

CARE OF CREATION

Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church

LEARN TO LISTEN

If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet sound in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home.

SPLENDID COMMUNION

The sweet song of creation invites us to practice an “ecological spirituality” (Laudato Si’, 216), attentive to God’s presence in the natural world. It is a summons to base our spirituality on the “loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion” (ibid, 220) For the followers of Christ in particular, this luminous experience reinforces our awareness that “all things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being” (Jn 1:3)

PRAISE THE LORD!

Let us join Saint Francis of Assisi in singing: “Praise be to You, my Lord, for all Your creatures” (cf. *Canticle of Brother Sun*). Let us join the psalmist in singing, “Let everything that breathes praise the Lord” (Ps 150: 6).



REPENT AND CHANGE

... We must repent and modify our life-styles and destructive systems. From its very first pages, the Gospel calls us to “repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Mt 3:2); it summons us to a new relationship with God, and also entails a different relationship with others and also with creation... “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience” (Laudato Si’, 217).

“MORE RESPONSIBLE”

As persons of faith, we feel ourselves even more responsible for acting each day in accordance with the summons to conversion. Nor is that summons simply individual: “the ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion” (ibid, 219).

RESPOND WITH DEEDS

Mindful of the exhortation of Saint Paul to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (cf. *Rom 12:15*), let us weep with the anguished plea of creation. Let us hear that plea and respond to it with deeds, so that we and future generations can continue to rejoice in creation’s sweet song of life and hope.

(Source: Message for World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 7/16/22)

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