

Some Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, and Prayer to Consider for LSAP Goal #3

1. **Leviticus, Chapter 25**
2. **Matthew, Chapter 6**
3. **Laudato Si', para. 23-24, and 22**
4. **Prayer for Divestment (Laudato Si' Movement)**

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1. Leviticus, Chapter 25 (NRSV, Catholic Edition, Bible Hub)

The Sabbatical Year

1The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: **2**Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a sabbath for the LORD. **3**Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; **4**but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the LORD: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. **5**You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. **6**You may eat what the land yields during its sabbath—you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound laborers who live with you; **7**for your livestock also, and for the wild animals in your land all its yield shall be for food.

The Year of Jubilee

8You shall count off seven weeks[a] of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. **9**Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the day of atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. **10**And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. **11**That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow, or reap the aftergrowth, or harvest the unpruned vines. **12**For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces.

13In this year of jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property. **14**When you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not cheat one another. **15**When you buy from your neighbor, you shall pay only for the number of years since the jubilee; the seller shall charge you only for the remaining crop years. **16**If the years are more, you shall increase the price, and if the years are fewer, you shall diminish the price; for it is a certain number of harvests that are being sold to you. **17**You shall not cheat one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the LORD your God.

18You shall observe my statutes and faithfully keep my ordinances, so that you may live on the land securely. **19**The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live on it securely. **20**Should you ask, “What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop?” **21**I will order my blessing for you in the sixth year, so that it will yield a crop for three years. **22**When you sow in the eighth year, you will be eating from the old crop; until the ninth year, when its produce comes in, you shall eat the old. **23**The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants. **24**Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of the land.

25If anyone of your kin falls into difficulty and sells a piece of property, then the next of kin shall come and redeem what the relative has sold. **26**If the person has no one to redeem it, but then prospers and finds sufficient means to do so, **27**the years since its sale shall be computed and the difference shall be refunded to the person to whom it was sold, and the property shall be returned. **28**But if there are not sufficient means to recover it, what was sold shall remain with the purchaser until the year of jubilee; in the jubilee it shall be released, and the property shall be returned.

29If anyone sells a dwelling house in a walled city, it may be redeemed until a year has elapsed since its sale; the right of redemption shall be one year. **30**If it is not redeemed before a full year has elapsed, a house that is in a walled city shall pass in perpetuity to the purchaser, throughout the generations; it shall not be released in the jubilee. **31**But houses in villages that have no walls around them shall be classed as open country; they may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the jubilee. **32**As for the cities of the Levites, the Levites shall forever have the right of redemption of the houses in the cities belonging to them. **33**Such property as may be redeemed from the Levites—houses sold in a city belonging to them—shall be released in the jubilee; because the houses in the cities of the Levites are their possession among the people of Israel. **34**But the open land around their cities may not be sold; for that is their possession for all time.

35If any of your kin fall into difficulty and become dependent on you, ^[b] you shall support them; they shall live with you as though resident aliens. **36**Do not take interest in advance or otherwise make a profit from them, but fear your God; let them live with you. **37**You shall not lend them your money at interest taken in advance, or provide them food at a profit. **38**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, to be your God.

39If any who are dependent on you become so impoverished that they sell themselves to you, you shall not make them serve as slaves. **40**They shall remain with you as hired or bound laborers. They shall serve with you until the year of the jubilee. **41**Then they and their children with them shall be free from your authority; they shall go back to their own family and return to their ancestral property. **42**For they are my servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves are sold. **43**You shall not rule over them with harshness, but shall fear your God. **44**As for the male and female slaves whom you may have, it is from the nations around you that you may acquire male and female slaves. **45**You may also acquire them from among the aliens residing with you, and from their families that are with you, who have been born in your land; and they may be your property. **46**You may keep them as a possession for your children after you, for them to inherit as property. These you may treat as slaves, but as for your fellow Israelites, no one shall rule over the other with harshness.

47If resident aliens among you prosper, and if any of your kin fall into difficulty with one of them and sell themselves to an alien, or to a branch of the alien's family, **48**after they have sold themselves they shall have the right of redemption; one of their brothers may redeem them, **49**or their uncle or their uncle's son may redeem them, or anyone of their family who is of their own flesh may redeem them; or if they prosper they may redeem themselves. **50**They shall compute with the purchaser the total from the year when they sold themselves to the alien until the jubilee year; the price of the sale shall be applied to the number of years: the time they were with the owner shall be rated as the time of a hired laborer. **51**If many years remain, they shall pay for their redemption in proportion to the purchase price; **52**and if few years remain until the jubilee year, they shall compute thus: according to the years involved they shall make payment for their redemption. **53**As a laborer hired by the year they shall be under the alien's authority, who shall not, however, rule with harshness over them in your sight. **54**And if they have not been redeemed in any of these ways, they and their children with them shall go free in the jubilee year. **55**For to me the people of Israel are servants; they are my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

2. Matthew, Chapter 6 (NRSV, Catholic Edition, Bible Hub)

Teaching About Almsgiving.^a ¹“[But] take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them;^a otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. ²When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites^b do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.^b ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, ⁴so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Teaching About Prayer. ⁵“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. ⁷ In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words.^c ⁸Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

The Lord's Prayer. ^{9*} "This is how you are to pray:^c

Our Father in heaven,^{*}
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰your kingdom come,^{*}
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.^d
¹¹ Give us today our daily bread;
¹²and forgive us our debts,^{*}
as we forgive our debtors;^f
¹³and do not subject us to the final test,^{*}
but deliver us from the evil one.^g

¹⁴ If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you.^h ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.ⁱ

Teaching About Fasting. ¹⁶"When you fast,^{*} do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that you may not appear to others to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.

Treasure in Heaven. ¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal.ⁱ ²⁰But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.^k

The Light of the Body. ²²"The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; ²³but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be.^l

God and Money. ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters.^m He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Dependence on God. ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?ⁿ ²⁷Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?^o ²⁸Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. ²⁹But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. ³⁰ If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' ³²All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness,^{*} and all these things will be given you besides. ³⁴Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.

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Some Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, and Prayer to Consider for LSAP Goal #3 (Ecological Economies)
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3. Laudato Si', para. 23 – 24, and 22.

Climate as a common good

23. The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors (such as volcanic activity, variations in the earth's orbit and axis, the solar cycle), yet a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity. As these gases build up in the atmosphere, they hamper the escape of heat produced by sunlight at the earth's surface. The problem is aggravated by a model of development based on the intensive use of fossil fuels, which is at the heart of the worldwide energy system. Another determining factor has been an increase in changed uses of the soil, principally deforestation for agricultural purposes.

24. Warming has effects on the carbon cycle. It creates a vicious circle which aggravates the situation even more, affecting the availability of essential resources like drinking water, energy and agricultural production in warmer regions, and leading to the extinction of part of the planet's biodiversity. The melting in the polar ice caps and in high altitude plains can lead to the dangerous release of methane gas, while the decomposition of frozen organic material can further increase the emission of carbon dioxide. Things are made worse by the loss of tropical forests which would otherwise help to mitigate climate change. Carbon dioxide pollution increases the acidification of the oceans and compromises the marine food chain. If present trends continue, this century may well witness extraordinary climate change and an unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequences for all of us. A rise in the sea level, for example, can create extremely serious situations, if we consider that a quarter of the world's population lives on the coast or nearby, and that the majority of our megacities are situated in coastal areas.

Pollution, waste and the throwaway culture

22. These (*pollution*) problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish. To cite one example, most of the paper we produce is thrown away and not recycled. It is hard for us to accept that the way natural ecosystems work is exemplary: plants synthesize nutrients which feed herbivores; these in turn become food for carnivores, which produce significant quantities of organic waste which give rise to new generations of plants. But our industrial system, at the end of its cycle of production and consumption, has not developed the capacity to absorb and reuse waste and by-products. We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them. A serious consideration of this issue would be one way of counteracting the throwaway culture which affects the entire planet, but it must be said that only limited progress has been made in this regard.

4. Prayer for Divestment (Laudato Si' Movement)

Prayer for Divestment

Creator God,

Through You all things were made, the stars in the sky, the birds of the air, the breadth of life beneath the seas. Beauty surrounds us, like a love letter inscribed on this earth.
Blessed be Your name.

But we have not lived up to our vocation as protectors of Your handiwork. The earth has been plundered and cries out to us. Through our use of fossil fuels we have filled the skies with gases which are harming our world, Your creation.

We know that it is the poor who suffer the most from our actions and we ask forgiveness. We also know that things can change and that we can embark on new paths, restoring our common home and clearing the skies.

We pray that those who have decision making powers, will divest from the fossil fuel industry, challenging big corporations to leave behind this era of destruction and pollution.

We pray that political leaders make way for affordable forms of clean energy for all.

We ask that workers be treated fairly as we make this transition.

Move the hearts of those who seek only profit at the expense of the earth and the poor.

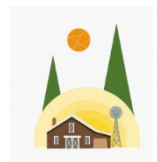
May we be guided by Your Spirit, in courage and determination.

Help us to embrace new possibilities, new sources of energy, and set out on this path of renewal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ Your Son, Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us.

*Jane Mellet, LSM
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