

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community + Spirit of Christ Mission
Summertime Bulletin Insert #5 July 19, 2020



ON CARE FOR OUR
COMMON HOME
LAUDATO SI'

“Praise be to you, my Lord.”

This series of bulletin inserts will focus on the SUNDAY SCRIPTURES in light of LAUDATO SI'

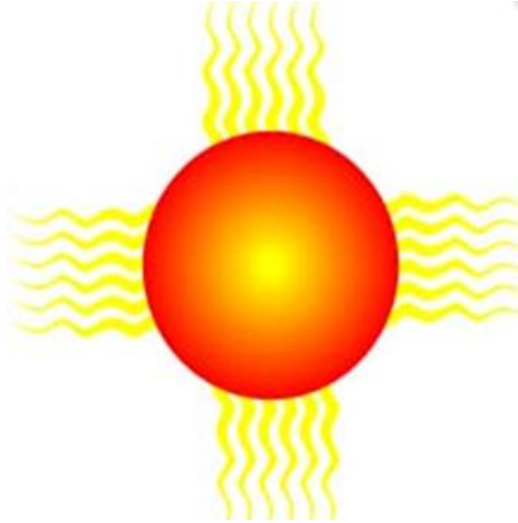
Humanity finds itself at a crossroads. Unless we make significant changes to our collective thinking, attitudes and actions, we will continue on the path of unwitting self-destruction. However, as St. Paul asserts, we can count on the Holy Spirit to come to our aid. One of the ways in which the Holy Spirit does so emerges from our own history as a Christian community. We encounter this when we immerse ourselves in the fullness of the ancient tradition of the Church, a fullness we sometimes lose sight of. Both the Bible and the patristic authors affirm that God speaks to us through two sacred books: the book of Creation and the book of Scripture. For this reason we find ourselves on familiar ground when Pope Francis devotes a chapter of his encyclical *Laudato Si'* to "the Gospel of Creation."

These summer days of July offer a great opportunity to evangelize because it calls our attention to the glory of God reflected in nature. As we are beginning to return to public life after weeks of isolation due to the coronavirus, we have an opportunity to see anew the beauty and wonder of the created world. Consider those moments in our own lives when we ourselves have been deeply moved by the beauty of God's magnificent creation. Jesus often sought refuge in the wilderness or walking through the Galilean hills and meadows as he turned to prayer. Drawing spiritual insights and wisdom from the Book of Creation, Jesus was able to share the mysteries of the Kingdom of God with his followers. Today's Gospel exemplifies such teaching moments of Jesus.

Laudato Si' provides us with the resources for unpacking these insights and pointing others to the recovery of the ancient teachings of the Church about the book of Creation.

At the same time, in truth, these insights have serious implications, and we must have the moral courage to point this out. The political and economic decisions we make at the city, state, or national level can either honor and protect God's creation, or they can rip it apart and trample it underfoot. Our commitment to truth obliges us to speak that truth to power and boldly defend what is part of the core of our faith tradition. Failing to raise critical moral questions about current efforts to undermine environmental protection and climate justice run the risk of complicity with a system that turns God's creation into an object for exploitation.

That said, it is also important to end on a hopeful note, one consonant with the Gospel message. Jesus points to the tiny mustard seed and how it gives rise to the largest of plants. A seemingly small change in attitude or daily habits can have enormous positive consequences. Indeed, as we lead other people to rediscover the ancient teaching of the church about the sacredness of the world, we should also be willing to uncover how profoundly sacred and meaningful our own lives, struggles and actions are.



This resource is provided by the Integral Faith Team in collaboration with the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#), the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), the [Association of U.S. Catholic Priests](#), and the [Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO blessedtrinitymissoula.org (Click on the LAUDATO SI page). The complete text of the encyclical is available there, as well as other information and videos.

ALSO AVAILABLE on the Laudato Si page...

THE COLUMBIA RIVER WATERSHED: Caring for Creation and the Common Good.



Released in 2001 but still valid today, this document is an international pastoral letter by the **Catholic Bishops of the Pacific Northwest** addressed to all people of good will in hopes the “we might work together to develop and implement an integrated spiritual, social and ecological vision for our watershed home, a vision that promotes justice for people and stewardship of creation.”

[You can view a short video reflection on the document.](#)

[THE COMPLETE PASTORAL LETTER](#) is also available on the website.