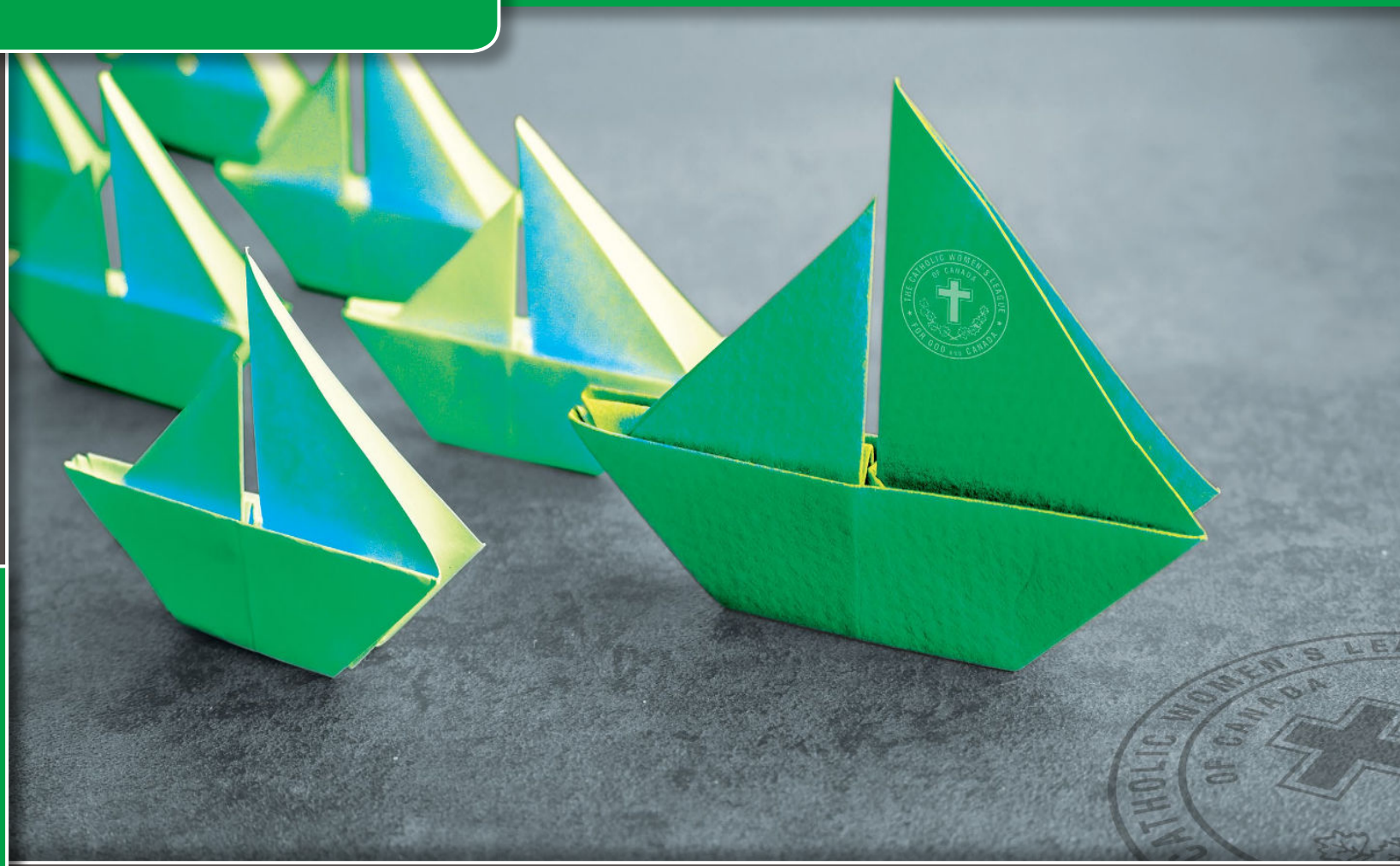
Care for God's Creation Resources

Catholic Social Teaching Working Group



GOAL: The Catholic Women's League of Canada addresses and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy.

STRATEGY: Empower members by providing educational opportunities to learn more about Catholic social teaching.

Table of Contents

Introduction 2

Terminology to Help Understand *Laudato Si'* and Climate Change: 3

Resources 4

Books and Documents 4

Study Guides and Training 8

Organizations with a Focus on Ecology and Care for Our Common Home 10

Tool Kits, Advocacy and Action 13

Videos and Audible Material 14

Secular Articles and Resources 17

Scripture and Bible Resources 20

Examens, Prayers and Quotes 22

Prophets Among Us 23

National, Provincial and Territorial Climate Action Plans and Environmental Networks 27

The Seventh Generation Philosophy: 29

Attachment 1: Our Common Home – a Crash Course 30

Introduction

Care for Creation is not a new theme in Catholic social teaching. For example, during the World Day of Peace celebration in 2010, Pope Benedict XVI chose the theme *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation*. His message was that justice and peace could only be established if people protected the habitat that sustains them all.

Pope Francis reinforced the theme in the 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si*— "Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God. Otherwise, it would be nothing more than romantic individualism dressed up in ecological garb." (119)

In 2016, Lumen Christi Institute held a symposium entitled "Caring for Our Common Home: Economics, Environment & Catholic Social Thought." Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski (Miami), the keynote speaker, reflected on Pope Benedict and Pope Francis's attention to the environment.

"It may come as a surprise—especially given Pope Francis' current reputation as a pontiff concerned about the environment—that Pope Benedict XVI was referred to in both religious and secular circles as the original 'Green Pope.' In boosting efforts to make Vatican City more environmentally efficient, he even purchased a forest to offset the Vatican's carbon imprint… Pope Francis' concerns belong to a tradition of Catholic social thought that reaches back to the dawn of the Industrial Age with Pope Leo XIII's groundbreaking encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (1891). Since then, the church has repeatedly called for a more just society in which people can strive for holiness in peace and harmony." (Lumen Christi Institute, "Conference Encourages Catholics to Cultivate and Care for the Created World")

In October 2020, in his message to participants at the meeting, "New Ways towards Integral Ecology: Five Years after *Laudato Si'*," Pope Francis wrote:

"Achieving an integral ecology calls for a profound interior conversion on both the personal and communal level. As you examine the great challenges facing us at this time, including climate change, the need for sustainable development and the contribution religion can make to the environmental crisis, it is essential to break with the logic of exploitation and selfishness and to promote the practice of a sober, simple and humble lifestyle (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 222-224). It is my hope that your work will serve to cultivate in the hearts of our brothers and sisters a shared responsibility for one another as children of God and a renewed commitment to be good stewards of his gift of creation (cf. Gen 2:15)."

Claude Monet Gardens at Giverny France, 2016
Photo courtesy of Bette Hemstalk, British Columbia

The ***Care for Creation*** resources presented for The Catholic Women's League of Canada are meant to frame members' knowledge, understanding and awareness on this key principle of Catholic social teaching. Members' faith and the League's mission charge them to respond to the social, economic and environmental injustices seen in their communities, provinces, country and around the world. These resources are arranged into the following sections for ease of use.

Terminology to Help Understand *Laudato Si'* and Climate Change:

- **Biocapacity** is "the biologically productive area that provides renewable biological capacity including the replenishment of resources and the absorption of waste such as carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuel (earthovershootday.org).
- **Desertification** is the process of bio-diverse soil turning to desert. Desertification occurs when soil does not have enough ground cover, is stripped of plant cover or deprived of nutrients through chemical farming.
- **Earth Overshoot Day** "marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources (fish and forests, for instance) and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. [People] maintain this deficit by liquidating stocks of resources and accumulating waste, primarily carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Andrew Simms originally conceived the concept of Earth Overshoot Day while working at the UK think tank New Economics Foundation" *(ibid)*.
- **Ecological footprint:** "Measures the amount of biologically productive land and sea area required to provide for the demand of population, including the areas for growing the food, fiber, and timber they consume, the space they occupy with their houses and roads, the area needed to sequester the carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuel" *(ibid)*.
- **Ecological overshoot** "occurs when human demand exceeds the regenerative capacity of a natural ecosystem. Global overshoot occurs when humanity demands more than what the biosphere can renew. In other words when humanity's Ecological Footprint exceeds what the planet can regenerate" *(ibid)*.
- **Greenhouse gas** (abbreviated as "GHG") is a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation, e.g., carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons.
- **Intergenerational solidarity** is "not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow… [and] is on loan to each generation, which must then hand it on to the next" (*Laudato Si'*).
- **Integral ecology** flows from a spiritual conversion. Pope Francis reminds Catholics, "Living [their] 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 [their] Christian experience" *(ibid)*.
- **Integral spirituality:** Pope Francis prompts Catholics to practice spirituality in everything they do to frame how they live not, just on Sundays but every waking moment of every day. The Holy Father urges all people of goodwill to live a global spirituality. People are integrally connected as creations of a loving God. He thus argues authentic engagement with the text of *Laudato Si'* should lead readers to grow spiritually so as to express their concern, act with environmental justice and seek reconciliation with the pain of the land.
- **Megaton** (abbreviated as "Mt") is a metric unit equivalent to one million (106) tonnes, or one billion (109) kilograms.
- **Rapidification** is "the continued acceleration of changes affecting humanity and the planet… coupled today with a more intensified pace of life and work… Although change is part of the working of complex systems, the speed with which human activity has developed contrasts with the naturally slow pace of biological evolution. Moreover, the goals of this rapid and constant change are not necessarily geared to the common good or to integral and sustainable human development." *(ibid)*
- **Sustainable consumption and production** (abbreviated as "SCP") refers to refers to "the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations".
- **Sustainable development goals** (abbreviated at "SDG") were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- **Sustainability** is "the ability of a system to last or endure; meeting current human needs without endangering… descendants" (earthovershootday.org).

"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.

We need a conversation which includes everyone,
since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."

(Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*)

Resources

Books and Documents

Author, Title, Publisher, Year	Website	Details
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Alberta Bishops' Statement on the Care of God's Creation." 1998.	cccb.ca/media-release/alberta-bishops-statement-on-the-care-of-gods-creation/	As far back as 1998, Albertan bishops wrote, "Scientists are telling us that in the face of rising global population and increased energy and natural resource consumption, we have a limited window of opportunity to change our environmentally destructive ways of relating to the earth. Failure to act in a timely and decisive manner will threaten the ability of the earth to nurture and sustain life as we know it. This time of jubilee preparation is a call for A New Beginning." The biblical jubilee calls us to embrace a right relationship with God, all human beings, and all creation. This jubilee is a call to each of us to celebrate the great gift of life, to care deeply for creation.
Canadian Jesuits International et al. *Cry of the Poor, Cry of the Earth: What has spirituality got to do with social justice and ecology?* Jesuit Forum for Faith and Social Justice, 2019. Free digital download	jesuitforum.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/shared_exploration.pdf	This resource contains notes from a seminar subtitled "What has Spirituality got to do with social justice and ecology?" and, like all resources from the Jesuit Forum for Faith and Social Justice, is well worth reading.
Cavadini, J. "Laudato Si' and Environmental Works of Mercy." *Church Life Journal*, 2016.	mcgrathblog.nd.edu/category/essays/2016/05/02/laudato-si-and-environmental-works-of-mercy	Initially delivered by John Cavadini, the McGrath Institute for Church Life director and University of Notre Dame during the 2015 conference "*Laudato Si'* and the Protection of 'Our Common Home': Faith and Science in Conversation."

Author, Title, Publisher, Year	Website	Details
Dicastery for Promotion of Integral Human Development. "*Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year Plan 2020-2021." Digital download, available in English, Italian, French, Spanish	humandevelopment.va/en/news/2020/laudato-si-special-anniversary-year-plan.html	An announcement by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development of a Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year (May 24, 2020-May 24, 2021). The anticipation is the year and the ensuing decade will be a time of grace—a jubilee time for Earth and all of God's creatures. The priority is an emphasis on ecological conversion in action. The gravity of the situation is clear, and the call to action is urgent.
Domestic and International Policy Committees. *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2001.	usccb.org/resources/global-climate-change-plea-dialogue-prudence-and-common-good	Climate change is not about economic policy or political theory but rather about the future of God's creation, stewardship of His Creation and the human responsibility to unborn generations. The American bishops offer a distinctively religious and moral perspective on the need for environmental protection as a sign of respect for God's creation.
Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace. *Building a New Culture: Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment*. Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2013. Digital download	cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Church_Teaching_on_the_Environment.pdf	This six-page document highlights eight central themes of Catholic social teaching on care for the environment from popes John Paul II and Benedict, as well as Patriarch Bartholomew I.
Five Years in The One Planet network 2012-2017: Mid-term Magazine. One Planet network, 2018 English digital download	oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/one_planet_network_mid-term_magazine.pdf	
Interdicasterial Working Group of the Holy See on Integral Ecology. *Journeying Towards Care for Our Common Home: Five Years After Laudato Si'*. 2020. Digital download	devp.org/sites/www.devp.org/files/documents/materials/journeying_towards_care_for_our_common_home.pdf	Pope Francis urges the laity to realize that now is a time to choose a new way to live—to recognize and change the throwaway culture, embrace a new life of simplicity, solidarity with the poor and unite with the environment as the world faces a worsening ecological crisis.

Author, Title, Publisher, Year	Website	Details
Pope Francis. Encyclical letter *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. 2015. Free digital download	vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html	Pope Francis released this encyclical inviting every person on the planet to be part of the healing. Topics covered include Catholic doctrine concerning climate change, consumerism and development.
Pope Francis. *On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si)*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015.	usccb.org/offices/general-secretariat/laudato-si-care-our-common-home	In Pope Francis' encyclical, he speaks in plain but appealing language to everyone. "This encyclical is aimed at everyone. Let us pray that everyone can receive its message and grow in responsibility toward the common home that God has entrusted to us." (Pope Francis, Angelus, June 14, 2015)
Scharper, S., & Appolloni, S. *The Green Bible, Words of Love for a Suffering Planet*. Novalis, 2020.	en.novalis.ca/products/the-green-bible?_pos=1&_sid=860d7e9a8&_ss=r	There is great wealth in the wisdom of voices spanning centuries, traditions, races, ages and geography. Join in prayer with those who speak for God's creation as Christians seek to find the right balance between economic growth, justice and respect for the earth.
Tatay-Nieto, J. "Sustainability, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, and the Catholic Church's Ecological Turn." 2020. Digital download	mdpi.com/2077-1444/11/10/488/htm	This document raises awareness on socio-environmental issues, promoting environmental literacy, fostering ethical reflection and guides ongoing dialogue for change.
Turkson, Cardinal P. "Care of Creation as a Work of Mercy: Villanova University." 2016. Downloadable document available.	iustitiaetpax.va/content/giustiziaepace/en/attivita1/presidente/2016/care-of-creation-as-a-work-of-mercy--villanova-university--phila.html	A downloadable file of a Lenten reflection by Cardinal Turkson based on *Laudato Si'*. He promotes the church's social teachings and explores the contemporary question of how Catholics can live their faith in the world as disciples of Christ.
United States Conference of *Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Catholic Teaching on the Environment: Celebrating the Fifth Anniversary of Laudato Si'*. USCCB, 2020.	store.usccb.org/products/catholic-teaching-on-the-environment-celebrating-the-fifth-anniversary-of-laudato-si	A wonderful summative book of church teachings on the environment, in which the Magisterium expands its rich teaching on creation. Included are some key passages highlighting what the sacred scripture says about creation. The document concludes with the church's tradition of prayers related to creation, including prayers to care for creation, prayers in honour of the Creator and prayers blessing the works of creation.

Author, Title, Publisher, Year	Website	Details
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good." USCCB, 2001.	usccb.org/resources/global-climate-change-plea-dialogue-prudence-and-common-good	To quote from the introduction of this document, "As people of faith, we are convinced that 'the earth is the Lord's and all it holds' (Ps 24:1). Our Creator has given us the gift of creation: the air we breathe, the water that sustains life, the fruits of the land that nourish us, and the entire web of life without which human life cannot flourish. All of this God created and found 'very good.' We believe our response to global climate change should be a sign of our respect for God's creation."

Study Guides and Training

Study Guides/Training	Website	Details
Guides		
Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home Discussion Guide*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2020. Free digital download	usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/laudato-si-discussion-guide.pdf	A *Laudato Si'* facilitator guide with multiple sets of questions for lively discussion. Participants have prayer, scripture, background information, discussion periods, follow-up action and closing prayer.
Dorner, J. *Care for God's Creation–A Guide for Parishes*. The Archdiocese of Ottawa.	d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/2437/documents/2020/11/Guide%20for%20Parishes%20-%20Care%20for%20Creation%202018-04-12%20revised%202020%20Nov-2.pdf	The Archdiocese of Ottawa developed this 14-page document in consultation with a panel of Canadian Catholic organizations. Includes prayers and a wealth of resource links all available for use in local parishes.
Eco-Parish Guide: Bringing Laudato Si' to Life. Global Catholic Climate Movement. Free digital download.	ourcommonhome.org/media/docs/GCCM-Eco-Parish-Guide-English.pdf	An amazing practical guide for Catholic parishes and communities to build a care for creation team, learn how to reduce emissions and act on climate change. Specifically created for use in the parish, it is an invaluable resource.
Lane, Jim. "A 9-Minute Guide to Pope Francis' Encyclical on Climate Change." Biofuels Digest, 2015.	biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2015/06/21/a-9-minute-guide-to-pope-francis-encyclical-on-climate-change/	Jim Lane offers a nine-minute set of excerpts from the papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which reflect the themes of the entire encyclical. A great resource for anyone wanting to learn about the encyclical in a short period of time.
Ordo Fratrum Minorum. *The Cry of the Earth, the Cries of the Poor: An OFM Study Guide on the Care of Creation*. The General Office for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, 2016. Free digital downloads	ofmjpic.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/8_the_cry_of_the_earth_and_the_CRIES_OF_THE_POOR_2016.pdf	Two of many resources available from this source on the theme *Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor* that are well worth reading.

Study Guides/Training	Website	Details
The Carmelite NGO. *Laudato Si' Study Guide for Parishes and Study Groups*. Carmelite Media.	publications.carmelitemedia.org/products/carmelite-ngo-adult-study-guide-on-laudato-si-english-download-pdf	This resource is a wonderful study guide to *Laudato Si'* specifically designed for adults.
Training		
Laudato Si' and Integral Ecology. OFM Franciscans. Free online certificate course.	laudatosi-school-77aa.thinkific.com/courses/laudato-si-and-integral-ecology	A free online course offered to anyone who wants insights into the major themes of Pope Francis' encyclical. Learn about and become part of the global Franciscan movement towards ecological conversion and systemic change.
Laudato Si' Animator Program. Global Catholic Climate Movement. Free online certificate course.	laudatosianimators.org/	Animators are local people striving to live *Laudato Si'* as they inspire others in their communities to do so. Participants register and attend five or six week online sessions. Their training is completed by planning and delivering an action, meeting or presentation in their community, local council or parish.
Laudato Si' Encyclical course. Global Catholic Climate Movement. No certificate, free online course.	catholicclimatemovement.global/online-course-laudato-si/	A six module certificate course covering sustainable development goals, an overview of the human cause of the ecological crisis and solutions at the global, national and local levels. The free online course will help participants better understand the encyclical and its key importance in today's Catholic church.
Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. SDG Academy. A self-paced, ethics based certificate program.	edx.org/course/laudato-si-on-care-for-our-common-home	A six module certificate course that covers sustainable development goals, an overview of the human cause of the ecological crisis and solutions at the global, national and local levels.

"*Laudato si'* will be able to produce fruits of conversion only if the witnesses continue the path opened by this Letter...
'Witnesses' means 'those who transmit', 'those who propose', 'those who decide and decide to act'.
Who are these witnesses? They are the protagonists of economic and political life,
they are the local communities, with their memory and their hopes,
they are the Churches, they are the young as well as the old."
(Rev. Bruno Marie Duffé, Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development)

Organizations with a Focus on Ecology and Care for Our Common Home

Organization	Website	Details
Catholic Climate Covenant	catholicclimatecovenant.org/	The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops helped form Catholic Climate Covenant to address ongoing ecological awareness and implement Catholic social teaching on ecology within the church.
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach	columbancenter.org/	The worldwide organization's mission is to work towards a more just, peaceful and environmentally sustainable world through engagement in the political process rooted in faith and the gospel. The organization targets policies and structures that bring the world into right relationships with God's creation. The Action Centre tab and Resource tab contain a wealth of information.
Ecojesuit (e-newsletter).	ecojesuit.com/	A global ecology network of Jesuits and partners seeking the common good, including the scientific community, pastoral institutes, religious congregations and the church, faith-based organizations and movements, civil society and Indigenous peoples.
Faith & the Common Good, Global Catholic Climate Movement	faithcommongood.org/global_catholic_climate_movement_canada	A national, interfaith charity focusing on helping connect Canada's diverse faith groups with the wide variety of local non-profit, municipal and commercial organizations dedicated to a sustainable future for all life.

Organization	Website	Details
For the Love of Creation	fortheloveofcreation.ca/resources/	A national initiative that brings together faith bodies and faith-based organizations in Canada that mobilize education, reflection, action and advocacy for climate justice.
Global Call to Action Against Poverty	gcap.global/	This organization supports people working for justice, bringing together those working to eliminate poverty and inequalities.
GreenFaith	greenfaith.org/	A worldwide multi-faith climate and environmental movement. Online training, communication and campaigns are available and support the creation of an international network focused on a just, progressive and compassionate response to the climate crisis.
Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice	jesuitforum.ca/	An excellent website with many resources created in the spirit of Jesuits, who have a long history of speaking for the poor and vulnerable.
Laudato Si' Generation	laudatosigeneration.org	A website for young people to connect with other youth around the world who recognize the importance of acting on behalf of climate change in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*.
Laudato Si' Movement	laudatosimovement.org/	The *Laudato Si'* Movement is an international coalition of Catholics, united by their faith and work in various roles and organizations on climate change issues. This website has an unbelievable wealth of resources and connections and is an excellent place to start pursuing information and good content on the papal encyclical.
Laudato Si' Revolution	laudatosirevolution.org	This Franciscan website features a global campaign to encourage integral ecological conversion and environmental, economic and social ecology. It focuses on the values of social and environmental justice, care and respect for creation and inter-generational solidarity and efforts to incorporate them into daily life.

Organization	Website	Details
One Planet network	oneplanetnetwork.org	This organization cites the *10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production*. It is an open partnership of countries, multiple stakeholders and organizations. Its objective is to support and implement the shift to sustainable consumption and production, resulting in changes to ensure responsible consumption and production is achieved.
Sowing Hope for the Planet	sowinghopefortheplanet.org/	The International Union of Superiors General congregations from around the world have contributed resources in multiple languages to support *Laudato Si'*, with back issues of its newsletter also available for reference.
St. Columbans Mission Society	columban.org.au/our-work/peace-ecology-and-justice/	A multitude of resources, including stations of the cross, videos and some podcasts are available.
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm#tab--latest-information	The *Laudato Si'* Advocates Program is an internship administered by the Environmental Justice Program in association with the National Religious Partnership for the Environment and Creation. The program targets university-age individuals with skills to advocate for legislation that promotes integral ecology.
World Council of Churches	oikoumene.org	World Council of Churches consists of more than 350 churches from 110 countries, representing half a billion Christians worldwide. This massive organization stands with Pope Francis on prioritizing the content of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

"The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade,
has at least started to understand the meaning of life."
(Rabindranath Tagore)

Tool Kits, Advocacy and Action

Tool Kit, Organization/Author	Website	Details
Environmental Justice Advocacy. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.	usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm#tab--latest-information	An archive of Environmental Justice Advocacy statements, letters and written testimony from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
Laudato Si'—An Invitation to Change Our Hearts. Janes, R.	cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/813-Laudato-Si-An-Invitation-to-Change-Our-Hearts-2016.pdf	A PowerPoint presented at a 2016 World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations' Luncheon by Rita Janes, past president of Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council.
Laudato Si' Pledge. *Laudato Si'* Movement.	livelaudatosi.org/	Use this pledge to commit to living *Laudato Si'* as an individual, family or community and advocate to protect Earth, which is on fire.
Season of Creation Downloadable resources	seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies	An immense collection of resources to celebrate the Season of Creation that runs from September 1st until October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.
The Advocate's Toolbox: How to influence policy, get your message into the media and build a relationship with your Members of Congress. Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach.	columbancenter.org/sites/default/files/pdf/The%20Advocate%27s%20Toolbox.pdf	This kit shows ways to promote justice and the common good, focusing on: 1. influencing policies and decisions on issues that matter 2. getting messages out into the media
World Environment Day 2020: A Practical Guide. UN Environment Programme. Digital download	p.widencdn.net/e2nowj/WED_SimpleToolkit	A 33-page resource that may be used as a PowerPoint, containing detailed information suitable for workshop presentations. World Environment Day is celebrated in early June each year.

Videos and Audible Material

Video/Podcast	Link	Details
"Cultivating Care for Creation." Green Spirit TV. YouTube, 2017.	youtube.com/user/greenspirittv/featured For study guides: villagersmedia.com/romancatholictv/greenspirittv.html	A 12-part video series prepared with assistance from Archbishop Don Bolan (Regina). Program 1: A Life-Giving Ecology for All (7:32 minutes) Program 2: Who is in the Greatest Peril? (9:46 minutes) Program 3: Presence of God (11:02 minutes) Program 4: Creation has Intrinsic Order (8:11 minutes) Program 5: Human Ecology (10:16 minutes) Program 6: Responsible Stewardship (8:28 minutes) Program 7: A Moral Issue (9:00 minutes) Program 8: Solidarity (8:46 minutes) Program 9: Creation and Spirituality (8:16 minutes) Program 10: Do Not Despair (9:13 minutes) Program 11: Think Globally, Work Locally (9:24 minutes) Program 12: Becoming Committed (9:04 minutes)
"Eucharist and Integral Ecology: Season of Creation Discussion." *Season of Creation* webinar series. YouTube, 2020.	youtube.com/watch?v=RVbf-VI8jSk	This video presents Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Fr. Dan Horan OFM in a dialogue about the connection between the Eucharist, integral ecology and the Season of Creation.
For our Common Home. Hepworks Productions (for Development & Peace—Caritas Canada). YouTube, 2016. 1:20 minutes	youtube.com/watch?v=kxcRkBdnXoI	A brief clip created by Development and Peace—Caritas Canada inviting all to take actions to help heal the world.

Video/Podcast	Link	Details
Laudato Si': A Canadian Response. Moynihan, K. 2015.	cwl.ca/laudato-si-a-canadian-response/	This 30-minute film highlights Canadian ecological issues under the umbrella of *Laudato Si'*. A must-see for every parish council.
Laudato Si': Care for Our Common Home, A letter from Pope Francis. Development & Peace—Caritas Canada, 2016. YouTube. 4:40 minutes	youtube.com/watch?v=_TFCXO8tD58&list=PLkjEuWjjCVnFiAQs8rWiSoMwXJu2tlOoj&index=1	This clip targets young people, helping them understand that *Laudato Si'* was written to all people.
Laudato Si'| The theology of creation. Manuel. S. YouTube, 2020. 7 minutes.	youtube.com/watch?v=oXjdcumi-wA&fbclid=IwARoDnycW4zzqj5yyHWoSZA9H34K-Aaphks8ZqonhRrLCezYOScMyfFduI8Q	This short clip is a passionate plea suitable for various forums and is a great resource to inspire commitment to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
Nations United: Urgent Solutions for Urgent Times. United Nations. YouTube, 2020. 34 minutes.	youtube.com/watch?v=xVWHuJOmaEk&feature=emb_logo	This short film tells the story of the world as it is, was and could be. It focuses on the solutions and actions needed to tackle poverty, inequality, injustice and climate change. The titles of each chapter are: Chapter 1: (5:09) Climate and Our Planet Chapter 2: (11:15) Poverty and Inequality Chapter 3: (19:25) Justice and Human Rights Chapter 4: (23:30) Gender Equality
"Our Planet." Netflix, 2019.	netflix.com/ca/title/80049832	
Pope Francis. *Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' of the Holy Father Francis: On Care for Our Common Home*. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015.	audible.ca/pd/Encyclical-Letter-Laudato-Si-of-the-Holy-Father-Francis-On-Care-for-Our-Common-Home-Audiobook/B071S1M8NF?qid=1606160651&sr=1-1&ref=a_search_c3_lProduct_1_1&pf_rd_p=b278edoa-c3b2-4491-808c-7cb2190a487c&pf_rd_r=D9A5DYFX5M5V7NPFKA9Y	A free audiobook covering the entire *Laudato Si'* encyclical as narrated by S. Lovett and P. Hitchen. Approximately four hours.

Video/Podcast	Link	Details
"Understanding *Laudato Si'*". Horan OFM, D. YouTube, 2015.	youtube.com/channel/UCA2tXBZbh-D8b4tsp9ca1cg	Fourteen episodes suitable for either group or private study of the *Laudato Si'* encyclical. All episodes are between 13 and 20 minutes. Episode 1: Model of Creation Episode 2: Situating *Laudato Si'* Episode 3: What is Happening to Our Common Home Episode 4: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor Episode 5: Back to the Beginning Episode 6: A Universal Communion Episode 7: The Technocratic Paradigm Episode 8: Human Responsibility Episode 9: Integral Ecology Episode 10: Intergenerational Solidarity Episode 11: Dialogue in Moving Forward Episode 12: Politics, Economy, and Service Episode 13: Things Must Change Episode 14: Conclusion: In Union with all Creation

"Every breath is a sacrament, an affirmation of our connection with all other living things,
a renewal of our link with our ancestors and a contribution to generations yet to come.
Our breath is a part of life's breath, the ocean of air that envelopes the earth."
(David Suzuki)

Secular Articles and Resources

Articles, Resource	Website	Details
ActNow. United Nations. Downloadable application	un.org/en/actnow	A campaign that calls for individual action on climate change and sustainability by changing habits and making choices that have less harmful effects on the environment.
André, R. *Lead for the Planet: Five Practices for Confronting Climate Change*. University of Toronto Press, 2020.	utorontopress.com/9781487508333/lead-for-the-planet/	Five practices that climate leaders will need to adopt to minimize the impact of climate change are presented in this resource. The actions range from getting the truth out about the state of the planet to assessing the risks and identifying the interests of key stakeholders to implementing change within and between organizations on a global scale.
Burch, S.L. & Harris, S.E. *Understanding Climate Change: Science, Policy, and Practice*. (Second Edition). University of Toronto Press, 2020.	utorontopress.com/9781487522797/understanding-climate-change/	This book examines climate change as both a scientific and a public policy issue. The basics of the climate system, climate models and prediction, the impacts of humans and strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation are presented as critical topics for consideration.
C40 Cities	c40.org/	C40 is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. It supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change.
ClimateData.ca, Climate Data Canada Portal	climatedata.ca/	A data portal supported by the Canadian Centre for Climate Services.

Articles, Resource	Website	Details
Climate Emergency: Feedback Loops. Moving Still Productions Inc., 2021. Free film series.	feedbackloopsclimate.com/	Five short clips narrated by actor Richard Gere that teach people about *Feedback Loops*. The videos are subtitled in 20 different languages. • Introduction (13:09 minutes) • Forests (14:10 minutes) • Permafrost (10:55 minutes) • Atmosphere (8:45 minutes) • Albedo (10:35 minutes)
Community Foundations of Canada	communityfoundations.ca/	This organization aligns its data sets with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, enabling the measurement of Canadian data against common global indicators.
Emissions Gap Report 2020. United Nations Environment Programme	unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2020	This report presents the difference between where greenhouse gas emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they need to be to mitigate climate change.
Fridays for Future, global climate strike action platform.	fridaysforfuture.org	A resource to help keep current on events relating to advocacy and action on behalf of the environment. The website allows registering for events, searching for events on an interactive map and finding downloadable resources.
Miller, D. *Solved: How the World's Great Cities are Fixing the Climate Crisis*. Aevo UTP, 2020.	amazon.ca/dp/B08HVZTNF6/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1	David Miller is the director of international diplomacy and global ambassador of inclusive climate action at C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. He is responsible for supporting nearly 100 mayors of the world's largest cities in climate leadership and building a global movement for socially equitable action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
Sustainable Development Goals: Guidelines for the Use of the SDG Logo Including the Colour Wheel, and 17 Icons. United Nations Department of Global Communications, 2019.	un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SDG_Guidelines_AUG_2019_Final.pdf	A 68-page guideline providing information on permissible use of images from the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for presentations.

Articles, Resource	Website	Details
Suzuki, D. *The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature, Updated and Expanded*. Greystone Books, 1997.	greystonebooks.com/products/the-sacred-balance?_pos=1&_sid=f7967d3b6&_ss=r	A powerful, passionate book that presents concrete suggestions for creating an ecologically sustainable, satisfying and fair future by rediscovering and addressing humanity's basic needs with a focus on the common good and the need for balance.
The Earth Charter. Earth Charter Commission, 2000.	earthcharter.org/read-the-earth-charter/download-the-charter/	An insightful document universally endorsed by thousands of organizations.
Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations. Digital download	sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf	This comprehensive document focuses on achieving sustainable development, with a balanced and integrated focus on economic, social and environmental sustainability.
United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. 2019.	un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/	A wealth of information for personal and communal enrichment that includes campaigns, goals and invitations to action for each of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

"'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,
and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you,
as many as came out of the ark.
I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood,
and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.'
God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you
and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds,
and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.'"
(Genesis 9:9-13)

Scripture and Bible Resources

All passages are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible.

Scripture Passage on Creation	biblestudytools.com/nrs/
Genesis 1:1-2	"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters."
Genesis 1:14	"And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years'"
Genesis 1:20	"And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.'"
Genesis 1:24-25	"And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good."
Genesis 1:1-31	biblestudytools.com/nrs/genesis/1.html biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A1-31&version=NRSV

Scripture Passage on Creation	biblestudytools.com/nrs/
Psalm 19:1-4	"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun"
Job 12:7-10	"But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being."
Psalm 33:6	"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth."
Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11	"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn." "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations."
Colossians 1:16-17	"... for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

"...Making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding..."

(Proverbs 2:2)

Examens, Prayers and Quotes

Carver SJ, J., *A Prayer for Our Earth—Encyclical Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. YouTube: 3:32 minutes	youtube.com/watch?v=u7XfedvZ4DI
Environment and Sustainability Prayers, Jesuitresource.org	xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/sustainability-prayers
Fritsch SJ, A., *A Prayer for Wounded Earth*. Seescapes Publishing, YouTube. 4:50 minutes	youtube.com/watch?v=45CnZP1CoT8
Moran, Fr. T., Caretakers of God's Creation	September 1: World Day of Prayer for Creation, guided prayer resource. files.ctctcdn.com/afod801a001/0477d734-6559-40f3-bc9c-d75b9538322b.pdf
Penitential Prayer for the Care of Creation. Cafod. org.uk	cafod.org.uk/content/download/41273/468685/version/3/Penitential%20prayer%20for%20the%20care%20of%20creation.pdf
Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)	"The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."
Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity: An Ignatian Examen. Ignatian Solidarity Network.	ecologicalexamen.org/
Sonia Sanchez (El Salvadorian environmental defender)	"Humankind has always put money at the center of everything. But when we think about our relationship with the natural resources, we see that life should be at the centre of everything. When we reflect on this, we realise that we are part of life, we are not the owners and masters of it."
St. Frances of Assisi, The Canticle of Creation	catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=3188
St. Ambrose (340-397 AD)	"You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor person. You are handing over to them what is theirs."
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Prayers on the Care of Creation	usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-to-care-for-creation

Prophets Among Us

Pixable

St. Francis of Assisi, Founder of the Franciscan Order

St. Francis of Assisi is one of the most universally known and beloved saints for his devotion to the poor and for his love of creation. He was proclaimed patron saint of ecologists in 1979.

Feast day: October 4th

Patron of animals, merchants and ecology

Birth: 1181

Death: 1226

To learn more about St. Francis of Assisi, visit catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=50

Dr. Vandana Shiva, environmental activist, founder of Navdanya Institute, India, and physicist

Based in Delhi, India, Dr. Vandana Shiva is an environmental and social activist, food sovereignty advocate, physicist and scholar. "She has written more than 20 books and founded the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Natural Resource Policy (RFSTN), an organization devoted to developing sustainable methods of agriculture... [and] participated in the dialogues at the Vatican on Redefining the Economy and going beyond the economy of Indifference." (Marco Bellizi, *Vatican News*)

To learn more, visit
vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-11/vandana-shiva-economy-of-francesco-interview.html

Pope Francis

The first pope to hold the name Francis, and the first pope to come from South America, Pope Francis emphasizes the themes of Integral Ecology and Spiritual Ecology and Care for Our Common Home. He urges all of humanity to "ecological conversion." Everything is connected and interconnected, and people are all part of a single human family sharing one common home.

To learn more, visit biography.com/religious-figure/pope-francis.

Vatican Image

Dr. David Suzuki, Canadian academic, award-winning geneticist and broadcaster

Dr. David Suzuki has authored 50 books and is a true champion for the world. In 1990 he formed The David Suzuki Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to conserve and protect the natural environment and help create a sustainable Canada.

"We are interconnected with nature, and with each other. What we do to the planet and its living creatures, we do to ourselves." (David Suzuki Foundation)

Resources:

David Suzuki's biography:
thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/david-suzuki

David Suzuki Foundation:
davidsuzuki.org/

The David Suzuki Podcast:
davidsuzuki.org/podcast/

Wikipedia

Rachel Carson (1907-1964) American author, conservationist and marine biologist

"We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at the end lies disaster." (Rachel Carson)

Notable works:

- *Under the Sea Wind* (1941)
- *The Sea Around Us* (1951)
- *The Edge of the Sea* (1955)
- *Silent Spring* (1962), winner of eight awards, is the history making bestseller that stunned the world with its terrifying revelation about our contaminated planet. No science fiction nightmare can equal the power of this authentic and chilling portrait of the unseen destroyers which have already begun to change the shape of life as we know it. "Silent Spring is a devastating attack on human carelessness, greed and irresponsibility. It should be read by every American who does not want it to be the epitaph of a world not very far beyond us in time." (Saturday Review) A free digital download of the book is available at library. https://library.uniteddiversity.coop/More_Books_and_Reports/Silent_Spring-Rachel_Carson-1962.pdf.

To learn more about Rachel Carson, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Carson.

Christiana Figueres, Costa Rican diplomat experienced in high level national, international and multinational policy negotiations.

Christiana Figueres was appointed executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2010. She worked tirelessly in the fields of climate change leading to the signing and adoption of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Resources:

Speeches (2010-present): christianafigueres.com/#/speech

Video series (part one), a playlist of 200 videos: youtube.com/watch?list=PLEC74D1BF67C6DD6B&v=fCChjO-O4fI

Video series (part two), a playlist of 248 videos: youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8ipqHKJYfR7of4Kz-6i_dCofgcu8X-bX

Outrage + Optimism podcast, subscribe at: podcasts.google.com/search/outrage%20and%20optimism

Raimundo dos Santos Rodrigues

The killing of Raimundo dos Santos Rodriguesin and attempted killing of his wife in 2015, "occurred in a context in which land and environmental rights defenders, in particular Indigenous rights defenders in Brazil, are increasingly at risk as a result of their human rights work" (The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders).

A father of six children and resident of the Brejinho das Onças community, Raimundo des Santos Rodrigues was a member of the Conselho *Consultivo da Reserva Biológica do Gurupi* (ReBio), a reserve advisor for the *Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade* since 2012, and participated in the Rural Workers Union of Bom Jardim, opposing the action of loggers in the region.

In 2019, a record 212 people were killed while attempting to defend their land or simply live, hunt, gather and farm on their ancestral lands. Colombia and the Philippines accounted for one-half of the deaths. Killings are routine during land invasion by extractive industries and most murders do not result in prosecution; many deaths remain undocumented.

To learn more, visit https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/29/record-212-land-and-environment-activists-killed-last-year.

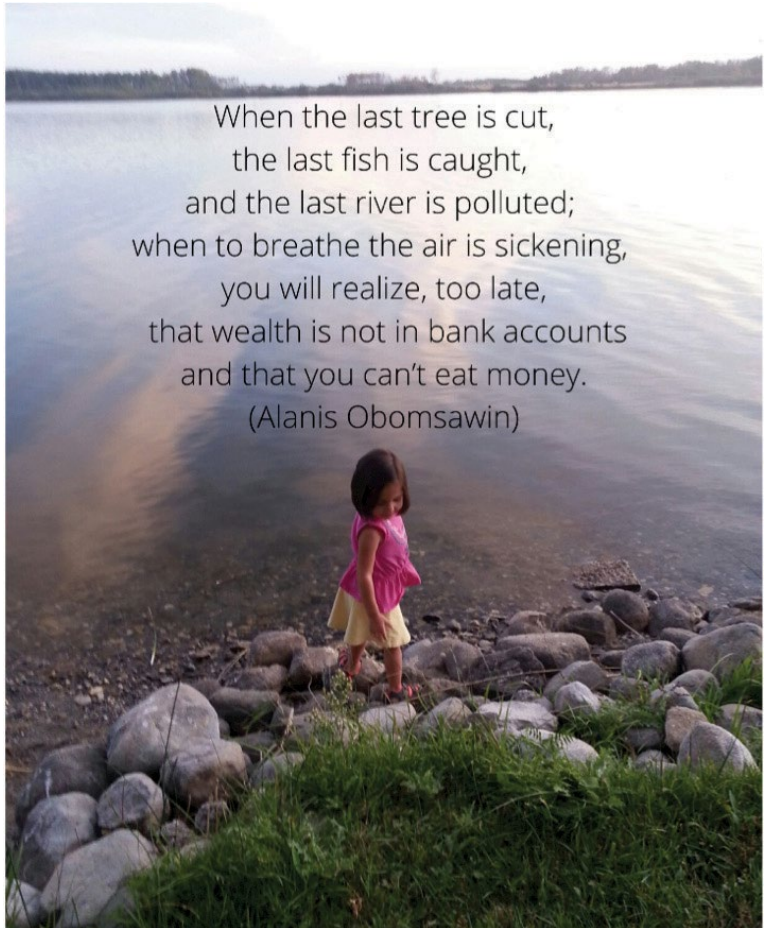
National, Provincial and Territorial Climate Action Plans and Environmental Networks

Canada	Canada's Action on Climate Change: canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-action.html Canadian Environmental Network, bilingual website: rcen.ca/
Alberta	Biodiversity Management & Climate Change Adaptation: biodiversityandclimate.abmi.ca/ Alberta Environmental Network: aenweb.ca/
British Columbia	British Columbia Environmental Network: bcen.info/ Retooling for Climate Change: retooling.ca/climate_impacts.html
Manitoba	Manitoba Climate and Green Plan: gov.mb.ca/climateandgreenplan/index.html Manitoba Eco-Network: mbeconetwork.org/
New Brunswick	New Brunswick Climate Change: www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/elg/environment/content/climate_change.html
Newfoundland and Labrador	New Brunswick Environmental Network: nben.ca/en/ Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Change: gov.nl.ca/eccm/occ/ Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Network: nlenvironmentnetwork.org/
Nova Scotia	Climate Change in Nova Scotia: climatechange.novascotia.ca/ Nova Scotia Environmental Network: nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/
Ontario	Ontario Environment Plan: ontario.ca/page/made-in-ontario-environment-plan Ontario Environmental Network: oen.ca/Home
Prince Edward Island	Prince Edward Island Climate Change Action Plan: princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/environment-water-and-climate-change/climate-change-action-plan-2018-2023 Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island: ecopei.ca/
Quebec	Quebec Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change: environnement.gouv.qc.ca/changementsclimatiques/index-en.htm PlanetFriendly.net: planetfriendly.net/quebec-environnement.html

Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy: saskatchewan.ca/business/environmental-protection-and-sustainability/a-made-in-saskatchewan-climate-change-strategy Saskatchewan Environmental Society: environmentalsociety.ca/
Northwest Territories	Northwest Territories Climate Change: enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/climate-change/climate-change-impacts
Nunavut	Nunavut Climate Change Centre: climatechangenunavut.ca/en
Yukon	Yukon Climate Change: yukon.ca/en/climate-change-yukon#taking-action-on-climate-change Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research: aicbr.ca/climate-change-adaptation

The Seventh Generation Philosophy:

"The Peacemaker taught us about the Seven Generations. He said, 'when you sit in council for the welfare of the people, you must not think of yourself or of your family, not even of your generation.'
He said, 'make your decisions on behalf of the seven generations coming, so that they may enjoy what you have today.'"
(Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper, Onondaga Nation)



Attachment 1: Our Common Home – a Crash Course

All people are all on a path—the same path of life from birth. They live, breathe, eat and grow old. They raise their children in this common home called Earth. It does not matter where one lives in the world—there is one path for living and one common home.

A century and a half ago, there was a footpath, then a path for the horse or mule-drawn cart. Then, the Industrial Age came along, and people built railroads. They did not have to walk anymore and soon traded horses for cars and train tickets.

Life became easier as people no longer had to hunt and gather. Stores popped up everywhere with everything that was needed and more. The train became faster.

People traded hunting and gathering the necessities for themselves and their families, for a new, shiny consumer lifestyle. But, they did not realize at the time that they were trading these new modes of convenience—this shiny life—for the future security of their children and clean air and essential resources for their grandchildren.

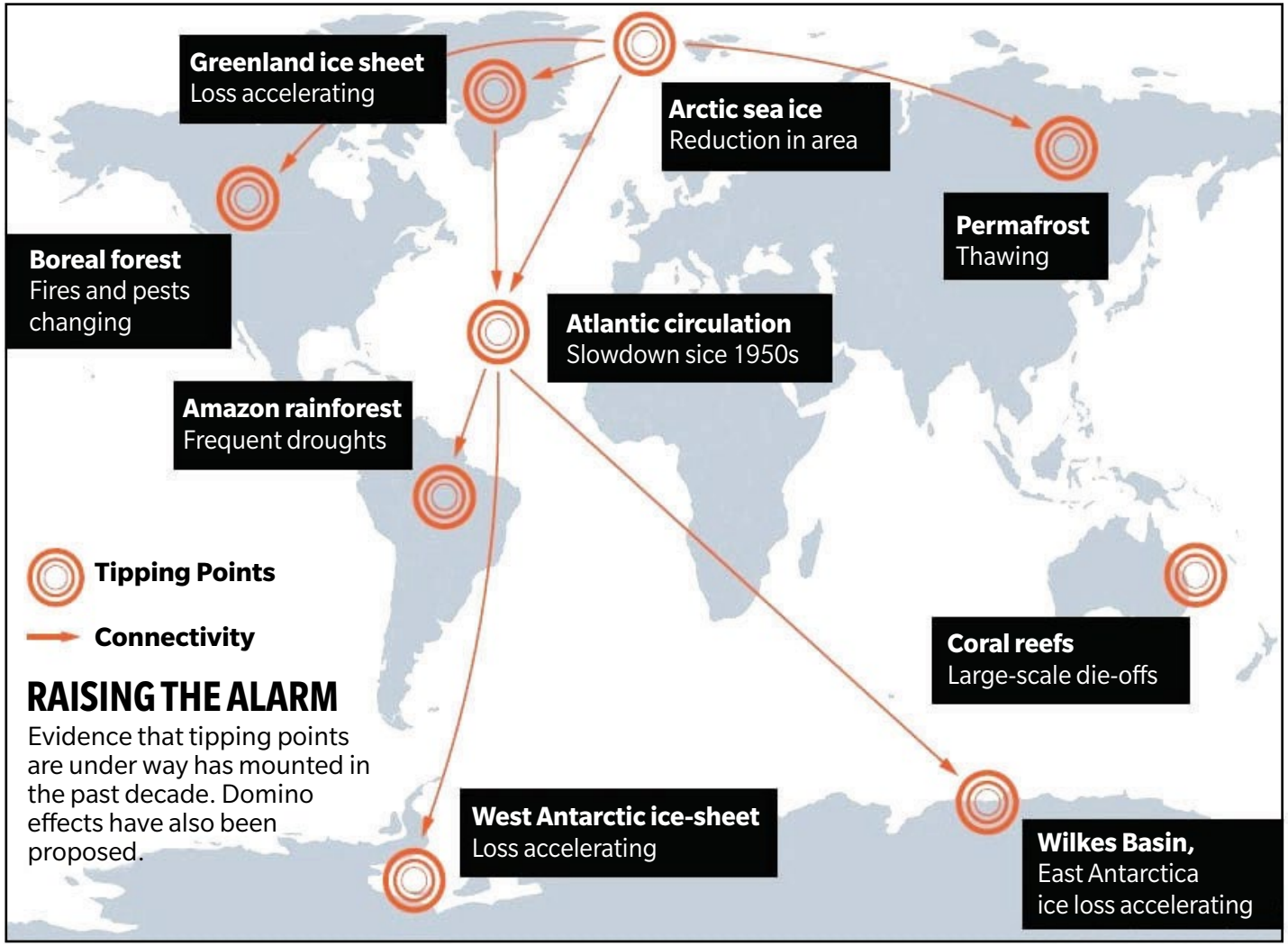
Fast food, vacuum cleaners and moving pictures arrived—and the atomic bomb. Chemicals were developed for use in concentration camps. Albert Einstein tried to warn people, but the train only sped up.

The chemicals worked so well that they were converted to pesticides, fungicides and herbicides while other chemicals and fertilizers were developed. Big agriculture and industry boarded the train. Rachel Carson tried to warn everyone, but the train continued to speed up.

Now there is a need to find a way to slow this train down, reduce speed—build better, more sustainable tracks. The train is moving quickly. Everyone is on it, and no one can jump off—it is still their only common home. There are some passenger cars, supply cars and even engineers aboard that know it needs to be slowed down, but not everyone on board knows or understands—and they need to.

*Scientists note there are 15 major signs of health on this planet that are being monitored, including:

1. Arctic summer sea ice
2. Greenland ice sheet
3. West Antarctic ice sheet
4. Atlantic thermohaline circulation
5. El Nino–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)
6. Indian summer monsoon
7. Sahara/Sahel and West African monsoon
8. Amazon rain-forest
9. Boreal forest
10. Antarctic Bottom Water
11. Tundra
12. Permafrost
13. Marine methane hydrates
14. Ocean anoxia
15. Arctic ozone



These are called tipping points. Nine of these tipping points are blinking like indicators on a dashboard. The Greenland ice sheet, West Antarctic ice sheet, Wilkes Basin and East Antarctic ice losses are accelerating. The permafrost is thawing and boreal forests are facing pests and longer fire seasons. The Atlantic thermohaline circulation has been slowing since the 1950s and more. These are pretty startling tipping points!

Preparing for the *Laudato Si'* Seven-Year Action Plan

Claude Monet Gardens, Giverny, France © Bette Hemstalk, 2016

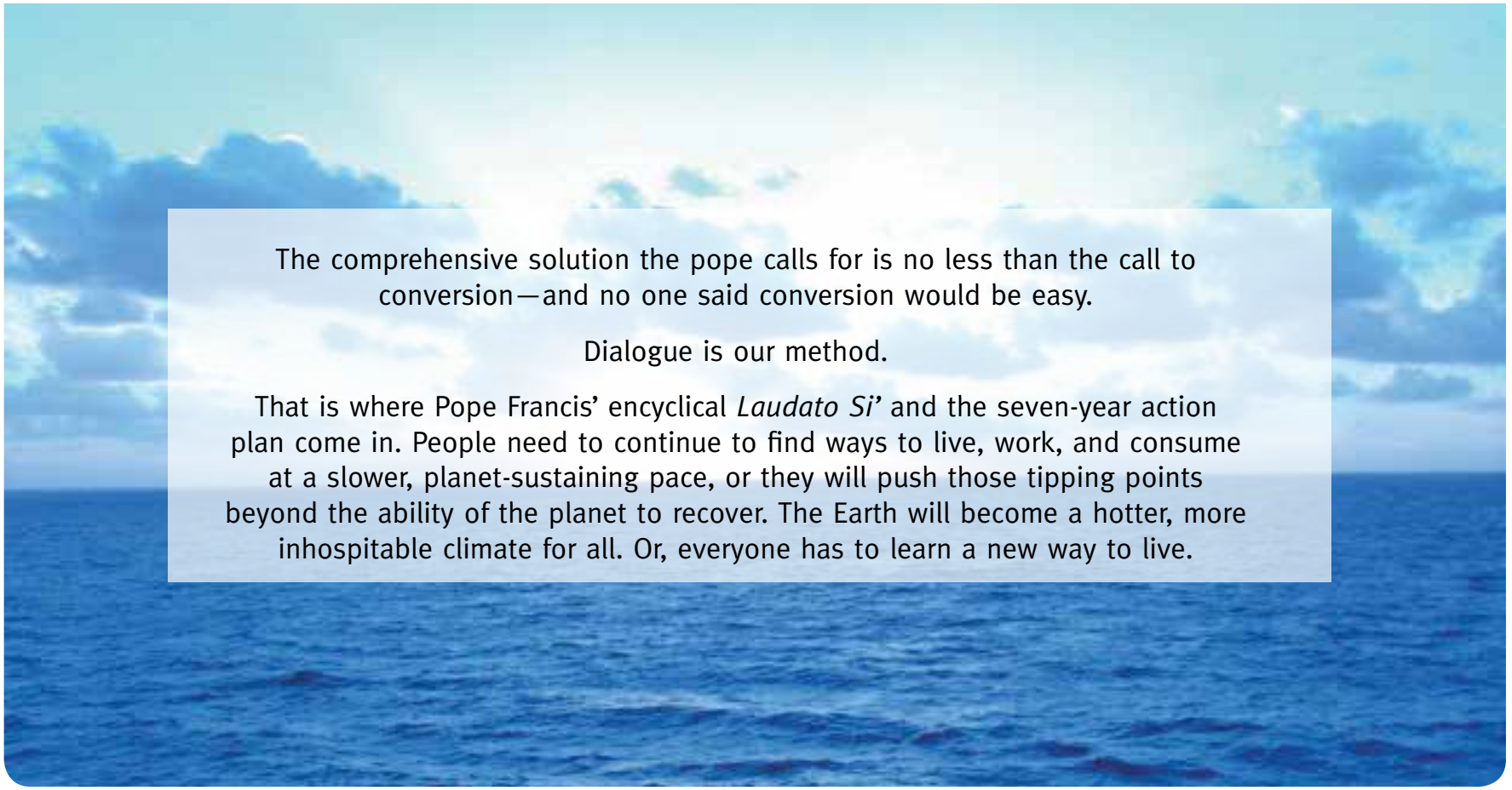
The problems seem so vast and way beyond anyone's personal control. So, what can members do?

In early 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic began and made the whole world pause. Aside from the worry of contracting the virus, the tragic loss of lives and the toll on the economy and health care system, there may be a bit of a silver lining in this cloud.

During this period of isolation, people learned to cocoon at home again—like many members did before the world became plugged in—first to television, then to cable, and the Internet with a 24-hour news cycle and 24-hour shopping. They found new ways to work from home, began to make homemade bread and cook from scratch again. In the spring, people went back to gardening and home and yard improvements. Many found they could live well at a far slower pace than they had been living. The video on this next slide is the core message in this presentation.

(*Laudato Si'* The Theology of Creation, Friars for Future, by Sandesh Manual. A seven-minute video found at youtube.com/watch?v=oXjdcumi-wA.)

The Call to Ecological Conversion



The comprehensive solution the pope calls for is no less than the call to conversion—and no one said conversion would be easy.

Dialogue is our method.

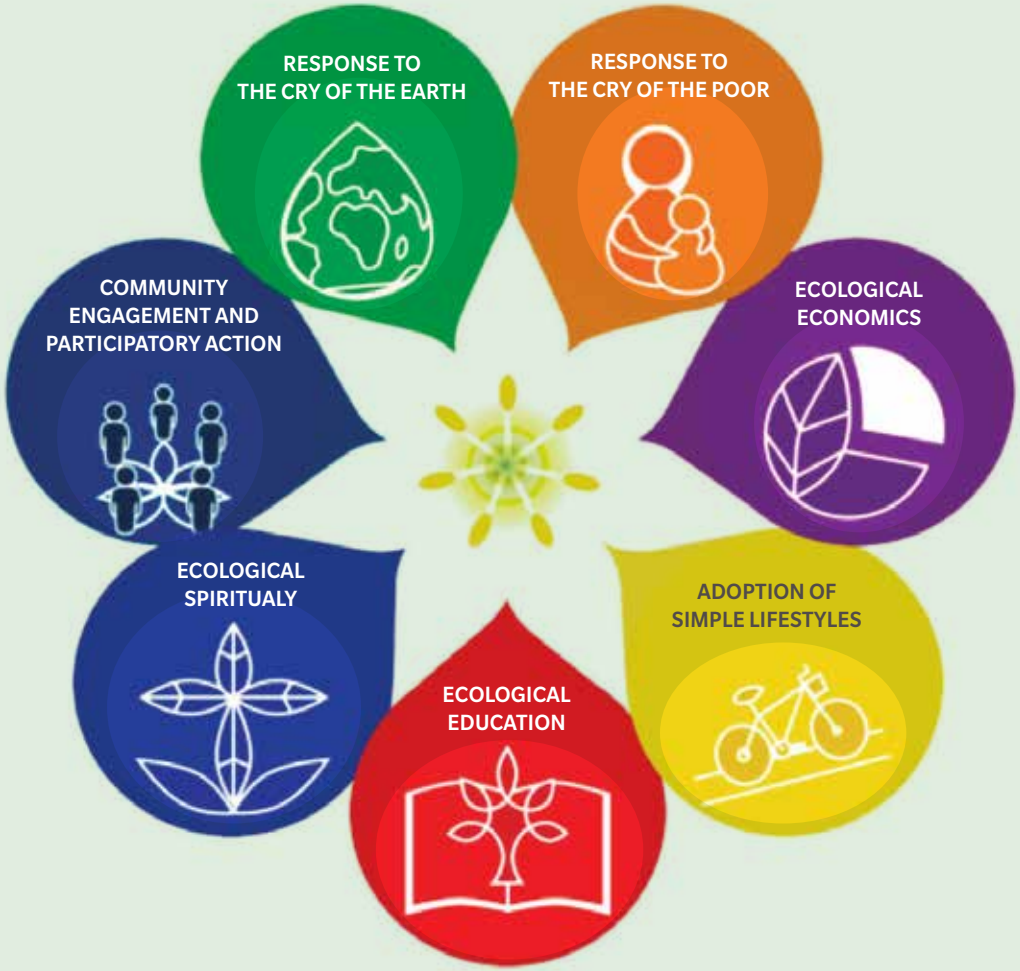
That is where Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the seven-year action plan come in. People need to continue to find ways to live, work, and consume at a slower, planet-sustaining pace, or they will push those tipping points beyond the ability of the planet to recover. The Earth will become a hotter, more inhospitable climate for all. Or, everyone has to learn a new way to live.

"Pope Francis' concerns [and themes in *Laudato Si'*] belong to a tradition of Catholic Social Thought that reaches back to the dawn of the Industrial Age with Pope Leo XIII's groundbreaking encyclical *Rerum novarum* (1891). Since then, the church has repeatedly called for a more just society in which people can strive for holiness in peace and harmony." (Most Rev. Thomas Wenski (Miami), 2016)

For those who have not yet read it, *Laudato Si'* is a beautiful letter written in 2015 to all people of goodwill. The seven-year action plan based on *Laudato Si'* is an invitation to answer the call for a more just ecology and society.

The seven-year action plan is in the process of being rolled out.

The Seven Goals of *Laudato Si'*



- **Response to the Cry of the Earth**
- **Response to the Cry of the Poor**
- **Ecological Economics**
- **Adoption of Simple Lifestyles**
- **Ecological Education**
- **Ecological Spirituality**
- **Community Engagement and Participatory Action**

These seven goals are the themes addressed in *Laudato Si'* and the seven-year action plan. All of these goals are interconnected and cannot be solved on their own. Nor can any one individual, or even nation, solve them independently. As Catholics prepare for the launch of the seven-year action plan, there is so much to learn and so much to do.

What is the response to *Laudato Si'*? The responses may be different from one region to another, but everyone must respond.

Days for Action

March 22:	**World Water Day**
April 22:	**Earth Day**
June 8:	**World Oceans Day**
September 1:	**World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and start of the Season of Creation**
October 4:	**Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and close of Season of Creation**
October 16:	**World Food Day**

These are some of the days for action members are invited to consider. The task, yours and mine, is to experience an ecological conversion, develop an ecological spirituality and live this new existence with passion because the planet is crying for justice. People in the global south, Africa, India, and so many other places are crying for justice. Members are called to bring about awareness of the need to respond in love and compassion to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the poor today and every day.

The federal government signed and agreed to the 2015 *Paris Agreement* on climate change, but its response since then seems to be slow and anemic. People cannot sit idly in their seats while the debate lumbers along about targets. Members, you and I, must become the gong clanging in the courtyard.

Resources and Training

- **Care for God's Creation Report of Resources (cwl.ca)**
- **Take the *Laudato Si'* Pledge (livelaudatosi.org/)**
- **Free *Laudato Si'* Animators Program (laudatosianimators.org/)**
- ***Laudato Si'* encyclical: (vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)**
- **Sacred People, Sacred Earth Action Platform: (actionnetwork.org/forms/sacred-people-sacred-earth)**

Start today. Take the *Laudato Si'* pledge. Sign up for the *Laudato Si'* Movement's *Laudato Si'* Animator course. Together, we can do this. Together, we will be the *Laudato Si'* revolution if we commit to dialogue as Pope Francis asks.

Thank you.

Thank you to Linda Maddaford for her
work on this presentation.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

C-702 Scotland Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5

Tel: (204) 927-2310
Website: cwl.ca
E-mail: info@cwl.ca

Inv. #625