

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community + Spirit of Christ Mission

Summertime Bulletin Insert #8 August 9, 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'

There are two nature miracles on the sea in Matthew's gospel. The reading for this Sunday relates the second of these. Both draw on the common experience of those who fished on the Sea of Galilee in the first century. They knew that this lake can have sudden violent storms, storms which can just as quickly subside. And Jesus takes the disciples into the midst of one of them.

This story can also be seen as a lesson for the early Church. When Matthew's Gospel was written down, sixty years after Christ's death and resurrection, the faith of the community was being severely tested by persecutions. The gospel story shows us that Jesus takes his disciples into the midst of the storm for a reason, to strengthen their courage. Peter, who according to Matthew had a prominent place in the early Church, took courage and stepped out of the boat. Then he lost his confidence. But Jesus was there to take his hand. How often do we start a good work and then stop when the going gets tough? Confronting the forces and conditions that are devastating our common home takes courage and perseverance. Ancient wisdom and many indigenous peoples teach us that humans share the web of life with all creatures. Biblical wisdom teaches us that nature is a gift of God that must be respected and cared for.

Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Modern anthropocentrism has paradoxically ended up prizing technical thought over reality, since the technical mind sees nature as an insensate order, as a cold body of facts, as a mere given, as an object of utility, as raw material to be hammered into useful shape; it views the cosmos similarly as a mere space into which objects can be thrown with complete indifference. (#115)

Modernity has been marked by an excessive anthropocentrism, which today under another guise continues to stand in the way of shared understanding and of any effort to strengthen social bonds. The time has come to pay renewed attention to reality and the limits it imposes....Often what was handed on was a Promethean vision of mastery over the world, which gave the impression that the protection of nature was something that only the faint-

hearted cared about. Instead, our 'dominion' over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship. (#116)

Nor must the critique of a misguided anthropocentrism underestimate the importance of interpersonal relationships.... We cannot presume to heal our relationship with nature and the environment without healing all fundamental human relationships. (#119)



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](#)

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**Also available on the
Laudato Si page >>>**

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

