

Called to a deeper relationship

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In these difficult times, we are realizing in a profound way that we are so connected, dependent on one another and on the health of our environment. To be indifferent to this leads to our peril. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis cites the many ways that we falling into that peril and the harm that follows, especially for the vulnerable, poor, and excluded (LS 20-26).

Francis reminds us that we are meant for relationship with our God, with one another and the planet on which we live (LS 65). They are not separate; every part of creation has a purpose that is interconnected (LS 42). From the dragonfly that destroys thousands of mosquito larvae, limiting malaria in Africa, trees of the Amazon that give us air and water, the homeless street person, fleeing migrants, the unborn and elderly, indigenous communities, risk takers facing danger for the wellbeing of others--all have a God-given purpose that reveals the mystery of God in profound ways (LS 84). It is our responsibility to pay attention and not be indifferent to the human activity that promotes the degradation of vulnerable creatures and our common home.



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Francis calls us to an “ecological conversion” and contemplation of all interconnected creation, leading to a deeper faith in God’s saving love for us and a greater desire for justice (LS 49). It is our call to heed his counsel, to do what we can, wherever we are, for the poorer among us and our distressed Earth.¹

What Francis asks may seem overwhelming in light of vast global needs, the deadly Covid virus that has spotlighted the many inequities in our systems of education, health care, housing etc., and the indifferent actions of world leaders. I

hold the words of Francis in my heart that “just one person can restore hope” (LS 71). One person laboring for justice can make a difference.

How can we support one another in that quest for justice for all of creation in our common home, without distinction?

¹ See https://catholicclimatemovement.global/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Laudato-Si-Study-Guide.EN1_.pdf