**Laudato Si’: School PowerPoint Resource 1 Notes**

**Slide 1 – Laudato Si’**

Title Slide

**Slide 2 - Laudato Si’ – a letter from Pope Francis,**

Laudato Si’ is an encyclical from Pope Francis, and was released in June 2015.

An *encyclical* or *teaching document*, is a letter that the Pope circulates to the Church. Laudato Si’ is a *social* encyclical – a Catholic Social Teaching letter.

A “social encyclical” applies the consistent, traditional moral teachings of the Church to the social and economic challenges of the current day.

The Encyclical takes its name from the invocation of St. Francis, “Praise be to you, my Lord”, in his Canticle of the Creatures. It reminds us that the earth, our common home “is like a sister with whom we share our life, and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us”. We have forgotten that “we ourselves are dust of the earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters”. (Laudato Si’ 2)

Teacher Information

Several main themes run through Laudato Si’ that are addressed from a variety of different perspectives: the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet; the conviction that everything in the world is connected; the critique of new forms of power derived from technology; the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress; the value proper to each creature; the human meaning of ecology; the need for forthright and honest debate; the serious responsibility of international and local policies; the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle.

**Slide 3 – Laudato Si’, mi Signore**

The Encyclical is addressed to everyone on the planet (not just Catholics) as we all share this common home, and in doing so we affect each other, and all life on the earth, in one way or another.

It is no accident that the subtitle for Pope Francis’s recent encyclical, “On Care for Our Common Home,” refers to the earth with an image that suggests family life. The main idea of the phrase is to remind us that all people on earth make up a single human family. It warns of the dangerous changes the earth’s climate and ecosystems are undergoing.

**Slide 4 – The Earth belongs to God and is on loan to us**

The Pope also refers to inanimate objects: air, water, land, mountains and seas, (‘Brother Sun, Sister Moon’ - Canticle of St Francis of Assisi) and reminds us all are important for the balance of living on earth. We all belong to God, the Creator. We are all from the one Creator and belonging to the same family, brothers and sisters together. The task is for everyone to work together for the same goal of caring for the earth and all its living creatures, but especially the poor.

**Slide 5 – Laudato Si’ – to Everybody**

We are all of the same family, the family of God.

**Slide 6 – Laudato Si’ - Our Common Home**

Among other things, Pope Francis expresses concern over the abuse and disregard for the resources on the planet. He points out that we are using too much of our planet’s resources and that we are not taking care of our beautiful world – its forests, rivers, seas and countryside.

**Slide 7 – Our Common Home**

We are not caring for the earth and some species are on the brink of extinction. Pope Francis is also concerned with global inequality between the hugely rich and the very poor.

**Slide 8 – Creation in the Bible**

In the Creation story in Genesis 2:15 humans are instructed to care for the earth and look after it. We do not have dominion of our world, but live in harmony with it.

‘We must take care of the earth for all the people still to be born.’ (LS 67)

**Slide 9 – The Stewardship Model**

Statements from Laudato Si’.

In the stewardship model, Gen 2:15, humans have a duty ‘to till and keep the earth’. Humans came from ‘the breath of God’, from dust, made up of the same elements of every other living and inanimate thing in the universe. We are all from the same beginnings. The world is not for our dominion, but for us to take care of. We too are creatures from the Creator. Each community has the duty to protect the earth and ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (LS67)

Pope Francis emphasises the importance of all living creatures on earth, all creatures – humans, animals, birds, fish, reptiles, insects, we are all family members and are inter-connected.

**Slide 10 – What is Happening to our Common Home?**

Teacher information - Chapter One (LS17-61) entitled ‘What is Happening to Our Common Home’ discusses the very worrying situation of climate change and the misuse of resources of the planet today.

The main headings are:

1. Pollution and Climate change (LS20-26);

2. The Issue of Water (LS27-31);

3. Loss of Biodiversity (LS32-42);

4. The Decline in the Quality of Human Life and the Breakdown of Society (LS43-47);

5. Global Inequality (LS48-52);

6. Weak Responses (LS53-59)

7. A Variety of Opinions (LS60-61).

The biggest problem in many countries in the world today is pollution. The next few slides consider the problem of pollution of the Earth.

**Slide 11 – Pollution**

What is pollution? Anything introduced into an environment that will cause it harm.

**Slide 12 – Pollution - Noxious Gases**

**Slide 13 – Fossil Fuels**

Teacher information - Fossil fuels were formed over millions of years, from the remains of dead organisms. Coal was formed from dead plant material and crude oil and gas were formed from dead marine organisms. When fossil fuels are burned and used, the emissions from them often cause harm to the environment. They produce greenhouse gases, which may cause harm to the ozone layer. Developing countries: have yet to set up air pollution monitoring systems; policies on developing the economy take priority over health; control regulations are weaker; technology is outdated; dirty fossil fuel is used. Also, increased levels of certain gases and pollutants, such as carbon dioxide and CFC’s, causes what is commonly known as the ‘greenhouse effect’.

**Slide 14 – Pollution**

Teacher information - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of 1,300 independent scientific experts from countries all over the world under the auspices of the United Nations, concluded there's a more than 95 percent probability that human activities over the past 50 years have warmed our planet.

The panel also concluded there's a better than 95 percent probability that human-produced greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have caused much of the observed increase in Earth's temperatures over the past 50 years.

The industrial activities that our modern civilisation depends upon have raised atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from 280 parts per million to 400 parts per million in the last 150 years

Increased heat, drought and insect outbreaks, all linked to climate change, have increased wildfires. Declining water supplies, reduced agricultural yields, health impacts in cities due to heat, and flooding and erosion in coastal areas are additional concerns. A stronger greenhouse effect will warm the oceans and partially melt glaciers and other ice, increasing sea levels. Ocean water also will expand if it warms, contributing further to sea level rise.

**Slide 15 – Effects of Greenhouse Gases**

Together with other human-caused problems, global warming can severely affect animals, plants and birds. At its worst, it is feared that global warming may cause as many as a staggering quarter of all land animals, birdlife and plants to become extinct.

**Slide 16 – Greenhouse Gases**

Greenhouse gases and the effect on the planet. Global warming and rising sea levels are affecting many island and coastal areas. Global warming, for example, has created a problem for Abaiang and Kiribati, among other island groups. Houses in Tebunginako village have been abandoned.  As storm surges became more frequent and spring tides more forceful, eventually the erosion was so great that the village had to be abandoned. The remains of about 100 thatched homes and a maneaba (community meeting hall) are now up to 30 metres (98 feet) offshore. The villagers relocated themselves further inland, with the new village retaining the same name. Climate change has forced a change, as milkfish are not as common and plant life is dying off because of the increased salt in the water table.

**Slide 17 – Climate Change**

The effect of greenhouse gases on the climate in turn affects wildlife - birds, mammals, fish and reptiles - and their struggle for survival in a changing habitat.

**Slide 18 – Pollution - Poverty**

LS25 discusses the implications of climate change, how it affects all creatures including animals and plants, but most importantly the poor, who have no resources to move away and live somewhere else, or to combat the environmental degradation. Many become refugees, striving to exist in deprived conditions with no legal protection whatsoever.

**Slide 19 – What can we do?**

Some suggestions. Ask the students for their ideas.

Slide 20 – Pollution - Rubbish

Pollution is not only to do with the air we breathe. Rubbish is also pollution.

**Slide 21 – Our Common Home**

Ask the children for any ideas. Discuss the 5 Rs - re-use, recycle, reduce, restore and refuse – say, ‘NO!’

**Slide 22 – What can we do?**

**Slide 23 – Our Common Home**

Discuss the questions.

**Slide 24 – All it takes**

All it takes is for one good person to restore hope. (LS71)

What can they do and, more importantly, what will they do?

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