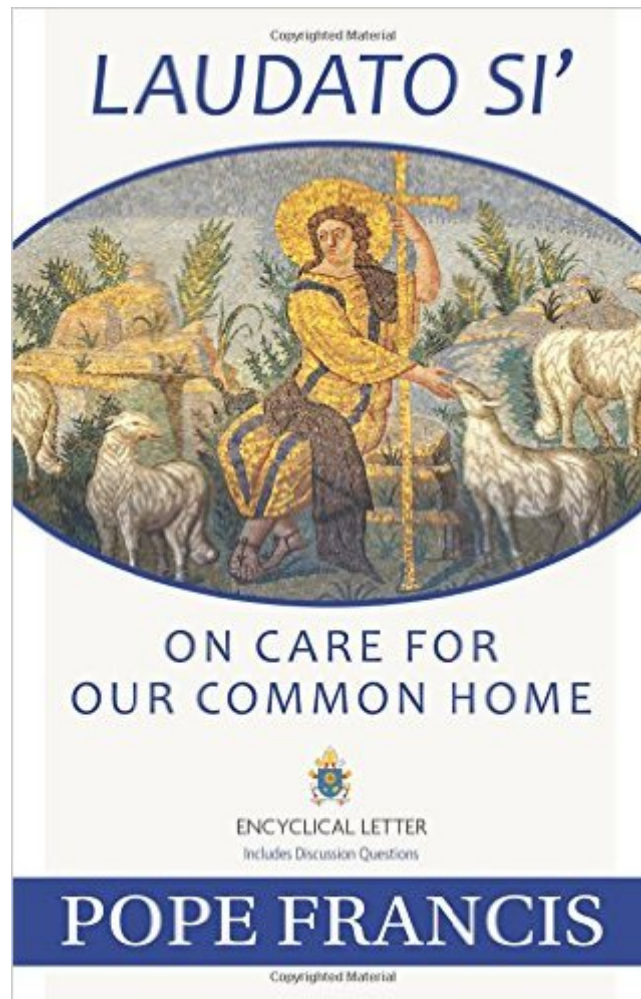


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# Laudato Si -- On Care For Our Common Home



## Synopsis

In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him! Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* In his second encyclical, *Laudato Si : On Care of Our Common Home*, Pope Francis draws all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home. We as human beings are united by the concern for our planet, and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Pope Francis letter joins the body of the Church's social and moral teaching, draws on the best scientific research, providing the foundation for the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows. *Laudato Si* outlines: The current state of our common home The Gospel message as seen through creation The human causes of the ecological crisis Ecology and the common good Pope Francis' call to action for each of us

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The title *Laudato Si*™, means "Praise be unto you." • The title is taken from the writings of St. Francis of Assisi, the namesake of the author of this book, Pope Francis. St. Francis of Assisi used this phrase to praise the earth and all its creatures and features as an expression of God. Just as St. Francis referred to all living creatures as our "brothers" and "sisters," the Pope issued this Encyclical to apply these sentiments to the modern day to address the issue of environmental degradation. This present book, *Laudato Si*™, is that Encyclical, a clear, passionate, devotional explanation for the modern world to realize the consequences of the degradation of the planet and a

plea to cherish and rediscover the lost reverence and respect for the earth's natural environment. This book is a book on the environment like no other. Rather than recommending short-term technological or political solutions, Pope Francis states that before cleaning the environment the human race must first clean its own inner house and change its own attitude to itself and others. Disrespect for the environment is an act, and any act originates from a mental attitude. If polluting the environment is the result of a human mental attitude, it would be simple for *Laudato Si'* to simply say, "Don't pollute." Pope Francis however goes further: What are the psychological impulses and motivations behind that attitude? Here is where *Laudato Si'* gets interesting. Pope Francis digs deep into the human psyche to identify the psychological drives which support an attitude and act to disrespect the environment. What the Pope believes may surprise the reader.

In the latest addition to papal encyclicals, Pope Francis lays out a complex mix of science, politics, and theology that can typically only be found in one of these documents. As the Holy Father writes in *Laudato Si'*, "The Catholic Church is open to dialogue with philosophical thought; this has enabled her to produce various syntheses between faith and reason." It is with this openness that Pope Francis tackles one of the most difficult topics today: the environment. After quoting JP II, Benedict XVI, and Patriarch Bartholomew to make it clear that he's in good company, the Pontifex sets up the discussion by painting a bleak picture. With increased technology, we have increased power: "We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology; we can put it at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral." But more power isn't always good "with it we also have an increased potential for harm. That harm has materialized in high levels of smoke from fuels, pollution caused by transport, industrial fumes, substances which contribute to the acidification of soil and water, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and agrottoxins in general as well as hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive." Like some global tragedy of the commons, humans have used up, wasted, or otherwise annihilated the shared resources of the Earth. We need dramatic action in order to save our planet from environmental catastrophe. But, Pope Francis acknowledges, extreme environmentalism has its priorities out of whack.

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On Care for Our Common Home, *Laudato Si'*: The Encyclical of Pope Francis on the Environment with Commentary by Sean McDonagh (Ecology & Justice) On Care for Our Common Home,

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