

Ecological Spirituality: On the Care of Our Common Home

-A workshop-

LAUDATO SI'

ON THE CARE OF
OUR COMMON HOME



POPE FRANCIS



ENCYCLICAL LETTER

July 2015

You are invited to take an active part in a workshop entitled “Ecological Spirituality” based on Pope Francis’ world-shaking letter entitled “Laudatum Si’ (*Praise be to You, My Lord!*)” published on June 18 2015.

If you attend, you assure us that you have *read, marked and inwardly digested* the complete letter. There are 206 sections, about 185 pages.

We will work in small groups, at tables marked with one of the six chapters of the letter (Introduction and Chapter One go together). When you register, please indicate your preference of which chapter you would like to work with. If possible, you will be at that table.

The workshop is on a Saturday in July from 8:30-noon in Corlett Hall. We have 3.5 hours to do some intense learning together. There are six learning tasks, each of which will take approximately 30 minutes.

A light breakfast will be served at 8:00.

Please register for the workshop by July 15th by calling Jane Vella at 919 329 2818 and name the chapter you are most interested in.

We look forward to journeying and learning together.

Ecological Spirituality
A Francis Workshop

Francis' prayer for our earth

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

A Brief Description of the Workshop

The People

10-14 members of the Church of the Nativity who have *read, marked and inwardly digested Pope Francis' letter of 6.18.2015*; Karen Ridout will facilitate this session and Carl Sigel is an advisor.

The Situation

Pope Francis has written a world-shaking letter: "Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home" that deals with the critical issue of global degradation and the environment – and all related issues of our global socio-economic culture. We need and want to understand and respond to that letter as a church.

The Vision for Change

It is our hope that as a result of this workshop we will start making decisions based on Pope Francis' recommendations and his teaching in this comprehensive letter.

The Time and Timing

The total time is 3.5 hours on a Saturday morning in late July. Each task is approximately 30 minutes.

The Place and Space

We will use Corlett Hall with 6 tables so everyone can see each other and the screen.

The Content

INTRODUCTION – Francis' purpose and his appeal to all [1-19]

CHAPTER 1 – *What is Happening to Our Common Home* [20-61]

- I. Pollution and climate change [20-26]
- II. Pollution, waste and the throwaway culture [20-22]
- III. Climate as a common good [23-26]
- IV. The issue of water [27-31]
- V. Loss of biodiversity [32-42]
- VI. Decline in the quality of human life and the breakdown of society [43-47]
- VII. Global inequality [48-52]

- VIII. Weak responses [53-59]
- IX. A variety of opinions [60-61]

CHAPTER 2 - *The Gospel of Creation* [62-100]

- I. The light offered by faith [63-64]
- II. The wisdom of the biblical accounts [65-75]
- III. The mystery of the universe [76-83] 55
- IV. The message of each creature in the harmony of creation [84-88]
- V. A universal communion [89-92]
- VI. The common destination of goods [93-95]
- VII. The gaze of Jesus [96-100]

CHAPTER 3 - *The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis* [101-136]

- I. Technology: creativity and power [102-105]
- II. The globalization of the technocratic paradigm [106-114]
- III. The crisis and effects of modern anthropocentrism [115-136]
- IV. Practical relativism [122-123]
- V. The need to protect employment [124-129]
- VI. New biological technologies [130-136]

CHAPTER 4 - *Integral Ecology* [137-162]

- I. Environmental, economic and social ecology [138-142]
- II. Cultural ecology [143-146]
- III. Ecology of daily life [147-155]
- IV. The principle of the common good [156-158]
- V. Justice between the generations [159-162]

CHAPTER 5 - *Lines of Approach and Action* (163-201)

- I. Dialogue on the environment in the international community [164-175]
- II. Dialogue for new national & local policies [176-181]
- III. Dialogue & transparency in decision making [182-188]
- IV. Politics and economy in dialogue for human fulfillment [189-198]
- V. Religions in dialogue with science [199-201]

CHAPTER 6 - *Ecological Education and Spirituality* [202-246]

- I. Towards a new life style [203-208]
- II. Educating for the covenant between humanity and the environment [209-215]
- III. Ecological conversion [216-221]
- IV. Joy and peace [222-227]
- V. Civic and political love [228-232]
- VI. Sacramental signs and the celebration of rest [233-237]
- VII. The Trinity and the relationship between creatures [238-240]
- VIII. Queen of all creation [241-242]
- IX. Beyond the sun [243-246]

The Achievement-based Objectives

By the end of this workshop, all will have:

- **Identified** and **shared** two major learnings from their table chapter and **selected** one quote from the chapter as a symbol of what they learned
- **Connected** the learnings from all chapters into a single paragraph: *Francis' Appeal to All*
- **Built** an alternative cultural system model
- **Created** a sequenced list of approaches and actions for our context
- **Named** new spiritual disciplines inspired by Francis' letter.

**“Let us protect with love
all that God has given us!”**

Pope Francis' homily on the day of the
inauguration of his Petrine ministry
March 2013

Photograph courtesy of
Catholic Church England and Wales
<http://www.bbc.com/photos/catholicism/161000993>



Welcome and introduction!

Learning Task #1 This Community of our Francis Workshop: A Caring Culture

- 1A **Select** a found object that symbolizes what reading this letter has meant to you.
- 1B **Introduce** yourself as you share your symbol at your table, and **tell** your friends why you are here today.
- 1C **Put** all your found objects on the central table and **tell** what these say to you.



Learning Task #2 Your Chapter

- 2A At your table (marked with your selected chapter), **share** your personal learnings of reading this chapter.
- 2B **Distill** those learnings into two main insights you can share with the entire group.
- 2C **Share** your table's two learnings with us all and **post** them on the Chapters Chart.
 - *What do you notice about all you have heard here?*
 - *What questions are coming to mind for you?*



Learning Task #3 Francis Appeal to All

3A Back at your table and examining all the learnings posted, **write** a short paragraph describing Francis' appeal to every human being. You can jot some notes below if that is helpful.

We'll hear and see each paragraph as it is posted.

- *What new observations, concerns, or questions are coming to mind for you?*

Learning Task #4 A Caring Culture

Quickly! From whatever you can lay your hands on – inside or outside – at your table **build** a model of a **caring culture**: a song... a picture... a three dimensional clay model... a dance... however you wish to communicate this. Somehow show why you chose this model, what it represents for you all and, what issues it deals with.

We will enjoy and celebrate all your creations.



Learning Task #5 Ecological Spirituality

#5A At your table, **write** a short chapter in the New Book of Common Prayer on Ecological Spirituality naming.

- Five new spiritual disciplines of ecological spirituality
e.g. simplicity: buy less, buy organic, local foods
- Five new ways of meeting God in the world (prayer) related to ecological spirituality
e.g. praise God when you hear birds sing, or see a cloud
- Five new actions in the liturgy of creation appropriate to ecological spirituality
e.g. take our kitchen waste to the Nativity Garden compost barrel

#5B We'll hear and celebrate all!



Learning Task #6 Extending and Celebrating the Circle of Thanks and Praise

Now, please **write** the name of a friend in the box below, you will invite to do this Francis Workshop next time it is offered.

I will invite:

Before we close with a prayer, a circle of thanks and praise: Whom do you wish to thank for your learning here this morning?

A prayer in union with creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.

They came forth from your all-powerful hand;

they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

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!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,

teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness.

Amen.

Thank you for joining us here today.

Let's remember each other in prayer
as we continue our ecological spirituality journeys.