


Laudato Si

Care for our Common Home

A pair of hands, one larger and one smaller, are shown holding a small, vibrant green plant with several leaves. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the plant growing from between them. The overall image conveys a sense of care, nurturing, and environmental stewardship.

Pope Francis says he believes that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He 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 was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. (10)