. Sometimes no corrective measures are taken until the damage has been done.



Cause of Current Crisis

- A true ecological debit exists between global north and global south.
- This debit is due to the disproportionate use of earth's natural resources by some of the more developed countries of the north.
- The lack of regard for ecological consequences in the mining and withdrawal of raw materials from poorer countries is a major cause of ecological degradation.
- The accumulated pollution of air, earth and oceans is a consequence of almost two centuries of exploitation of scarce resources.
- Multinationals operating in less developed countries operate in ways that would be totally unacceptable in the home country.



Climate Change

- Pope Francis accepts the scientific evidence that a disturbing warming of the climate is a measurable reality.
- This warming has caused sea levels to rise, and has increased extreme weather events such as violent storms, tornadoes, droughts, melting of ice caps, and rising ocean levels.
- Scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent times is due to a significant increase in green house gases released as a result of human activity.
- The worldwide use of fossil fuels plays a major part in these outcomes as does the destruction of rain forests for agricultural purposes.

Consequences of Global Warming

- Desertification of arable lands in certain areas
- Reduction in the availability of drinking water
- Melting of sea ice and polar icecaps which increases heat absorption from the sun.
- The release of methane gas from frozen organic material and from increased life-stock numbers.
- The loss of tropical forests which, undisturbed, would mitigate climate change influences.
- The acidification of the oceans due to increased CO₂ levels which threaten the flora and fauna of the oceans.
- A rise in sea-levels which threatens a quarter of the world's population, the quarter that lives in coastal areas and are predominantly poor.





Denial Strategies

- Pope Francis does not pull his punches. He asserts that the denial of climate change is promoted for the most part by those who enjoy either political or economic power, or both.
- Regardless of denial strategies, the indicators of climate change will continue to strengthen unless the causative issues are addressed.
- The Earth clock has its own rhythm. The consequences of what humanity has done to the Earth are now folded into the Earth's future and cannot be undone.
- What restorative actions we take now will change possibilities for the future. They will not undo the consequences of the past two hundreds years of neglect
- What is essential now is to plan for the future by changing the way we live in the present.



Depletion of Natural Resources

- Access to fresh drinking water is becoming a problem in many areas. Water poverty especially affects Africa.
- Contamination is caused by chemicals, detergents and industrial waste polluting rivers, lakes and seas across the globe.
- A growing tendency to privitisation of water is making it difficult for the poor to have access to clean drinking water.
- Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products that depend on its use.
- Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken.



Loss of Biodiversity

- The earth's resources are being plundered because of short-sighted approaches to economic growth, to commerce and to production.
- The destruction of rain forests entails the loss of species which constitutes a potential loss in the future of sources of food and curative medicines.
- Species are more that resources for humans, they are valuable in their own right and have a right to a habitat and a role.
- The current loss of species is due principally to the activity of humans.
- The loss of species is an impoverishment of the biosphere. It is an irreversible process. We have no way of assessing the importance of this loss.
- A sober look at our world shows that the degree of human intervention, often in the service of business interests, is actually making our Earth less rich and beautiful





Earth Wide Resources

- Certain Earth resources, because of their importance for the whole Earth community need special attention.
- Among these are the Rain Forests, the Aquifers and Glaciers.
- The rain forests in particular possess an enormously rich biodiversity which is almost impossible to fully appreciate.
- The rapid conversion of rain forests to farmland has led to countless losses of species as well as seriously diminishing the Earth's capacity to regenerate a clean atmosphere.
- A delicate balance has to be maintained when speaking about these places for we cannot overlook the global economic interest which under the guise of protection them can undermine the sovereignty of individual nations.

Marine Resources

- Earth's oceans contain the bulk of our planet's water as well as vast diversity of species and food resource which feed a great part of the world's population.
- Uncontrolled exploitation of these resources is threatening the existence of species, and the livelihood of traditional maritime communities.
- Certain kinds of fishing strategies are harshly destructive of marine life and threaten marine eco-systems.
- Many of the world's coral reefs are under serious threat.
 Pollution and exploitation are converting "the wonder world of the seas into under water cemeteries, bereft of colour and life.
- Coral reefs shelter and sustain over a million species.







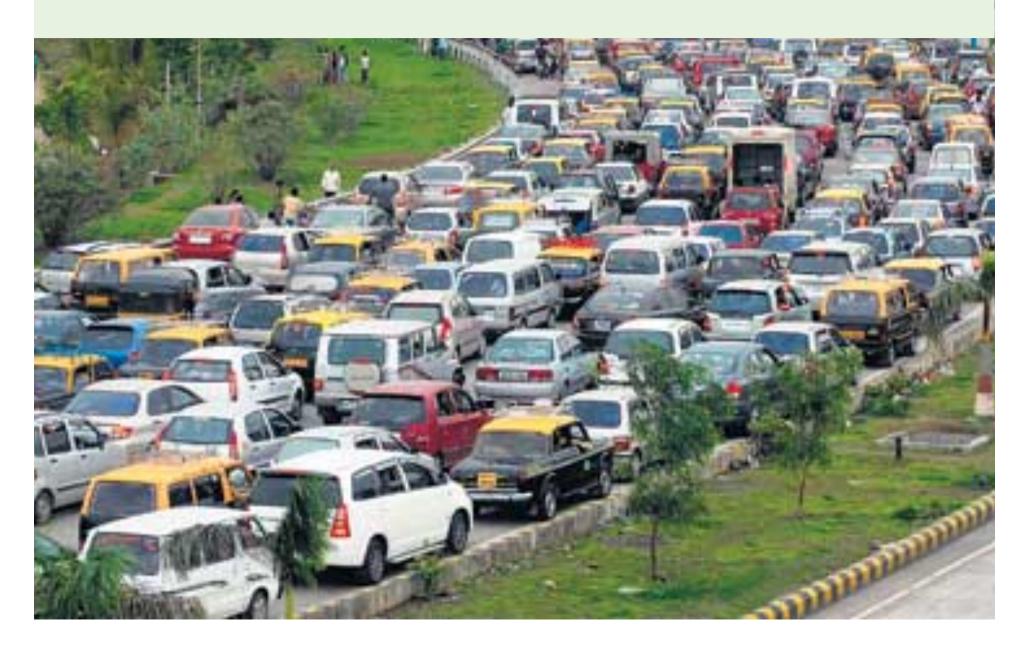
Human Community

- Pope Francis identifies recent developments that negatively affect the people's lives. Among these are the following:
 - * The unruly growth of many cities which have become unhealthy to live in because of their size and remoteness from the natural world.
 - * A tendency in both rural and urban areas to create "ecological neighbourhoods" from which "the disposable" of society are excluded.

The social dimensions of Global Change include:

- i) the effects of technological innovation on employment
- ii) the growing problem of social exclusion
- iii) the inequitable distribution and consumption of energy and other services
- iv) the pollution of the environments.

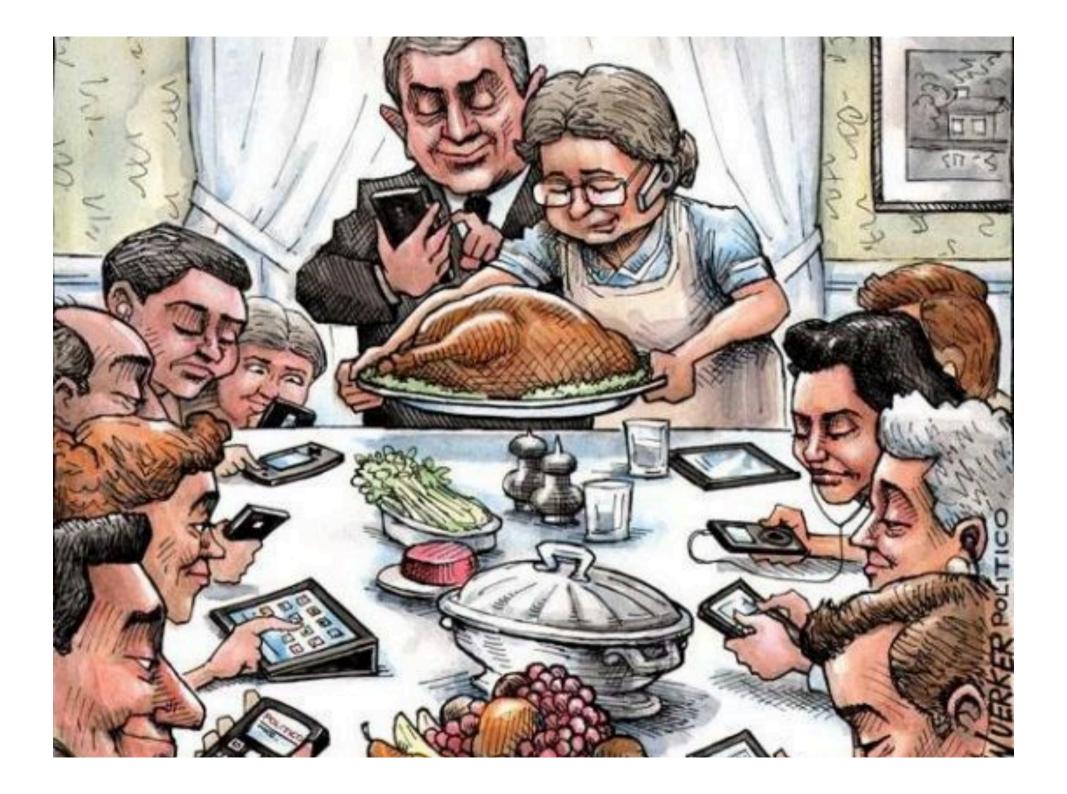
Global Change





Living In Digital World

- Reflecting on the current situation, Pope Francis makes the following observations:
- The omnipresence of the digital world can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously.
- The challenges is how to make these new capacities a source of new cultural progress for humanity.
- True wisdom as the fruit of self-examination, dialogue and generous encounter between persons, is not acquired by a mere accumulation of data which leads to overload, confusion and a sort of mental pollution.
- Today's media, while they enable us to communicate and share our knowledge, can give rise to a new type of contrived emotion which has more to do with devices and displays than with other people and with nature.





Global Inequality

- The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together.
- The gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest.
- The people most affected by climate change have no voice in the chambers of power. What happens to them seems to be addressed as collateral damage.
- The professional, opinion makers, communications media & centres of power are far removed from the life experiences of those who suffer the consequences of Climate Change.
- It is essential to integrate questions of justice in debates on environment so as to hear the cry of the Earthy and the cry of the poor.
- We need to be aware of the fact that there are differentiated responsibilities when determining who pays the cost for Climate Change



Economic Inequality & Climate Change

- An ecological debt exists between the global North and the global South due to the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain northern countries over long periods of time. The Industrial Revolution began over 200 years ago.
- Some first world companies move their production works to developing countries to avoid oversight of the production processes, and to avail of cheap labour and slack health and safety regulations.
- There is also the practice of exporting toxic waste to developing countries to avoid having to deal with it at home.
- The financial cost to the human community and the environment are not being factored into to the overall cost of production processes.



Why We Have Failed To Address Climate Change Issues

- Climate change is a worldwide issue. It needs to be addressed on that basis.
- The problem is that there is no shared culture to enable us to address worldwide issues.
- We lack leadership capable of striking out on new paths, meeting the needs of the present with concern for all, including future generations.
- There is no legal framework that can set clear boundaries and ensure the protection of ecosystems.
- In these circumstances, the techno-economic paradigm is likely to overwhelm not only our politics, but also our freedom and justice.
- Special interests "Trump" the common good.





Ethical & Ecological Degradation

- Economic powers continue to justify the current global system where priority is given to speculation & the pursuit of financial gain.
- This philosophy fails to take account of the importance of human dignity, and the importance of caring for the natural environment.
- Environmental deterioration and human ethical degradation are closely linked.
- Many people are unaware of, or just don't care about, the state of the environment.
- There is a temptation to carry on with our present lifestyle and models of production and consumption on the basis that the scientists might be wrong.

Reaching Breaking Point

- While not claiming to have the definitive solution to our problems, Pope Francis draws attention to some undeniable realities.
- Our common home is falling into disrepair
- We see that things are reaching a breaking point due to the rapid pace of change and degradation.
- We are witnessing ever more frequent large-scale natural disasters as well as social and even financial crises across the globe because problems cannot be solved in isolation.
- There are regions of Earth now at high risk, and the present world system is failing because we have stopped thinking about the goals of human activity.
- More and more, the God dimension of our lives is being ignored. "Humanity has disappointed God's expectations."



Hold on to this truth ...

God Has NOT Forgotten You



A Faith Perspective

- The fifth IPCC Report, contains over a thousand pages of data and analysis of the current climate situation.
- Given the nature of the science, what we have in this Report is the results of scientific observation, experiment and analysis.
- The IPCC report refrains from moral/ethical judgements. It presents the facts science has laid bare, and the consequences that will inevitably follow should we choose to continue as we are.
- In sharp contrast, Pope Francis focuses chapter 2 of his encyclical on the importance of a "Faith Dimension", and emphasises the moral and ethical dimensions of human behaviour in relation to climate change..

Science & Faith

- Pope Francis asserts that science and religion with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality can enter into an intense dialogue that will be fruitful to both.
- If we want to develop an ecology capable of remedying the damage we have done, no branch of the sciences and no form of wisdom can be left out.
- The development of the Church's social teaching represents such a synthesis with regard to social issues.
- Christians realise that their responsibility within creation and their duty to the Creator are an essential part of their faith.
- It is good for humanity and the world at large when believers recognise the ecological commitment which stems for their convictions.



Lessons From The Bible

- Those who are committed to defending human dignity can find in the Christian faith the deepest reasons for this commitment.
 The Bible teaches that ever man and woman is created out of love, and is made in God's image and likeness.
- "We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."
- Genesis tells us that human life is grounded in three fundamental relationships: 1) With God 2) With our neighbour 3) With the earth. Human behaviour has distorted each of these relationships with dire consequence both for humans and for nature itself.
- The notion that being created in God's image gives us absolute dominion over other creatures and the Earth itself must be "forcefully rejected".

Bible & Respect for Creation

- Pope Francis directs our attention to those Bible texts that admonish us to:
 - * Respect the laws of Nature
 - * Treat domestic animals with care
 - * Recognise the innate value of all creation
 - * Cultivate right relations not only with other humans, but with all living things
 - * Recognise the wisdom of the Sabbath the limitations of the Earth itself need to be respected.
 - *The Earth itself needs a "Sabbath rest".



The God of Creation

- Pope Francis reminds us that the psalms exhort us to praise God, the Creator.
- Our God is the God of creation. God does not faint or grow weary.
- The God who created the universe our of nothing can also intervene in this world, and over some every form of evil.
- A spirituality that forgets that God as all powerful Creator is not acceptable



Mystery of the Universe

- Nature is a system which can be studied and understood as is done in the sciences.
- Creation on the other hand has a broader meaning.
- Creation has to do with God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance.
- Creation can only be understood as a gift. It is of the order of love.
- Every creature is the object of God's tenderness, who gives it a place in the world.
- Dante spoke of "the love which moves the sun and the stars."
- Creation invites us to transcend the wonders of creation to an acknowledgement of the Creator, the source of all wonders.



Nature's Gratuitous Beauty

Judaeo-Christian Thought & Creation

- While continuing to admire the grandeurs and immensity of creation, Judaeo-Christian thought demythologised nature, rejecting nature religions, their beliefs & rituals.
- In the transition from nature worship to biblical belief and ritual something was lost. The Judaeo-Christian thought no longer saw nature as divine. It placed its emphasis on human responsibility.
- If we acknowledge the value and fragility of nature, we can, with our God-given abilities, finally leave behind the modern myth of unlimited material progress.
- A fragile world entrusted by God to human care challenges us to devise ways of directing, developing and limiting our power.

God, Humans & The Cosmos

- The Cosmos that science is revealing to us is shaped by intercommunicating systems.
- It invites us to see the whole as open to God's transcendence, and allows us to interpret the mysterious beauty of all that is unfolding as the work of the Divine.
- We humans are free to apply our intelligence towards things evolving positively or towards adding new ills.
- The work of the Church is to remind everyone of the duty of care for nature, but above all to protect humankind from self-destruction

Emergence of Humanity

- For Pope Francis, the sheer novelty involved in the emergence of the human within a material universe presupposes a direct action of God.
- He sees this as a particular call to life and relationship on the part of a "Thou" who addresses another 'thou'.
- The biblical accounts of creation invite us to see each human being as a subject who can never be reduced to the status of an object.
- This is not a denial of the evolutionary process but a recognition of the singularity that surrounds the emergence of the human.

God, Humans & The Cosmos (2)

- Accepting that God knows how "to loosen the knots of human care", God has chosen not to impinge on the autonomy of God's creatures.
- This gives rise to the rightful autonomy of humanity in the management of earthly affairs.
- This Divine kenosis respects and empowers human freedom and creativity.
- God's empowering presence, by ensuring the growth of each being, continues the work of creation.
- Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God's art, impressed upon things, whereby those things move to a determinate end.



Ultimate Destiny of Universe

- In his book, "The Human Phenomenon" Teilhard deChardin describes the journey of the Universe as the journey of all creation back to the embrace of the Divine.
- Teilhard called this this ultimate destiny of creation the Omega Point.
- In "Laudato Si", Pope Francis asserts that the ultimate destiny of the Universe is the fullness of God.
- This ultimate destiny has already been presaged for all creation in the Risen Christ.
- "All creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things."

"Love is the affinity which links and draws together the elements of the world... Love, in fact, is the agent of universal synthesis."

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)

Nature As Revelation

- According to Thomas Aquinas, the Universe itself is the first book of revelation.
- "Laudato Si" asserts that very creatures is unique and precious. Every creature is as it were a caress of the Divine.
- "From the panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder & awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the Divine."
- Paying attention to this manifestation, we learn to see ourselves in relation to all other creatures.



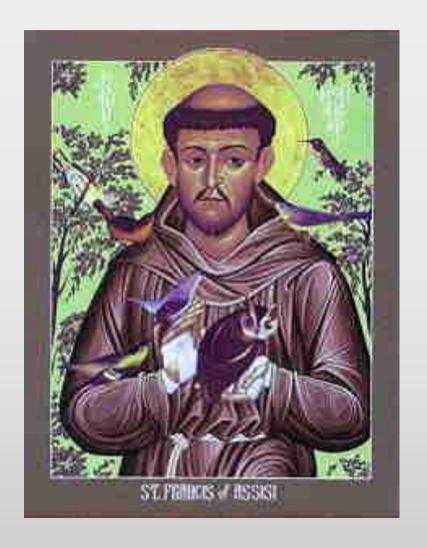
• Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation and especially for our Brother Sun, who brings us the day and the light; he is strong and shines magnificently. O Lord, we think of you when we look at him. Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon, and for the stars which you have set shining and lovely in the heavens.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Brothers Wind and Air and every kind of weather by which you, Lord, uphold life in all your creatures.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water, who is very useful to us, and humble and precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire, through whom you give us light in the darkness: he is bright and lively and strong.

Francis of Assisi



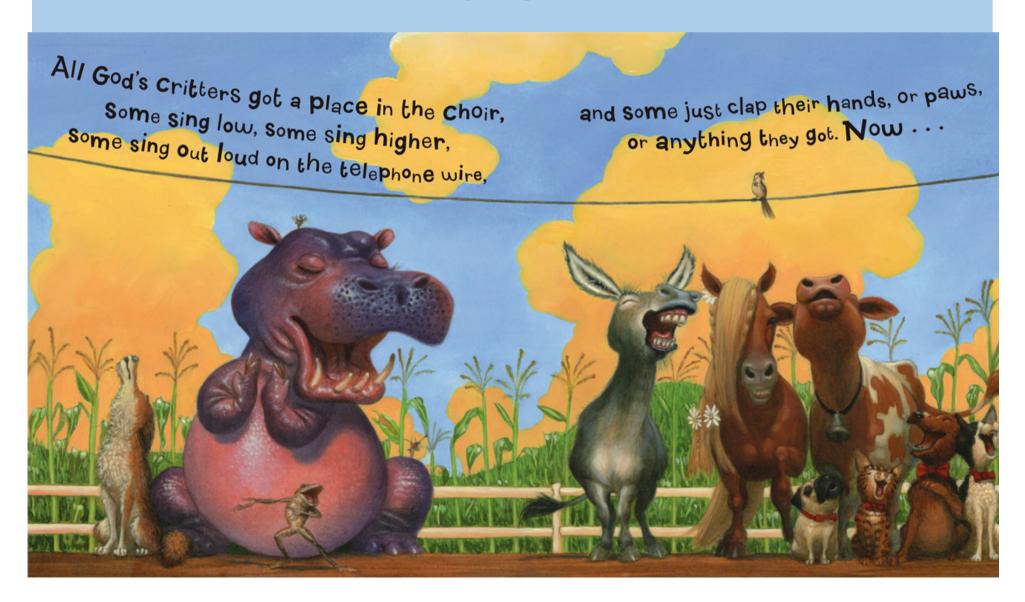
Role of The Human

- The world is our God-given home. It is God's gift to us and we are in duty bound to love and respect it.
- As self-aware beings with a capacity to know God, humans have a unique role to play in the unfolding drama of the Universe.
- Pope Francis emphasises strongly the importance of the of the human in the overall scheme of things.
- Recognising the status of the human does not diminish the importance of all the other species.
- "We should be particularly indignant at the enormous inequalities in our midst where we come to tolerate some considering themselves more worthy than others."

Regard For The Human

- Concern for the environment needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.
- We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationship with other people.
- Peace, justice and preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated.
- Everything is related, and we humans are brother and sister to all living things, woven together by the creative love of God.

All God's Creatures Have a Place In The Choir





Ecology & Social Justice

- The Earth is a shared in heritance whose fruits are meant for the benefit of all.
- Every ecological approach needs a social perspective.
- The right to private property is not absolute, a social principle emphasised by Pope John Paul II when he wrote, "God gave the Earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members without excluding or favouring anyone."
- The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone.
- If we make something our own it is only to administer it for the good of all.

How do you treat the Earth?

The Earth is garden,
It's a beautiful place.
For all living creatures,
For all the human race.
Helping Mother Earth
We can peacefully roam.
We all deserve a place
We can call our home.



Jesus & Ecology

- Fundamental to Jesus's preaching of the Good News was his teaching on the nature of God as a caring parent. "Our Father"
- Jesus saw all of creation as a gift from the Father.
 In the beauty of nature he experiences the wonder of Divine Presence permeating all things.
- Jesus appreciated the good things in life. He was far removed from the philosophies which despised the body, matter and the things of the world.
- He was far removed from the unhealthy dualism that distorted his the Christian message in later times.

Jesus & Manual Labour

- Jesus was a "teknon". He belonged to a landless class of labourers who had to engage in hard physical work to survive.
- He spent most of his life working with his hands in daily contact with the matter created by his heavenly Father.
- His life style was a hum drum affair that awakened no admiration among his people "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?"
- In this way he sanctified human labour and endowed it with a special significance for our development.



Reflection On Jesus

- In his public life, Jesus showed a deep sensitivity to wonder and beauty of creation, and how it revealed the presence and care of his heavenly Father.
- He saw the fruitfulness of the earth as a manifestation of God's bounty.
- His appearance was not that of an ascetic set apart from the world, nor an enemy of the pleasant things in life..
- He was far removed from the philosophies which despised the body, matter and the things of the world.
- Such unhealthy dualism, nonetheless, left a mark on certain Christian thinkers in the course of history.
- Jesus spent most of his life working with his hands and in this way he sanctified human labour and endowed it with a special significance.



Jesus Logos of God

- Quoting John's gospel, Pope Francis reflects on the identity of Jesus, the Logos of God made flesh, who walked the human journey in solidarity with all of us.
- Pope Francis stresses the importance of the Resurrection which shows Jesus as risen and glorious.
- It was the Father's endorsement of who Jesus was and what he stood for. "This is my beloved son".
- The Resurrection was a concrete manifestation of what our heavenly Father has in store for all of creation.



The Final Promise

- "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heave, making peace by his blood on the cross."
- This leads us to direct our gaze to the end of time, when the Son will deliver all things to the Father, so that 'God may be everything to every one.
- Thus the creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guises because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them towards fullness as their end."

End of Part 1



What Is the IPCC?

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change.
- It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988
- It function was to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in relation to climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.
- In the same year, the UN General Assembly endorsed the action by WMO and UNEP in jointly establishing the IPCC.

IPCC Reports

- IPCC has five of reports since its establishment in 1988:
- Report 1 (1990)
- Report 2 (1995) (Kyoto Protocol)
- Report 3 (2001)
- Report 4 (2007)
- Report 5 (2014)
- The fifth report was by far the most trenchant in stating the case for human induced climate change. The report claimed 95% certainty for its findings.

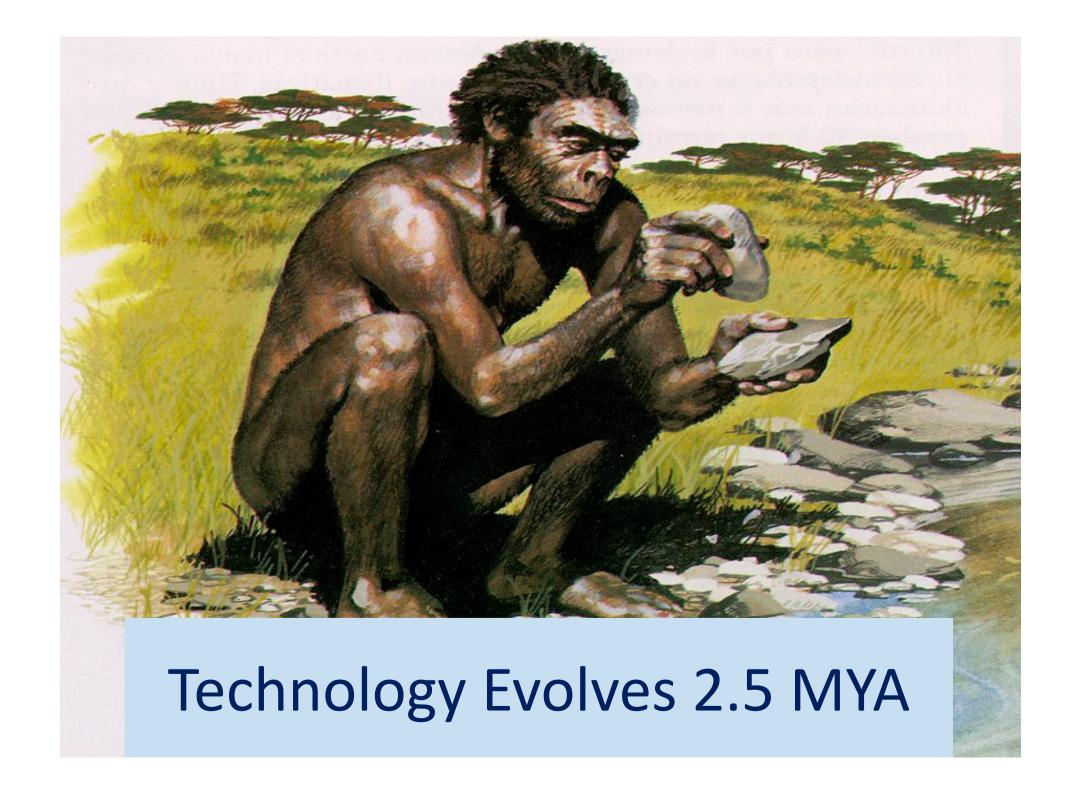
Response to IPCC Reports

- By and large, the response of the International Community to warnings from the IPCC has been disappointing.
- The reasons for this are varied:
 - * An unwillingness to accept the data on climate change
 - * An unwillingness to do anything about it.
 - * Fear of the consequence for national economies
 - * Less developed countries suspicious of the West
 - * Commitments given were on a voluntary basis with no consequences for not delivering
- Because of the reluctance to address the causes of climate change up to now, opportunities have been lost.

Canticle of St. Francis

- Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth,
- Who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.
- Praise be to your, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom you give us light.
- And he is beautiful and radiant with splendour, and bears a likeness of you Most High.
- Praise be to you, My Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

- Praise be to you, My Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through whom you hive sustenance to your creatures.
- Praise be to you, My Lord through Sister Water who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
- Praise be to you, My Lord through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong



Achievements of Technology

- The modification of nature for useful purposes has distinguished the human family from the beginning,
- Over the last two centuries, in particular, enormous waves of change have washed across the globe.
- Pope Francis gratefully recognises the achievements that have resulted from the technological innovations that have improved the human condition in that period of time.
- Modern technology has played a huge role in remedying countless evils which used to harm the human family.



Appreciation of Technology

- Pope Francis also recognises the contribution that technology has made to the improvement of the world in areas such as architecture, engineering and music to name but a few.
- It would be ungrateful not to acknowledge the work of the many scientists and engineers who have contributes to the improvement of living conditions in such a vast variety of waves.
- This progress amounts to a quantum leap "in a fulfilment which is uniquely human".

Shadow Side of Technology

- Despite these achievement, human behaviour has gone awry to the serious detriment of the world around us.
- Pope Francis suggests that we need to critique the dominant technocratic paradigm, and the place of human action in our world.
- New knowledge has given humans tremendous power, especially to those groups who can access the new knowledge, and have the economic resources to exploit it.
- Given the current state of world affairs, there is little evidence that humans can be trusted to use wisely the immense power that we now have.
- "In whose hands does all this power lie, or (where) will it eventually end up? It is extremely risky for a small part of humanity to have it."

A loaded "Deck"



Power & Progress Are Not Synonymous

- Reality, goodness and truth do not flow automatically from technology and economic power.
- Technological advances have not been accompanied by similar advances in human responsibility and values.
- Freedom fades when it is handed over to the blind forces of the unconscious: of immediate need, of self-interest, of violence.
- We lack a sound ethic to guide our use of power.
- We have only a one-dimensional paradigm for the use of power: a subject gaining control of an object through technological processes.
- The object is treated as if it had no inherent qualities or values in itself.
- This one-dimensionality to the use of power inevitably leads to abuse and manipulation.

"Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely day dreaming, but vision with action can change the world."

- Nelson Mandela



Technology, Science & Epistemology

- Some adherents of the technological paradigm promote the notion that the only real knowledge is knowledge acquired through the scientific method.
- The effects of imposing this model on reality as a whole, human and social, are seen in the deterioration of the environment, but also in the manner in which social norms and lifestyles are dictated by powerful groups.
- The idea of promoting a different cultural paradigm employing technology as a mere instrument is inconceivable.
- It has become countercultural to choose a lifestyle whose goals are even partly independent of technology.
- Technology tends to absorb everything into its own iron logic. Power is its motive – a lordship over all.



Technology Rules The World



Myopia of Market Economy

- The technocratic paradigm tends to dominate economic and political life.
- The economy accepts every advance in technology with a view to profit, without concern for its potentially negative impact on human beings.
- There are those who believe that global hunger will be solved by market growth.
- They show no interest in wealth distribution, concern for the environment & the rights of future generations.
- Left to itself, the market economy cannot guarantee integral human development and social inclusion.
- Profit is the ultimate goal.

Ultimate Goal/Bottom Line



Towards A Solution

- The problems affecting our world cannot be dealt with from a single perspective. Science needs to take into account the insight generated by other disciplines including philosophy, and social ethics.
- In our current situation, there are no genuine ethical horizons to which one can appeal. As a result, life gradually becomes a surrender to situations conditioned by technology.
- In the concrete situation, there are a number of symptoms which point to what is wrong: a) environmental degradation b) increased anxiety c) a loss of purpose of life and of community living.
- "There needs to be a distinctive way of looking at things, a way of thinking, policies, an educational programme, a lifestyle, and a spirituality which together generate resistance to the assault of the technocratic paradigm."
- A technical remedy that addresses immediate problems without reference to, or regard for the broader issues, is not adequate.



Need For A Global View