



Vol. 12 No 6 2015

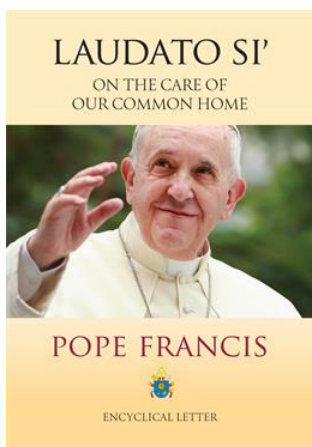
[SNDdeNpic.org/](http://SNDdeNpic.org/)

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Justice and Peace Office

*I have come that you may have life to the full.* John 10:10

## CIRCLES OF LIFE

### Care of Creation



[Download copy of Laudate Si - On the Care of our Common Home](#)

**Purchase a copy - [USCCB](#) [CTS Books](#) [Amazon.com](#)**

[A List of Quotations from the Encyclical "Care for Creation: Care for the Poor" - Catholic Climate Covenant](#)

This document highlights elements of [Laudato Si'](#), or Praised Be, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on ecology. Following are excerpts from the encyclical, arranged by topic. Dying World, The Problem, Policy and Political Leadership, Reality of the Problem and Necessity to Act, Your Action Matters, Climate Change, Acting More Sustainably, The Faith Perspective, Ecology and Social Justice, Consumerism, Sustainable Business, Future Generations.

[A Guide to Laudato Si'](#) - Independent Catholic News

This text is a useful guide for an initial reading of the Encyclical. It will help you to grasp the overall development and identify the basic themes. The first two pages are an overview of Laudato si' (literally "Be praised" or better, "Praise be to you"). Then for each of the six chapters, there is a one-page summary that gives the argument or main points and some key passages. The numbers in parentheses refer to the paragraphs in the Encyclical. The last two pages are the table of contents.

[On the Road to Paris](#) - GrassRoots for Global Justice

2015 is a decisive year for the climate and environmental justice movement internationally. As we head toward the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in France this December—there is a pitched battle being waged between the social movements based in front-lines communities bearing the brunt of the climate and economic crisis, and the very corporations who have been driving the climate crisis and are now the official sponsors of the COP21 negotiations.

[EPA issues new rules to protect Americans drinking water, streams](#) - The Christian Science Monitor  
The Obama administration plans that drinking water for 117 million Americans will be protected under new rules shielding small streams, tributaries and wetlands from pollution and development.

[Mountains hold climate change surprise, scientists find](#) - Christian Science Monitor

Mountains are shaped differently than scientists thought they were, and that could be good news for

mountain-dwelling species adapting to climate change.

[Pope Francis & Climate Change: Making Huge Bets](#) - Ignatian Solidarity Network

Instead of reporting the news, are some segments of the media misrepresenting Pope Francis and creating controversy on the Catholic perspective on climate change?

[Protect the earth, dignify humanity](#) - Independent Catholic News

Climate-change mitigation will require a rapid world transformation to a world powered by renewable and other low-carbon energy and the sustainable management of ecosystems. World leaders meeting recently at the Vatican issued a strong statement about climate change, declaring that "human-induced climate change is a scientific reality" and "its decisive mitigation is a moral and religious imperative for humanity."

## Economy

[Georgetown University Announces End to Endowment Investments in Coal Mining Companies](#) - Ignatian Solidarity Network

The Board of Directors of Georgetown University passed a resolution stating that the university will not make or continue any direct investments of endowment funds in companies whose principal business is mining coal for use in energy production. The board resolution emphasizes Georgetown's Jesuit Catholic mission as an impetus to "lead on issues of justice and the common good such as environmental protection and sustainability."

[Fast tracking trade agreement undemocratic](#) - The Hour

Ethel Hawley, SSND opposed current efforts to "fast track" the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement through Congress. "Fast track" is a fundamentally broken and undemocratic process. It allows powerful corporations to define the U.S. trade agenda while excluding the voices of millions of people who may be harmed.

[Getting away with murder](#) - New Internationalist Magazine

According to Susan George, what the banks have learned from the 2008 financial meltdown is that 'they can get away with murder.' The banks have emerged from the 2007-08 crisis far stronger than before, especially in political terms.

[The secret corporate takeover of trade agreements](#) – The Guardian

The US and the world are engaged in a great debate about new trade agreements. Such pacts used to be called free-trade agreements; in fact, they were managed trade agreements, tailored to corporate interests, largely in the US and the EU. Today, such deals are more often referred to as partnerships, as in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). But they are not partnerships of equals: the US effectively dictates the terms. Fortunately, America's "partners" are becoming increasingly resistant.

## Peace

[In Public Challenge to Obama, Family of Drone Victim Asks: 'What is the Value of an Innocent Life?'](#) - Common Dreams

Seeking official apology, Faisal bin Ali Jaber says, 'Imagine that your loved one was wrongly killed by the U.S. government. Imagine they would not even admit their role in the death of your family members.'

[Peace through the Eyes of Syrian Children](#) - Independent Catholic News

"*Peace is what it was like before the war*". Recently three Christian Peacemaker Team members of the Iraqi Kurdistan team took the Children's Art and Peace Project to the students of Kobani School in Sulaimani. The children were refugees from Syria. Their cheerful faces belied any suffering that they had endured.

[US Bishops warn 'without nuclear disarmament, world is in great danger'](#) - Independent Catholic News

The US Bishops' International Justice and Peace Committee has urged Secretary of State, John Kerry, to step up efforts to advance nuclear disarmament and ensure the success of a multilateral conference being held in New York.

## **Migration / Immigration**

[U.S. Bishops Committee Issues Report on Immigrant Detention, Calling for a "Transformation" of the System](#) - Ignatian Solidarity Network

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Center for Migration Studies has declared that the current U.S. immigrant detention system treats vulnerable immigrant detainees as criminals; consequently, extensive reforms must be created and implemented in order to build a system that affords due process protections, honors human dignity and minimizes the use of detention.

[Crisis at Sea](#) – New York Times

In stark contrast to the sparkling white beaches of southern Asia, a scene of a mass atrocity is unfolding as thousands of refugees from the persecuted Rohingya minority in Myanmar flee modern concentration camps, primarily in boats, with many subsequently drowning at sea. Fearing a crackdown, smugglers have abandoned some of those boats at sea, and neighboring countries are pushing the boats back to sea when they try to land.

## **Trafficking**

[The US should lead – not compromise – on human rights](#) - The Hill

In the last few weeks, the horrors of human trafficking in Malaysia became known to the world with the uncovering of unmarked graves near an abandoned migrant camp. This discovery confirms Malaysia's designation by the State Department as a "Tier 3 country," indicating that it has serious human trafficking problems and is not making significant efforts to fight the scourge of modern-day slavery.

[Nigerian women caught in Italy's sex-trade trap](#) – Aljazeera

A record number of women from Nigeria have been arriving in Italy recently and fears have been raised that many have fallen victim to Europe's growing sex trade. More than 1,200 Nigerian women came to Italy by boat in 2014 compared to 300 the previous year.

## **Racism**

[Forthcoming book documents history of black sisters in U.S.](#) - Catholic News Service

Shannen Dee Williams stumbled on the subject of black nuns by accident. Later, she would wonder if she had done the right thing by digging further. "Had I known what I was going to uncover, I probably wouldn't have done this project," Williams said. "I was naive. I didn't get it."

[After Baltimore and Ferguson, Church Must Help End Racism, Promote Justice](#) - America Magazine  
Archbishop Kurtz said efforts to address current racial tensions "must address root causes of the conflicts." The U.S. bishops join with other religious leaders and civic leaders "in pledging to work for healing and reconciliation" after a series of racial conflicts "that have taken place around our beloved country," said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky.

## Food Security

[Pope Francis speaks on right of all to food](#) - Independent Catholic News

The right to food, the problem of waste, the impact of the market on hunger, the primacy of agricultural development, water issues, land grabbing, and dependence on external aid were the central themes of the address given by Pope Francis to the 450 participants at the 39th Conference of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), whom he received in audience in the Clementine Hall.

[G7's Coal Addiction Behind Hunger](#) - InterPress Service

Oxfam has released a new report titled Let Them Eat Coal which they may find hard to digest. According to the report, coal plants in the G7 countries – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and United States – are on track to cost the world 450 billion dollars a year by the end of the century and reduce crops by millions of tonnes as they fuel the gathering pace of climate change.

[Some Food for Thought](#) - America Magazine

The next time you are about to throw out that half-eaten container of fast-food take-out, consider these facts: about one-third of the world's food production and consumption systems either gets lost or wasted—that comes to about 1.3 billion tons, the value of which comes to the astronomical sum of \$1 trillion. And this in a world where one in every nine people go hungry: an estimated 900 million people. The food that is lost or wasted by industrialized nations alone (some 300 million tons) more or less equals the total net food production of Sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tons). It is indeed alarming to think that, according to the United Nations' Environment Program, of all the food that is produced, only one in four calories are actually eaten.

## Church

[Pope Francis warns mission societies against becoming NGOs](#) - Catholic News Service

The mission-oriented agencies of the church must guard against operating like nongovernmental organizations, empty of Christ's presence, Pope Francis said. "Please, guard against falling into the temptation of becoming an NGO, a distribution office for subsidies, small or large. Money can help, but it can also be the ruin of the mission," said Pope Francis in an audience with members of the pontifical mission societies.

[Five Things to Look for in the Encyclical on the Environment](#) - National Catholic Reporter

Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment is being translated into multiple languages and will be published probably in June. Here are five things to look for in the new encyclical.

[Liberation theology founder praises new 'atmosphere' under Pope Francis](#) –CRUX

Peruvian theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez recently acknowledged a clear "change in atmosphere" under the Latin American pontiff, who has voiced his dream of a "poor church for the poor." In broad

terms, liberation theology refers to an interpretation of the Christian faith through the perspective of the poor, with the predicament of Latin America's predominantly poor people as its starting point. The Peruvian thinker stated that while he holds a high regard for theology and theologians, at the end of the day "theology ... has a modest role. What matters in the life of a Christian is to follow Jesus and to put his teachings into practice."

[Six Things to Expect When Francis Goes to Washington](#) – America Magazine

Pope Francis' visits to the United States this fall is well timed, especially since the presidential campaign season will have heightened in intensity before the November 3rd election. The papal address to the Republican-controlled Congress is likely to be one of the most closely watched talks during the pope's weeklong visit to Washington, New York and Philadelphia this fall, Francis isn't shy about tackling controversial topics or upending conventional orthodoxies about Catholics and politics — a prospect that makes U.S. conservatives especially nervous, given Francis' insistence on raising concerns about issues such as economic justice, climate change and immigration. Read further to learn the six areas of concern that Pope Francis about which Francis is expected to concentrate.

## FAITH IN ACTION

### Read and Meditate on *Laudato Si* - On the Care of Our Common Home

- Through the Eyes of Faith
- As a Citizen of your Country
- As a Citizen of the World

## COUNTRY UPDATES

### Brazil

[Brazil leads way in Latin America in taking Syrian Refugees](#) - Associated Press

Two years after the Syrian civil war broke out, Brazil adopted measures that made it easier for Syrians to be granted refugee status to nearly 2,000 Syrians. In contrast, the United States has taken in about 650 Syrian refugees, according to the International Rescue Committee.

### Britain

[Campaigners hold prayer vigil at Foreign Office over deaths of refugees in Mediterranean](#) – Independent Catholic News

Since January 1, 2015 over 65,000 refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean into Europe. So far this year at least 1,800 men, women and children have drowned in their bid to reach Europe; a direct result of the indefensible decision to disband Mare Nostrum, the search and rescue operation. These include refugees fleeing oppression, poverty and war, forced to submit to acts of desperation and the risks of human trafficking in their search for a better life.

### Congo

[DR Congo: International ecumenical initiative launched to accompany 2016 elections](#) - Independent Catholic News

An International Ecumenical initiative to accompany Churches in the Democratic Republic of Congo during the 2016 presidential elections and in the following post-election period: is the result of the conference on peace in the DRC, organized in Geneva by the World Council of Churches.

## Japan

[Okinawans Want Their Land Back. Is That So Hard to Understand?](#) - Foreign Policy in Focus

The U.S. military sits at the center of a dispute that's plagued the peaceful island of Okinawa for decades. Plans to "relocate" the U.S base (or build an entirely new base, depending on whom you ask) from the crowded south to the more sparsely populated and biologically diverse marine environment of Henoko Point and Oura Bay, have been evolving over the two decades since the gang rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl by three U.S. servicemen unleashed new outrage. But the idea of a new and expanded base in the relatively pristine north has never been as unpopular as it is now.

## Kenya

[Patriotism is challenging our leaders and pride in hard-earned achievements](#) - Daily Nation

Today Kenyans are touting that we are the fourth-largest economy in Africa, despite our unsustainable inequalities. But where are we at the global level? Why aren't we aiming to be one of the top 50 economies? Why aren't we marketing what we have globally?

[Kenya hires lobbyists to push aid, travel agenda in US](#) – Daily Nation

The letter, signed by Squire Patton Boggs partner David Dunn and addressed to Foreign Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed, notes that Kenya is facing "a cut-off of all non-humanitarian and other forms of assistance from the US government."

## Nicaragua

[Thirsty in Nicaragua, the Country Where 'Agua' Is Part of Its Name](#) - InterPress Service

Nicaragua, the Central American country with the most abundant water sources, and where water – "agua" in Spanish – is even part of its name, is suffering one of its worst water crises in half a century, fuelled by climate change, deforestation and erosion.

[Nicaragua canal protest: Thousands oppose Atlantic-Pacific plan](#) - BBC

Thousands of Nicaraguans have held a protest against the planned construction of a canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The \$50bn (£32bn) scheme, being built by a Chinese firm, will be longer, deeper and wider than the Panama Canal. But the demonstrators fear it will have huge environmental costs and force thousands off their land.

[El Niño Triggers Drought, Food Crisis in Nicaragua](#) - (IPS)

The specter of famine is haunting Nicaragua. The second poorest country in Latin America, and one of the 10 most vulnerable to climate change in the world, is facing a meteorological phenomenon that threatens its food security.

## Nigeria

[Nigeria's New President Sworn in Amidst 'Catastrophic Expectations'](#) - InterPress Service

Muhammadu Buhari, his hand on the Holy Book, was sworn in as Nigeria's president at an open-air ceremony this past Friday in the capital city of Abuja. His speech acknowledged many of the challenges facing the largest democracy in Africa but offered hope that these challenges could be met.

## Peru

[The Archbishop of Huancayo says encyclical released this month will have 'many critics'](#) - Catholic News Service

Archbishop Pedro Barreto Jimeno of Huancayo, Peru, told Catholic News Service: "(The encyclical) will have many critics, because they want to continue setting rules of the game in which money takes first place. We have to be prepared for those kinds of attacks." The archbishop said that there would be controversy once people had read the Pope's new encyclical because resisting the "throwaway culture" by being satisfied with less means "putting money at the service of people, instead of people serving money."

[Peru a Shining Example for South America's Climate Action Plans](#) - InterPress Service

Peru is the first South American nation to publicly announce its Climate Action Plan, or INDC. In doing so, it may have set the scene for a new wave of highly transparent and ambitious INDC submissions from the continent.

[Peru declares state of emergency over mining violence](#) - CNN

Peru declared a state of emergency in two provinces after protests against a mining project turned violent. "The government announced a declaration of a state of emergency in all the districts in Islay, Mollendo for 60 days."

## South Africa

[The Statement of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Church on Nkandla](#) - SACBC Justice and Peace Commission

The President should show a greater level of ethical leadership on the Nkandla affair. The Justice and Peace Commission for the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference notes with dismay the determination in the report released by the police minister Nathi Nhleko that President Zuma is not liable for any non-security upgrades to his private residence at Nkandla. There are a lot of legal and constitutional matters that are being contested in relation to the public protector's report on Nkandla. As Church, our role is to remind our political leaders of their ethical responsibility. In this role, we wish to remind our political leaders that, at a time when millions of our people are struggling to make ends meet, it is morally unjustifiable for the government to spend excessive amounts of money – R246 million – on one person and on non-security items highlighted by the public protector's report. We therefore urge the president to show ethical leadership and take some responsibility for the runaway expenditure on the Nkandla project.

[Article by Justice Malala](#) - a MUST read - Sent by Sr. Bidy Rose Tiernan, SNDdeN

" President Jacob Zuma is not a fool. He makes gaffes every week and has no idea what constitutionality means. But he is not a fool. He might not read - as has been alleged - but that does not mean he does not know what levers have to be cranked to ensure that he never gets inside a court. Since he became the president of the ANC in 2007, he has overseen the most concerted and successful assault on the country's independent institutions.

[The heavy toll of coal mining in South Africa](#) - Al Jazeera

South Africa's coal-powered energy sector brings environmental devastation despite legal regulations.

[The South African Government Responds to Xenophobia: "Clean out the Rubbish"](#) – America

## Magazine

In response to a recent spate of xenophobic attacks, the South African Government launched Operation Fiela (a word which means to "sweep clean" or "clear out" the rubbish). Recently, the national police force and the military targeted the Central Methodist Church in downtown Johannesburg where many foreign-born individuals were seeking sanctuary. Government forces employed apartheid-style tactics: kicking down doors, brandishing automatic weapons and rounding up immigrants who sought refuge in the place of worship. Operation Fiela is a smokescreen for the real issue: a government that is failing its own people. Unemployment in South Africa is at 25 percent—most of the unemployed are young people (66 percent of the unemployed are youth).

## Zimbabwe

[Zimbabweans get chance to swap 'quadrillions' for a few US dollars](#) - The Guardian

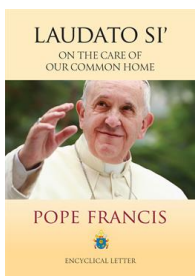
New exchange rate is \$1 for 35,000,000,000,000 old dollars

## USA

[The homeless man who works in the Senate](#) - Washington Post

In the basement of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, 63-year-old Charles Gladden works alongside some of the nation's most powerful people. For eight years, he has greeted senators, staffers and lobbyists in the hallways and the cafeteria, at exclusive banquets and special functions.

## RESOURCES



[Download copy of Laudate Si - On the Care of our Common Home](#)

**Purchase a copy - [USCCB](#) [CTS Books](#) [Amazon.com](#)**

## COMING EVENTS

### JULY

**5-10, 2015: [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Everyday Holiness: Sacred Scripture's Teaching on Economic Life](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Sacred Scripture has been a perennial source of guidance and inspiration on how to flourish in economic life. For this week, we will assess: *What do the individual books of the Bible say about proper economic conduct? How do these teachings fit within the larger theology and ethics of the books in which they are found? Are there recurring themes, underlying patterns, or issues running across these different sections of the Bible when read together as a single canon?* **Resource Person:** Albino Barrera, OP, professor of economics and theology at Providence College, Rhode Island. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online, [here](#).

**9-15 - Anti-racism retreat at Ipswich**



**12-17: [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Denial or Discipleship? Bioregional Theology and Practice in a World of Ecological Ultimatums](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. This program will briefly overview the deepening and interlocking environmental crises that stalk our history: climate destruction, species extinction, declining natural fertility and "peak everything." The bulk of the program will examine how to make "Creation Care" more practical and contextual by focusing on bioregional/watershed scales of engagement and literacy. We'll explore watershed theology and ecclesiology as well as "transition" economics and politics with an emphasis on restorative justice. **Resource Person:** Ched Myers, a theological animator with the Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, best known for his book, *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus*. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online, [here](#).

**19-24 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Compassion: Witness to Love](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. In a world fraught with division and alienation, the call to live a compassionate life is a "sign of our times." The teachings and praxis of Jesus and other spiritual leaders lead our journey into the foundations of compassion and the awakening it engenders as we encounter self and others in the pursuit of just and peace-filled relationships. Art, music, film and literature will draw participants into the compassionate life as a witness to love. **Resource Person:** Antoinette (Nonie) Gutzler, MM, Ph.D. has served in Tanzania and Taiwan. She is an Associate Professor of Theology at Fu Jen University, Taipei. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online, [here](#).

## **AUGUST**

**6-9 : Campaign Nonviolence National Conference** will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Great speakers include Rev. James Lawson, a well-known civil rights activist, professor and practitioner of nonviolence. He worked directly with Martin Luther King, Jr. and spent over a year in prison as a conscientious objector. He will speak about his many years of nonviolent action and how we can move forward building a culture of peace. **Learn more** from [info@paceebene.org](mailto:info@paceebene.org).~

## **SEPTEMBER**

**17, 2015: A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People**, a landmark exhibit, will open at the Vatican Museum in Rome, Italy. **Find out more** from [BrueggemanCenter@xavier.edu](mailto:BrueggemanCenter@xavier.edu).

**22-27, 2015: World Meeting of Families welcoming Pope Francis** is set for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (USA). Although it is organized by Catholics, along Catholic teachings, it will be open to families and people of different faiths, including no faith at all, to engage the wider society in dialogue and to serve and strengthen families. More to come!

**September 30-October 1, 2015: Africa Faith & Justice Network Annual Membership Meeting**~conjunction with the *USCMA Mission Congress*. **Find out more** at [www.afjn.org](http://www.afjn.org).

## **OCTOBER**

**1-4, 2015: United States Catholic Mission Association 2015 Mission Congress: *Witnessing Mission*** takes place at the Hilton North Hotel in Houston, TX. **Find out more** at the USCMA website, [www.uscatholicmission.org/](http://www.uscatholicmission.org/).

## **NOVEMBER**

**November 30-December 20, 2015: COP 21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference** will be held at the Le Bourget site in Paris, France.

**Action on behalf of justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel.**  
**Justice in the World** - 1971 Synod of Bishops

-----

Fair Use Notice

This site contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by copyright owner. We are making such material available in our efforts to advance understanding of environmental, political, human rights, economic, democracy, scientific, and social justice issues, etc. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes. For more information go to: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.