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Laudato Si  
Care for our Common Home

Our Lady of the Angels  
Chapter of Ministers  
November 7, 2015

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# Top Ten Messages of Laudato Si





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# Cry of the Earth / Cry of the Poor

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- ❖ We have come to see ourselves as lords and masters, entitled to plunder her (the earth) at will. (2)
- ❖ A true ecological approach always becomes a **social approach** (49)
- ❖ (We must) integrate questions of **justice** in debates on the environment, so as to **hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.** (49)



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# Franciscan Concern for Creation

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- ❖ Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a **magnificent book in which God speaks to us** and grants us a glimpse of his **infinite beauty and goodness.**(12)
- ❖ He (Saint Francis) shows us just how inseparable the bond is between **concern** for nature, **justice** for the poor, **commitment** to society, and interior **peace.** (10)



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# What is Happening to Our Common Home?

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- ❖ We cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to **human and social degradation**. (48)
- ❖ The social dimensions of global change include the effects of technological innovations on employment, **social exclusion**, an **inequitable distribution and consumption of energy** and other services, **social breakdown**, **increased violence** and a rise in new forms of social aggression (46)



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# The Gospel of Creation

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- ❖ **We are not God.** The earth was here before us and it has been given to us. (67)
- ❖ We are called to recognize that **other living beings have a value** of their own in God's eyes (69)





LAUDATO SI

THE WORLD IS NOT  
SOMETHING INDIFFERENT,  
RAW MATERIAL TO BE  
UTILIZED SIMPLY AS WE  
SEE FIT. RATHER, IT IS PART  
OF GOD'S GOOD PLAN.

- POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

WORD  
on FIRE



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# Franciscan Teaching on Creation

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- ❖ Moreover they should **respect all creatures**, animate and inanimate, which "bear the imprint of the Most High" (OFS Rule 14)
- ❖ They should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of **universal kinship**. (OFS Rule 14)



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# Integral Ecology

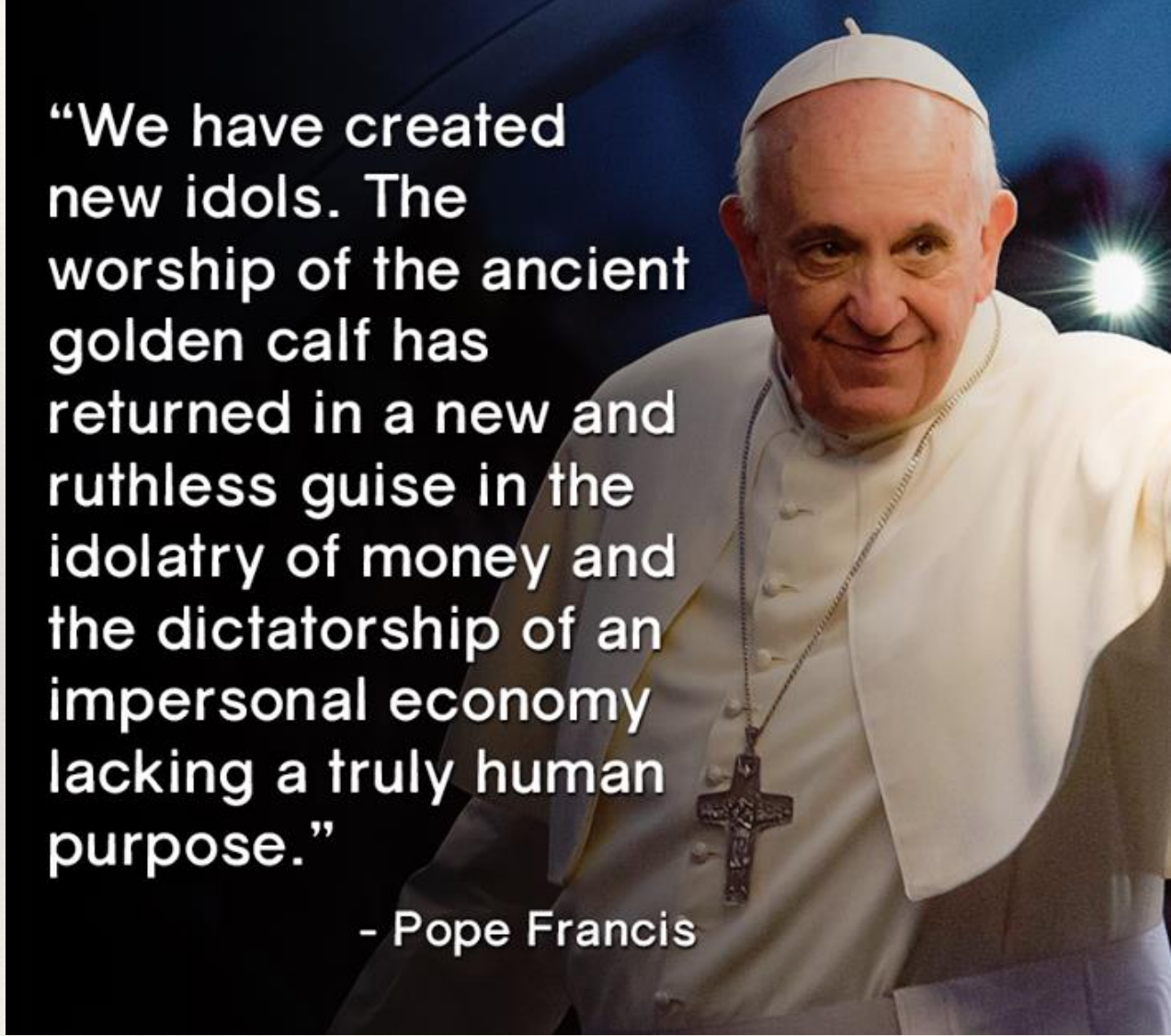
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- ❖ An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the **common good**, a central and unifying principle of social ethics. (156)
- ❖ Underlying the principle of the common good is **respect for the human person** (157)



# Ecological Spirituality

- ❖ People can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of **needless buying and spending**. (203)
- ❖ Merely technical solutions **run the risk of addressing symptoms** and not the more serious underlying problems. (144)
- ❖ **A change in lifestyle** could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power. (206)

A photograph of Pope Francis, wearing his white papal attire and zucchetto, smiling slightly. He is wearing a large, ornate cross necklace. The background is dark with a bright light source on the right.

“We have created new idols. The worship of the ancient golden calf has returned in a new and ruthless guise in the idolatry of money and the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose.”

- Pope Francis



LAUDATO SI

LET US BE PROTECTORS OF CREATION,  
PROTECTORS OF *God's plan*  
INSCRIBED IN NATURE, PROTECTORS OF  
ONE ANOTHER AND OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

- POPE FRANCIS

WORD  
on FIRE



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# Franciscan Teaching on Materialism

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- ❖ Secular Franciscans should pledge themselves to **reduce their own personal needs** so as to be better able to **share spiritual and material goods** with their brothers and sisters, **especially those most in need.** (CG Article 15)
- ❖ They should **give thanks to God** for the goods they have received, using them as **good stewards** and not as owners. (CG Article 15)
- ❖ They should **take a firm position against consumerism** and against ideologies and practices which prefer riches over human and religious values and which permit the exploitation of the human person. (GC Article 15)



**“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

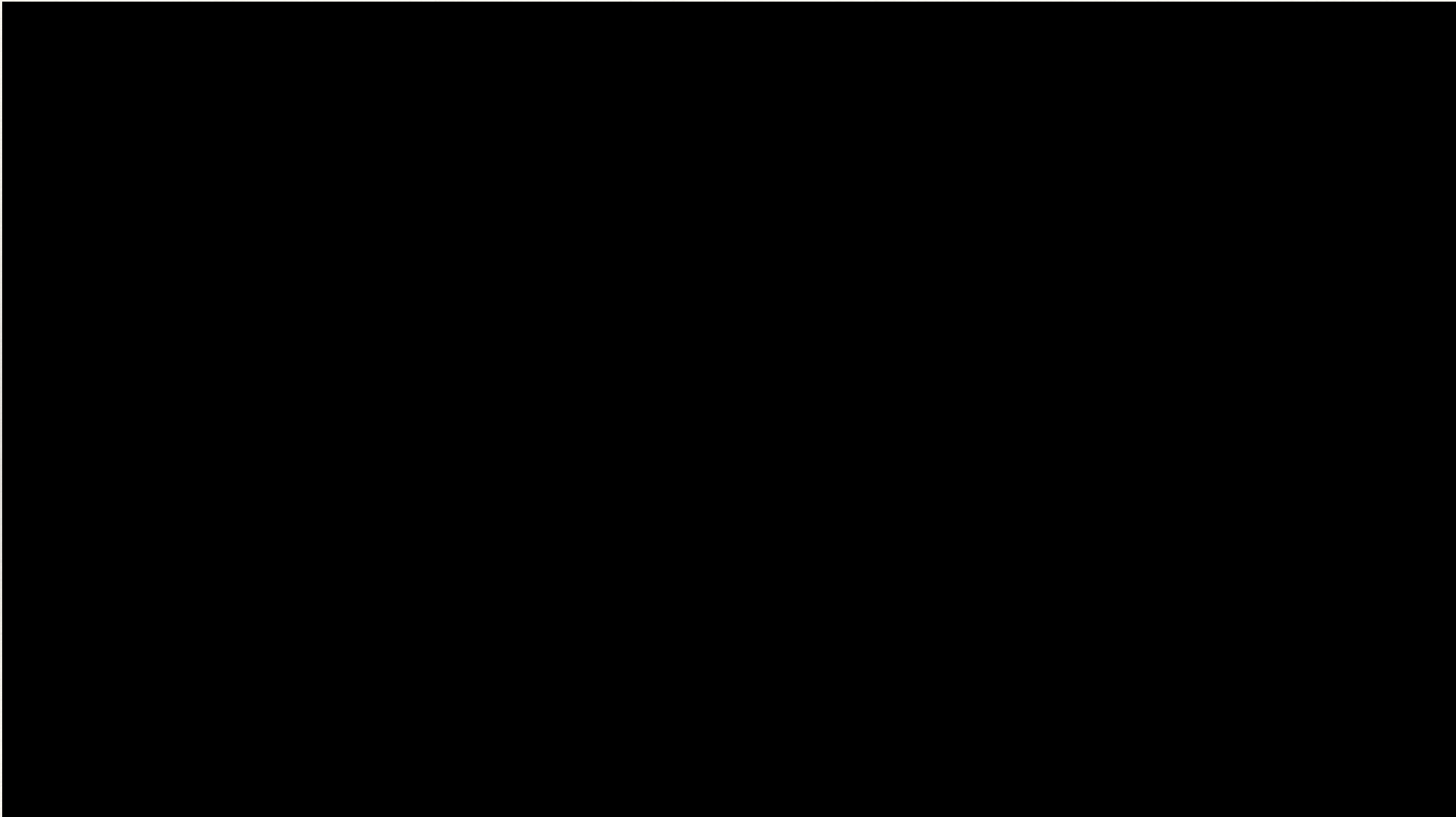
Photograph courtesy of  
Catholic Church England and Wales  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/8561060993/>





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# Appeal for Action





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# For Discussion

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- ❖ Pope Francis proposes that the natural world is integral to our sacramental and spiritual lives. How have you experienced this?
- ❖ How do you see the connection between the universal destination of the world's common goods and the evangelical preferential option for the poor?



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# For Further Reflection

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- ❖ **How does the environment of our homes, workplace, and neighborhoods affect our quality of life?**
- ❖ **How does poverty, over-crowding, lack of open spaces, and poor housing affect the poor? Why are these environmental issues?**
- ❖ **How can the Franciscan tradition of evangelical poverty help others to better understand and treat the environment as a “collective good?”**
- ❖ **Why should I work for a world that is more just, where the poor have a voice and are able to find their own dignity, where they are able to acquire the tools and knowledge necessary to escape their condition?**
- ❖ **What can you do to live more simply?**
- ❖ **Do you feel caught into a “use and throw away culture” when technological advances necessitate the purchase of new equipment without the option of upgrading your present one? Can you find a way out of this dilemma?**
- ❖ **What is the most urgent need of your society, and what can you do to educate others in this regard?**



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# Resources

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- ❖ Vatican  
([http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html))
- ❖ USCCB Environmental/Justice Program  
(<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>)
- ❖ USCCB Resources for Laudato Si  
(<http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/pope-francis-encyclical-laudato-si-on-environment.cfm>)
- ❖ Global Catholic Climate Movement  
(<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/laudato-si-resources/>)





LAUDATO SI

BE PRAISED, MY LORD,  
THROUGH ALL YOUR CREATURES,  
ESPECIALLY THROUGH MY LORD BROTHER SUN,  
WHO BRINGS THE DAY;  
AND YOU GIVE LIGHT THROUGH HIM.  
AND HE IS BEAUTIFUL AND RADIANT  
IN ALL HIS SPLENDOR! OF YOU, MOST HIGH,  
*he bears the likeness.*

- SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WORD  
on FIRE