

Pope Francis' Encyclical:
LAUDATO SI'

What is an Encyclical?

Encyclicals are pastoral letters addressed to archbishops and bishops, but also to wider audiences of Catholic laity, explaining Catholic doctrine.

This one was published in May 2015.



The screenshot shows the official Vatican website for the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. At the top left is the coat of arms of the Holy See. To the right are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, and RSS, followed by navigation icons for back, forward, print, and download. Below the header, the breadcrumb trail reads "Francis > Encyclicals >". A language selection bar lists various languages: [AR - BE - DE - EN - ES - FR - IT - JA - LA - LV - PL - PT - RU - SL - UK - ZH CN - ZH TW]. The main title is centered: "ENCYCLICAL LETTER **LAUDATO SI'** OF THE HOLY FATHER **FRANCIS** ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME". Below the title is a red PDF icon. The first paragraph of the text is visible: "1. *'LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore'* – *'Praise be to you, my Lord'*. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. 'Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs'.^[1]

2. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (*Rom 8:22*). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. *Gen 2:7*); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

LAUDATO SI'

“Praise be to You, my Lord”

Exploring the ancient teachings of our faith in the light of today's ecological crisis, *Laudato Si'* teaches us that “everything is connected.” (LS 91) As our relationship with our divine Creator has been neglected, human relationships have faltered, and our world has grown hotter, less stable, and more lifeless. As a result, we all suffer, and the poorest and most vulnerable suffer above all. We face a “complex crisis that is both social and environmental.” (LS 139)

There is hope. Pope Francis calls us to develop a “loving awareness” of this home we share and to act on the values we hold dear. (LS 220)

Standing on the firm ground of “three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor, and with the Earth itself,” we commit to setting out “on the long path of renewal.” (LS 66, 202) We embrace our rightful place in the “order and dynamism” that our Creator ordained, and we urgently embark on new ways of living with “creativity and enthusiasm” (LS 221, 220).



Pope Francis' Plea May 24, 2021



Click [here](#) to view this video

Why Care for the Environment? (Laudato Si' Explained)



Click [here](#) to view this video

Our Response

The Ecological Crisis of “Our Common Home”

THE CRISIS

Separation of Our Relationship from God and Our Neighbor

Impacts of Climate Crisis, Loss of Biodiversity and Pollution

The Poor are Disproportionately Affected

Widespread Indifference, Selfishness and Greed

Unsustainable Economy and Actions

Unsustainable Habits of Production, Consumption and Waste

THE SOLUTION

A Universal Communion – Everything is Interconnected

Dialogue on the Gospel of Creation is Grounded in the Bible, Tradition, Witness of the Saints and Catholic Social Teaching

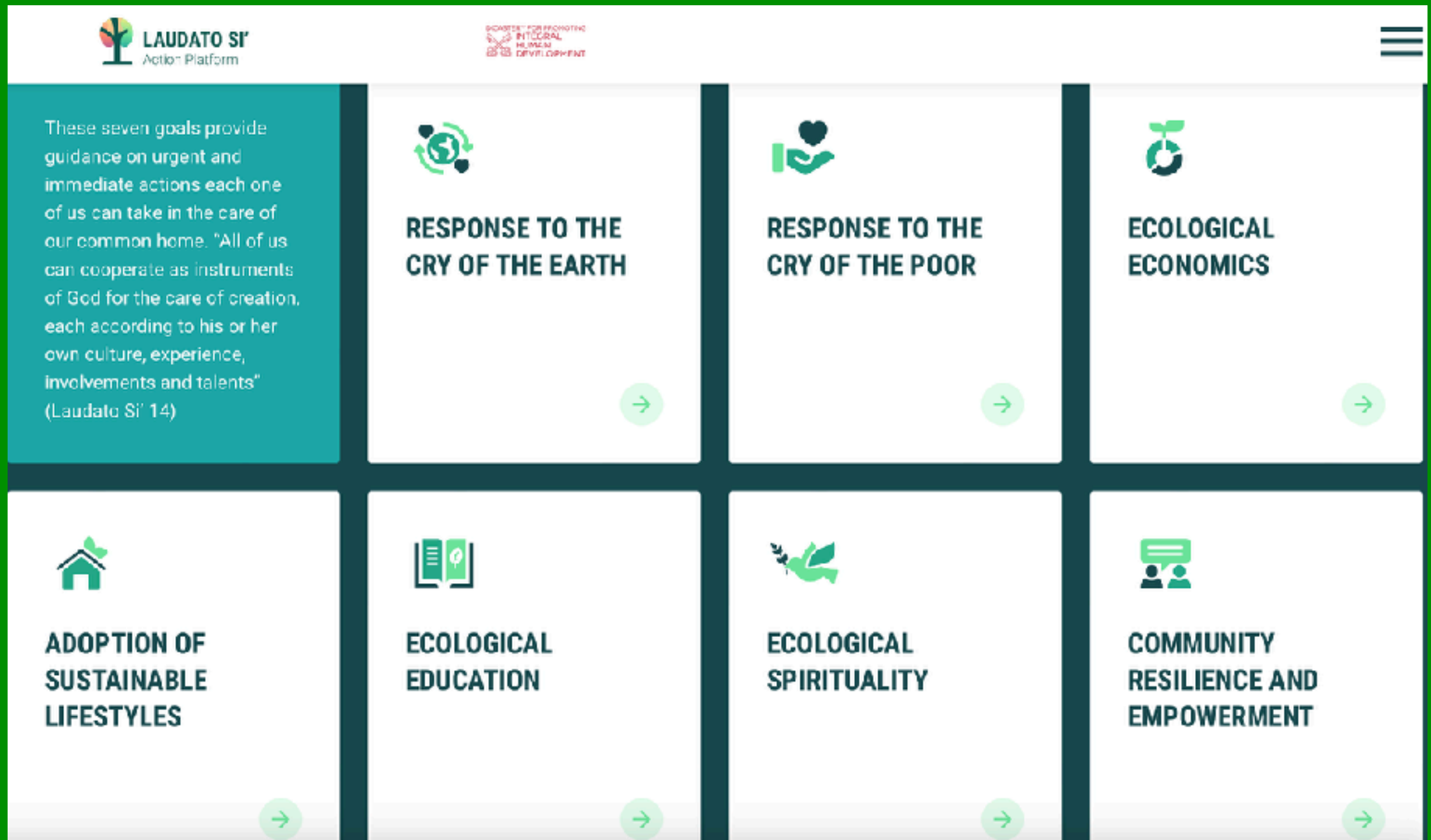
Scientific Research is to be Embraced

Reduce our Carbon Footprint, Pollution, Protect and Preserve Biodiversity

Ecological and Spiritual Conversion is Required to Hear the “Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor”

Global Dialogue, Solidarity, Subsidiarity and Action are Urgently Needed

7 Goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform



The Goals Explained



RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.



RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth. Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems, and social service programmes.



ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling), and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic, etc.).

The Goals Explained



ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.



ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights, fostering Laudato Si' themes within the community, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers), and ecological restoration activities.



ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to "discover God in all things", both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities. Actions could include promoting creation-based liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, etc.



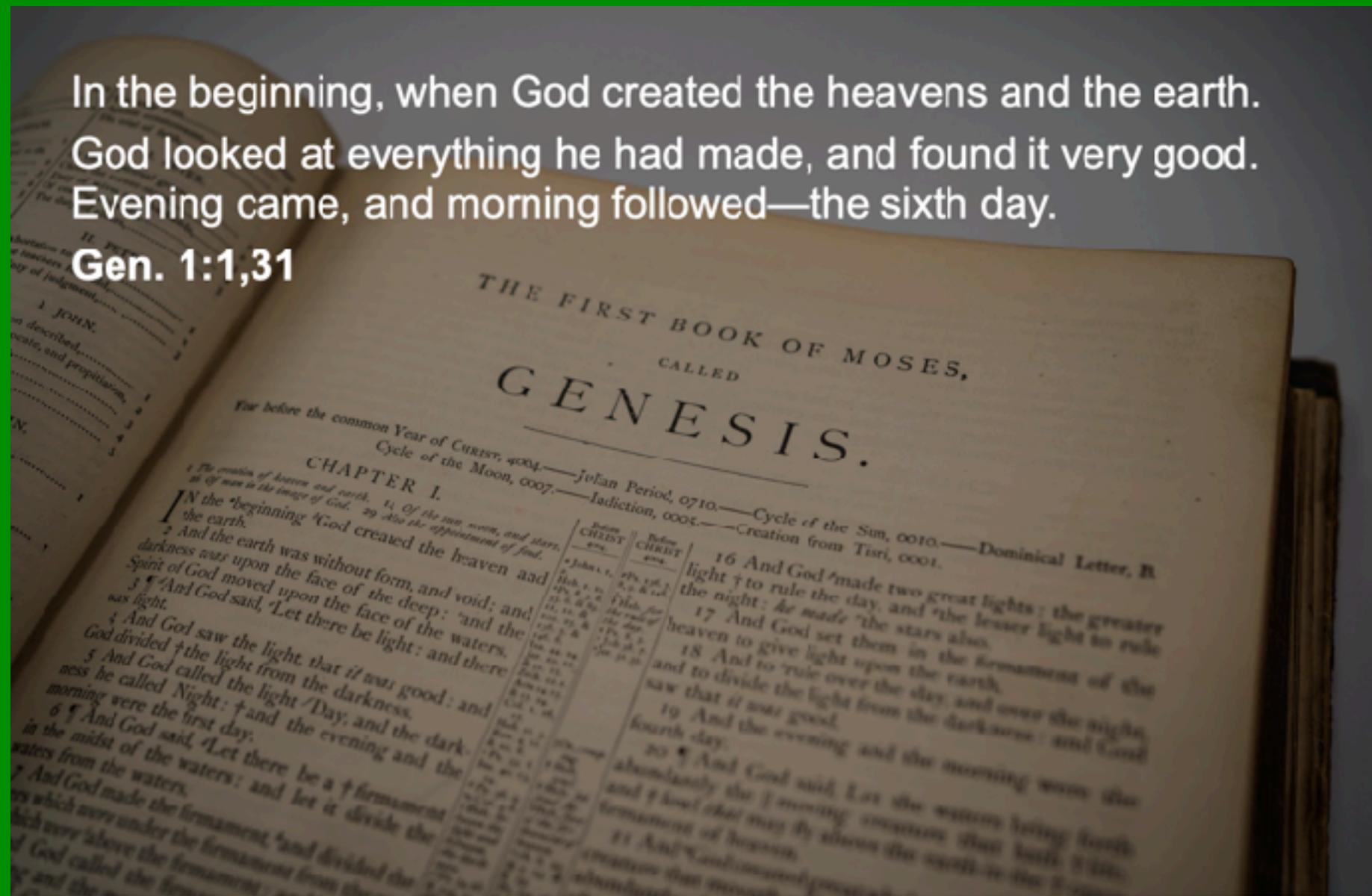
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighbourhood ecosystems.

Our Responsibility

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth.
God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.
Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Gen. 1:1,31



Our Responsibility



"We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored."

(See usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation)

*Image: M. Southard C.S.J., Used with permission
www.marysouthardart.org*

Our Response

- Citizens came together during WWII to collect scraps for needed materials. Now it's our turn to renew that spirit and to tread a new path for the sake of planet Earth and its inhabitants
- As a parish, we can make a BIG impact!

Our Response



“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come behind us, to children who now are growing up?”

(LS 160)

Closing Prayer

A 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.

