

OUR CHANGING CHURCH # 7 – 2015

“Praise be to you”

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is not a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” This quote is from the Pope’s Twitter feed. Pope Francis’ recent Letter Encyclical: *The Care of Our Common Home (Laudato Si’ - Praise be to you, O Lord)* has been discussed and appreciated worldwide. In it, the Pope says:

“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.”*

In his Encyclical Letter, Pope Francis, writes about St Francis of Assisi, whose name he took when he became Pope:

“St Francis was particularly concerned for God’s creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. ... He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.”*

Concerned about human-made climate change and united by our Catholic faith, the Global Catholic Climate Movement has come together as a movement of almost one hundred Catholic organisations to care for God’s creation, for the poor - who are the most vulnerable to climate disruption - and for our children, who will face the worst impacts in the coming years. They write: “We encourage Catholics to renew our relationship with creation and with our brothers and sisters in poverty.” Currently, you can sign an online petition, endorsed by Pope Francis and addressed to national and international leaders, ahead of the United Nations Climate Summit in November. You can also find ways your Parish can help. “Our collaboration echoes the global dimensions of the Catholic Church and a shared sense of responsibility to care for God’s beautiful, life-giving creation.”

For details see their website: <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/introduction/>

As the Pope says: “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.”*

And here is one of the quotes from his encyclical Letter that the Pope selected to Twitter: “Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future.”

And again from Pope Francis’ Twitter: “Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.”

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* Pope Francis: *Laudato Si’: The Care of Our Common Home*. #10 & #14

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html