

CARE FOR CREATION HANDOUTS

Praise

Paragraphs in *Laudato Si'*:

- Sacraments: 233-237.
- Contemplation in creation: 66-69, 77, 83, 84-88, 233.
- Trinitarian structure of reality, including all creatures: 238-240.
- Mary, Queen of Creation: 241-242.

Reading from *Rule of 1221*, chapter 23:1:

All-powerful, most holy,
Almighty and supreme God,
Holy and just Father,
Lord King of heaven and earth
we thank You for Yourself
for through Your holy will
and through Your only Son
with the Holy Spirit
You have created everything spiritual and corporal
and, after making us in Your own image and likeness,
You placed us in paradise.

Reflection questions

1. *How have you had an experience of creatures leading you to praise?*
2. *How have you witnessed creatures or the earth praising God?*
3. *Do you believe sacraments are a way nature is taken up by God? Why or why not?*
4. *How does our worship of God help us embrace the world on a different plane?*
5. *How does Laudato Si' invite Franciscans to pray more deeply, or differently?*

Love

Paragraphs in *Laudato Si'*:

- A new lifestyle: 203-208.
- Sober lifestyle, with joy and peace: 222-227.
- Social love: 228-233.
- Creation as a loving family: 77, 83, 84-88.
- Universal common good: 10, 70, 89-95, 154-162.

Reading from *Rule of 1221*, chapter 23:8:

With our whole heart,
our whole soul,
our whole mind,
with our whole strength and fortitude
with our whole understanding
with all our powers
with every effort,
every affection,
every feeling,
every desire and wish
let us all love the Lord God
Who has given and gives to each one of us
our whole body, our whole soul and our whole life,
Who has created, redeemed and will save us by His mercy alone,
Who did and does everything good for us,
miserable and wretched, rotten and foul,
ungrateful and evil ones.

Reflection questions

1. *Recall an experience of creation stirring up love in you.*
2. *How are we called to put social love into practice? How are you called to express this love in new ways by Laudato Si'?*
3. *How do you express your love of God the creator? How could you express this love once back home (not just on retreat)?*
4. *How do you balance the call to social love with the call to a new, sober lifestyle? Both are themes in Laudato Si'.*
5. *What does a spirituality of the ecological common good look like?*

Conversion

Paragraphs in *Laudato Si'*:

- Ecological conversion: 216-221.
- Ecological virtue: 88, 217.
- Lifestyle conversion: 203-208.
- Social conversion: 176-181.

Reading from *Rule of 1221*, chapter 23:4-5:

We thank You
for Your Son Himself will come again
in the glory of His majesty
to send into the eternal fire the wicked ones
who have not done penance
and have not known You and to say to all those
who have known You, adored You and served You in penance:
*“Come, you blessed of my Father,
receive the kingdom prepared for you
from the beginning of the world.”*
Because all of us, wretches and sinners,
are not worthy to pronounce Your name,
we humbly ask our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your *beloved Son*,
in Whom You were well pleased,
together with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,
to give You thanks,
for everything as it pleases You and Him,
Who always satisfies You in everything,
through Whom You have done so much for us. Alleluia!

Reflection questions

1. *It is relatively easy to look at society and perceive the need for ecological conversion. How do you, as a Franciscan-hearted person, experience your call to ecological conversion?*
2. *What would greater ecological conversion look like for you?*
3. *How is Laudato Si' calling you to a transformed worldview in a new way?*
4. *How can we as Franciscan-hearted people, in light of Laudato Si', call others to social conversion?*
5. *How do you want your worldview to be transformed?*

Beauty

Paragraphs in *Laudato Si'*:

- The book of nature speaks of divine goodness: 11, 12, 79.
- We are called to protect the earth's peace, beauty and fullness: 53, 215.
- Beauty can transform us: 11, 150, 215.
- Beauty is harmony: 235.

Reading from *Rule of 1221*, chapter 23:11:

Wherever we are,
in every place, at every hour,
at every time of the day,
every day and continually,
let all of us truly and humbly believe,
hold in our heart and love,
honor, adore, serve, praise and bless,
glorify and exalt,
magnify and give thanks
to the Most High and Supreme Eternal God
Trinity and Unity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Creator of all, Savior of all
Who believe and hope in Him, and love Him, Who,
without beginning and end,
is unchangeable, invisible, indescribable, ineffable,
incomprehensible, unfathomable,
blessed, praiseworthy, glorious, exalted,
sublime, most high,
gentle, lovable, delightful,
and totally desirable above all else for ever. Amen.

Reflection questions

1. *How have you responded to beauty in creation? How are you called by Laudato Si' to respond?*
2. *How does beauty help you recognize God's presence in our world?*
3. *How can beauty strengthen your care for creation practice?*
4. *What would it mean for you to walk the *Via pulchritudinosa*, way of beauty?*
5. *How can you call others to engage more deeply in the way of beauty?*

Vocation

Paragraphs in *Laudato Si'*:

- Ecological vocation: 131, 217.
- Ecological education and youth: 209-215.
- Dialogue in society, across multiple scales and themes: 163-198.

Reading from *Rule of 1221*, chapter 23:9:

Therefore,
let us desire nothing else,
let us want nothing else,
let nothing else please us and cause us delight
except our Creator, Redeemer and Savior,
the only true God,
Who is the fullness of good,
all good, every good, the true and supreme good,
Who alone is good,
merciful, gentle, delightful, and sweet,
Who alone is holy,
just, true, holy, and upright,
Who alone is kind, innocent, clean,
from Whom, *through Whom* and in Whom
is all pardon, all grace, all glory
of all penitents and just ones,
of all the blessed rejoicing together in heaven.

Reflection questions

1. *How does Laudato Si' shape our understanding of your ecological vocation?*
2. *How have you discerned your ecological vocation thus far, and how does Laudato Si' challenge you to deepen your vocation?*
3. *Does this sense of calling lead you to consider working with youth and young adults?*
4. *How can we express our ecological vocations through dialogue—with society, social institutions, local communities, science, and other religions?*
5. *What does Laudato Si' have to say about promoting Franciscan spirituality or the Franciscan way of living?*