



Integral Ecology in *Laudato Si'* A Holistic Approach to the Crisis of Our Common Home

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LAUDATO SI'



**... the most important
environmental text
of the 21st century**

(Dale Jamieson)



Biological Conservation

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—
Global country-by-country
response of public interest in
the environment to the papal
encyclical, *Laudato Si'*

Malcolm L. McCallum

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.04.010>



The encyclical of Pope Francis

Laudato si'

significantly carries the sub-title:

“on care for our common home”.

In talking about **Earth**

as our common home,

Pope Francis ushers in

a major paradigm shift.

It is

the crisis of our very common home!



**“Francis,
go and repair
my house
which, as you see,
is falling into ruin.!”
(1205 – Assisi)**



ENCICLICA SULL'AMBIENTE





2013





FRANCESCO, VA E RIPARA
LA NOSTRA CASA

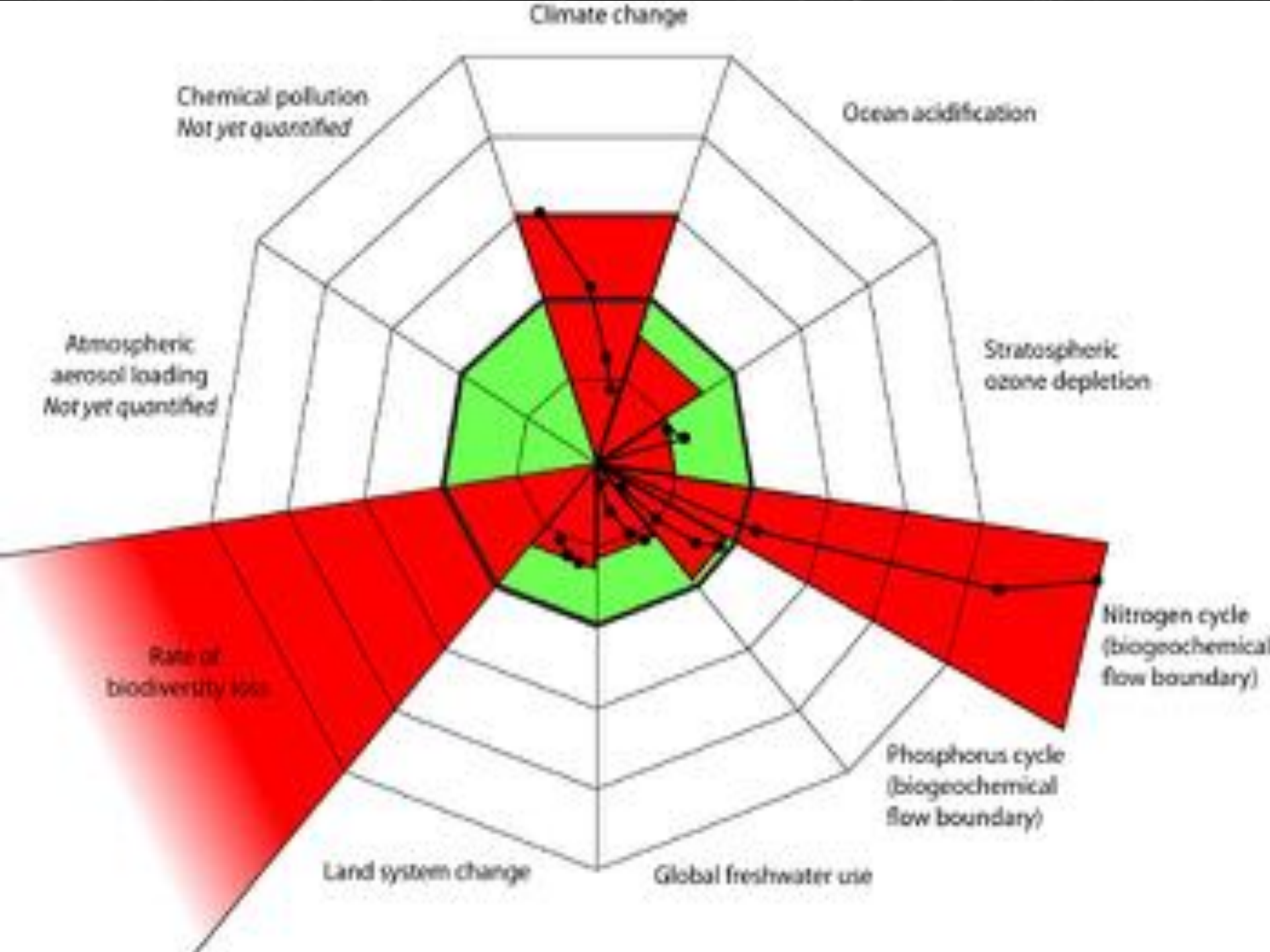


Francis, go and repair our home!

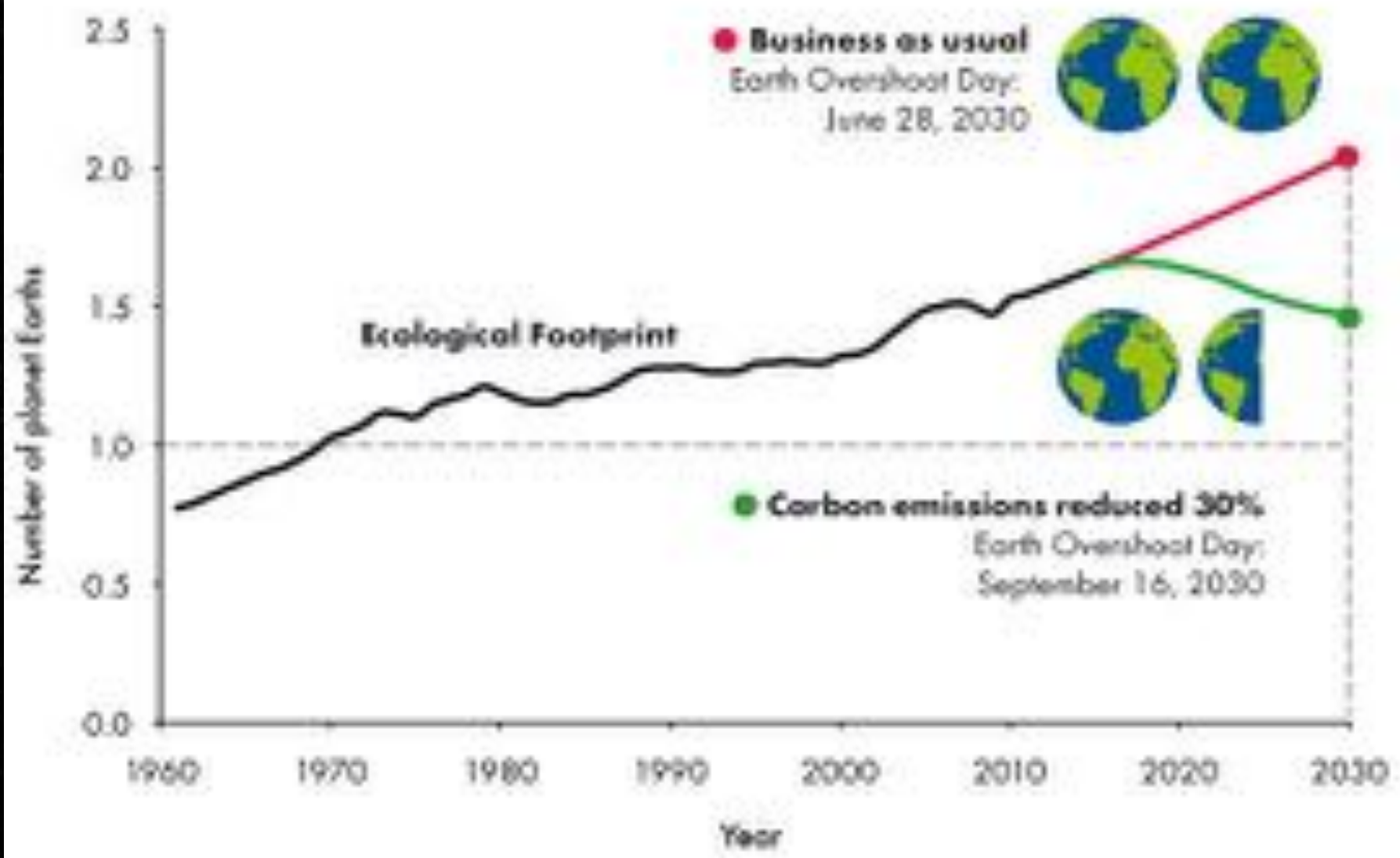
In *Laudato si'*
Pope Francis offers a
HOLISTIC Understanding
of the Crisis of Our Common Home

... the **PHYSICAL**,
ETHICAL
and **SPIRITUAL**
dimensions
of the Crisis of Our Common Home

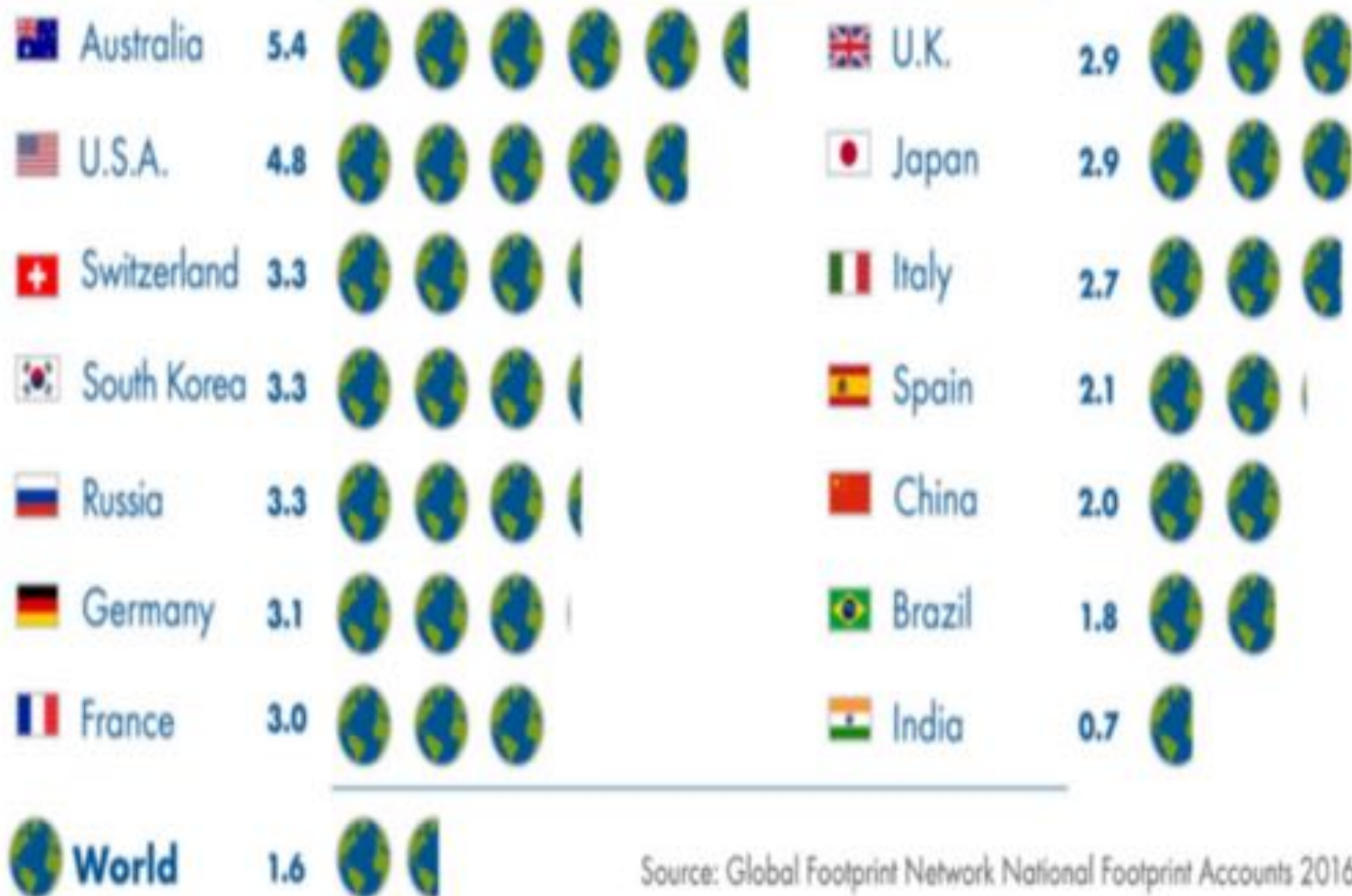
In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis offers a masterly synthesis of the manifold manifestations of the contemporary ecological crisis, the crisis of our very home: pollution and waste, climate change, depletion of natural resources, especially water, and biodiversity loss.



How many Earths does it take to support humanity?



How many Earths do we need if the world's population lived like...



Source: Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts 2016

Variations of the Earth's surface temperature: year 1000 to year 2100

Departure in temperature in °C (from the 1990 value)

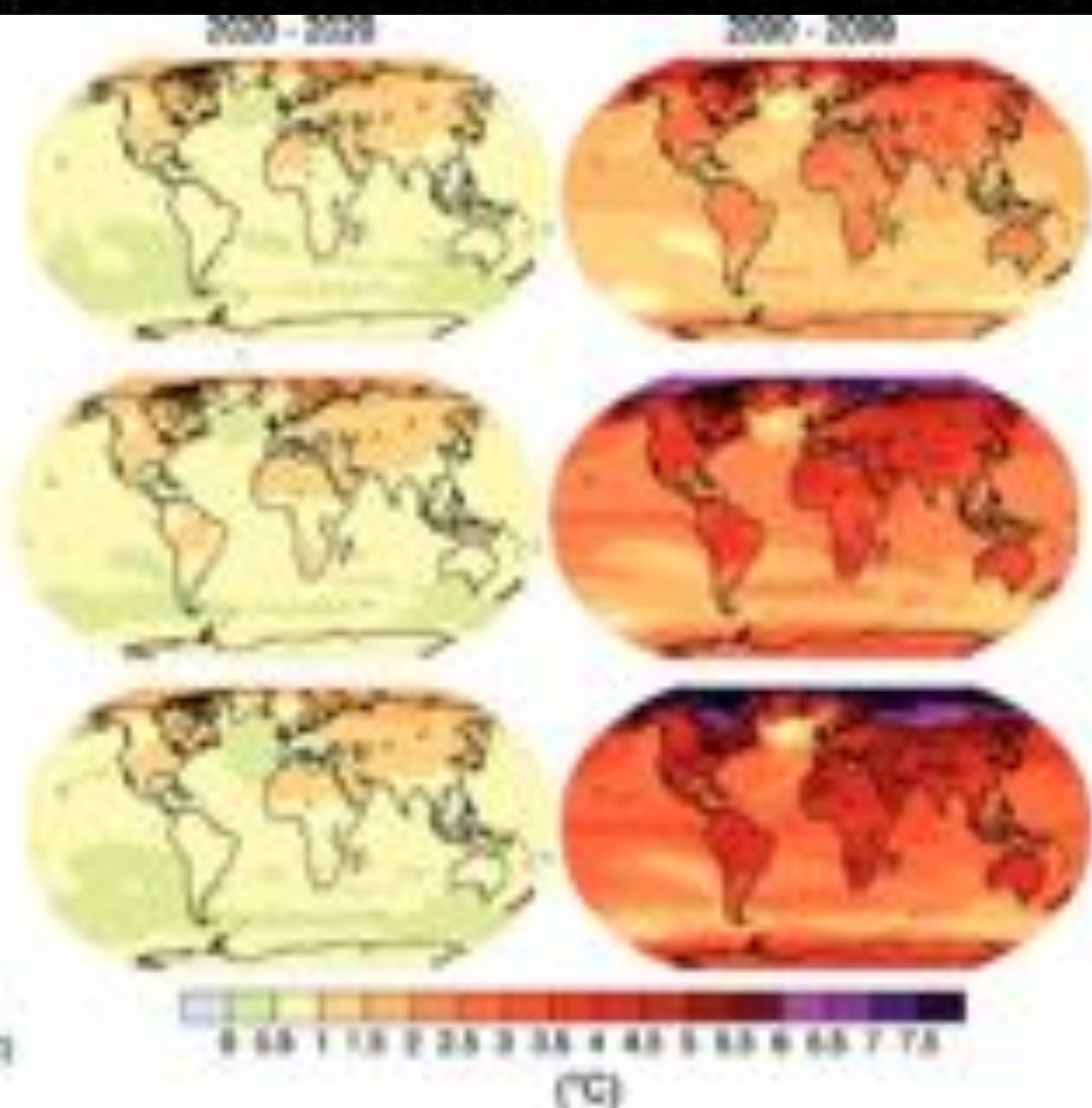
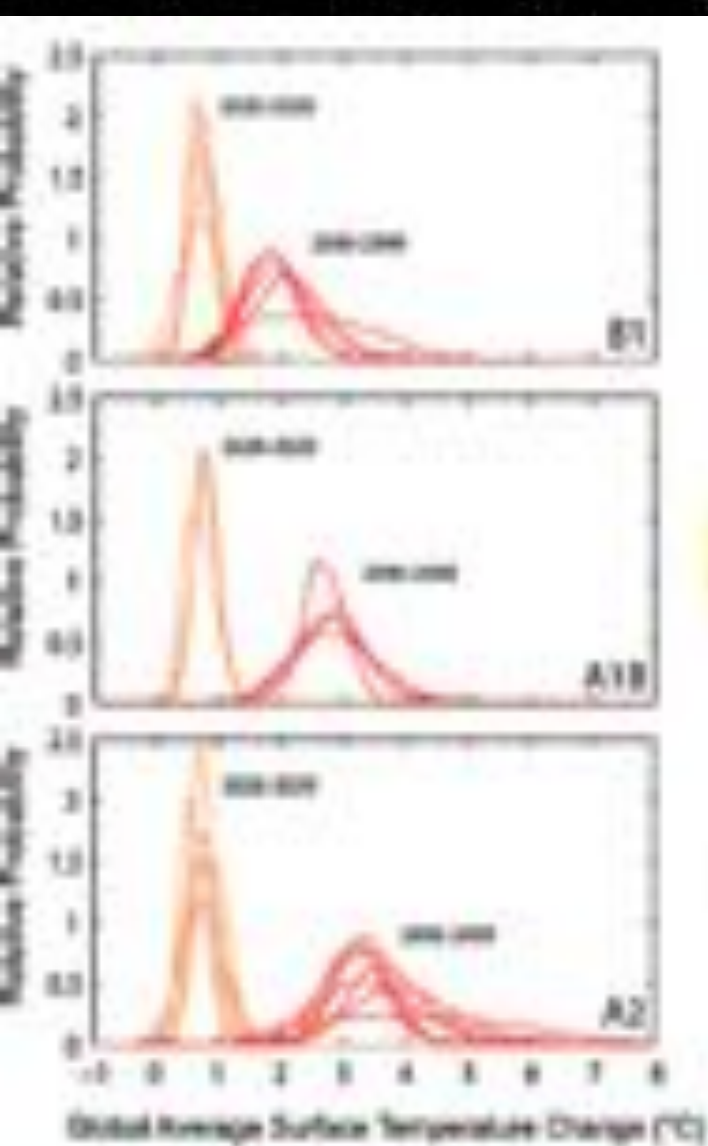


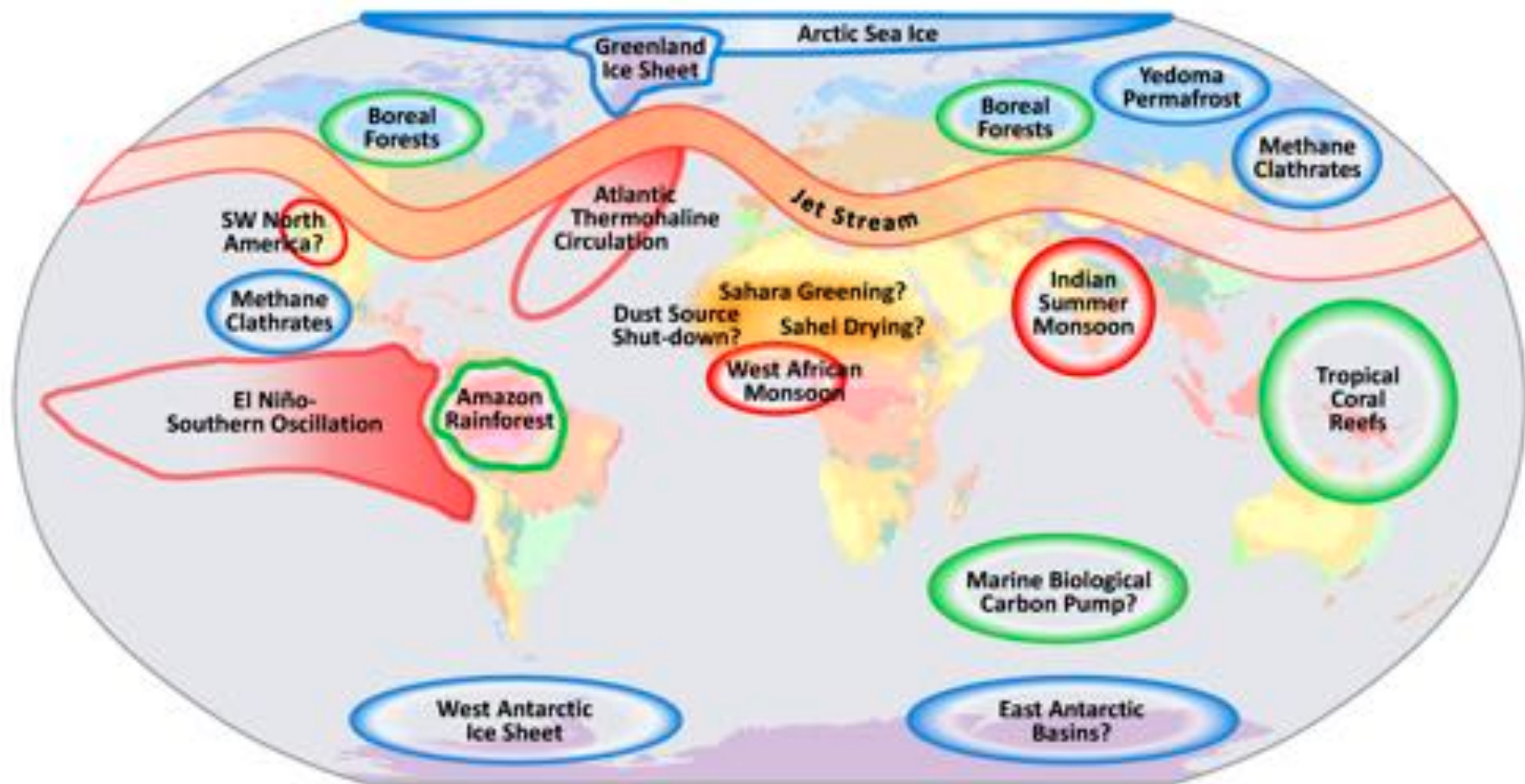
Note about the range in year 2100 produced by several models

- Scenario
- A2
- B2
- A1
- B1
- B1.1
- B1.2
- B1.3
- B1.4
- B1.5

Source: IPCC







- Cryosphere Entities
- Circulation Patterns
- Biosphere Components

Köppen Climate Classification







“surely no creature
other than man
has ever managed
to foul its nest
in such short order”

(Lynn White, 1967)



We also need to remember that the
early and disproportionate **VICTIMS**
of the ecological crisis
are **the POOR ...**

who have contributed least
to causing the crisis
in the first place!

The concern for the poor - and as the Pope mentions “the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor” (2) - is at the heart of the encyclical.

Laudato Si' is, in fact, a social encyclical than one on climate change.

“Climate” is mentioned just 14 times in the text, while “the poor,” 59 times.

“Both everyday experience
and scientific research
show that the gravest effects
of all attacks on the environment
are suffered by the poorest”.

(Laudato Si’, 48)













WE ARE NOT DROWNING
WE ARE FIGHTING!!



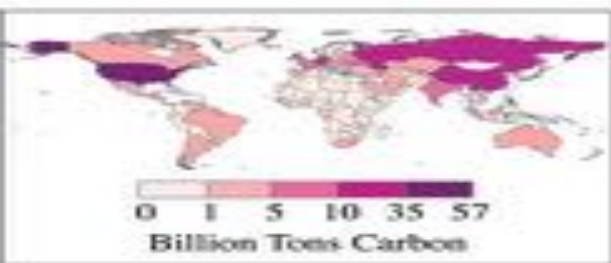
“

«The Ecological
Crisis
is a Moral Crisis»

Pope John Paul II (1990)



According to Partha Dasgupta and Veerabhadran Ramanathan, the top “1 billion people are responsible for 50% of greenhouse gas emissions; a further 3 billion people for 45%; while the bottom 3 billion, who do not have access to affordable fossil fuels, are responsible for a mere 5%”.



According to Pope Francis:

“Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach *always* becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of **justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*”.**

(Laudato Si’, 49

– italics as in the original)

We need to remember
that at the deepest level
the ecological crisis
is a profoundly
spiritual and religious crisis ...

“The violence present in our hearts,
wounded by sin, is also reflected
in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil,
in the water, in the air and in all forms of life”

(Laudato Si', 2)

«the external
deserts are expanding
because the internal
deserts have become
so vast ...

(Pope Benedict XVI,
2005)



... Quoted by Pope Francis in **Laudato Si'**, 217

Creation is God's first
and primordial revelation.

According to Pope Francis, “God has
written a precious book, ‘whose letters are
the multitude of created things present in
the universe’.” (85)

Creation is, indeed,
the very first epiphany of God.

The very title of the second chapter of *Laudato Si'*, wherein Pope Francis offers the theological vision of the natural world is highly significant.

The chapter carries the title:
“The Gospel of Creation”.

The encyclical affirms that creation is truly gospel, *evangelion*, i.e., “good news”.

«Every creature is thus the object of the Father's tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of his love, and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with his affection. Saint Basil the Great described the Creator as "goodness without measure", while Dante Alighieri spoke of "the love which moves" ...

(Laudato si', 77)

Caring for our common home is our original vocation

The stewardship of the earthly garden is the first and primary task entrusted to Adam - the first human being, as we read in the creation narratives in Genesis.

It is the very first commandment given to humanity.



In caring for our common home
and for the weaker members
of our common household,
we are indeed imitating God's own loving,
tender care towards all creatures.

Like in the parables of the Gospels,
we will be called into account
by the Creator for what has been
entrusted to our care.



For Christians,
creation's final destiny is to be recapitulated in the
mystery of the life,
death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

From the perspective of Christian faith, the entire
creation has an essentially 'christological'
dimension, as all things have been created in Him
and in Him all things hold together.

Christ is the **Omega**,
the final end of creation.



CORONA DANT EX PARTE METUM COGUNT ET FUNDERE FLETUM PECCATOR PLONIA
MICHAEL GABRIEL QUE SINISTRA UT MAIESTATI SINT DE SERUIRE PARATI

EGO SUM LUX VITAE
QUI SEQUITUR ME
NON ERIT PERDITUS
VITAE

**In Laudato Si',
Pope Francis
Invites us
to Develop an
INTEGRAL ECOLOGY
(we are all interrelated
and interconnected!)**



... a metaphysics of interrelatedness!

«... human life is grounded
in three fundamental and closely
intertwined relationships:
with **God**, with our **neighbour**
and with the **earth** itself.»

(Laudato Si', 66)

Painted Pastors Publishing



We exist in a web of interrelatedness and interdependence!

«Since everything is closely interrelated, and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an *integral ecology*, one which clearly respects its human and social dimensions.

(Laudato Si', 137)

**We need to
learn a
NEW WAY OF
DWELLING in
Our Common Home**



In the context of the ecological crisis,
ensuring the habitability of our common
planetary home becomes
the most important of all common goods,
as it is a necessary precondition
for the fulfilment of the rest.

Here **POLITICS** whose primary vocation is
to **serve the common good**
has an important and indispensable
role to play.

True oikonomia reflects the the **'eucharistic'** vocation of human communities, namely to 'share' the gifts of creation with all the members of our common household in a spirit of communion (*koinonia*), like the one bread broken and shared at the table of the Lord.

The earth is indeed humankind's common table laid by God for all. Around that table we gather, in a spirit of conviviality, not in competitive scramble but in joyful fellowship, nurturing and sheltering one another.



We also need to
EDUCATE
toward
Ecological
Citizenship



Image credit: University of Vermont Gund Institute for Ecological Economics.
Used with permission.

«Many things have to change course,
but it is we human beings above all
who need to change. ...

A great cultural, spiritual and educational
challenge stands before us,
and it will demand that we set out
on the long path of renewal.

(Laudato Si', 202)

Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices.

(Laudato Si', 211)

Laudato Si'
Invites us
to embrace an
ECOLOGICAL
SPIRITUALITY



... Christians have not always appropriated and developed the spiritual treasures bestowed by God upon the Church, where the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us”.

(LS, 216)

ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION ...

In *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis talks about the root causes of the crisis and calls for **a change of heart** as their cure.

The ecological crisis thus becomes

“a summons to **profound interior conversion**”.

(LS, 217)

I would like to offer Christians a few suggestions for an ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith, since the teachings of the Gospel have direct consequences for our way of thinking, feeling and living. More than in ideas or concepts as such, I am interested in how such a spirituality can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world. (LS, 216)

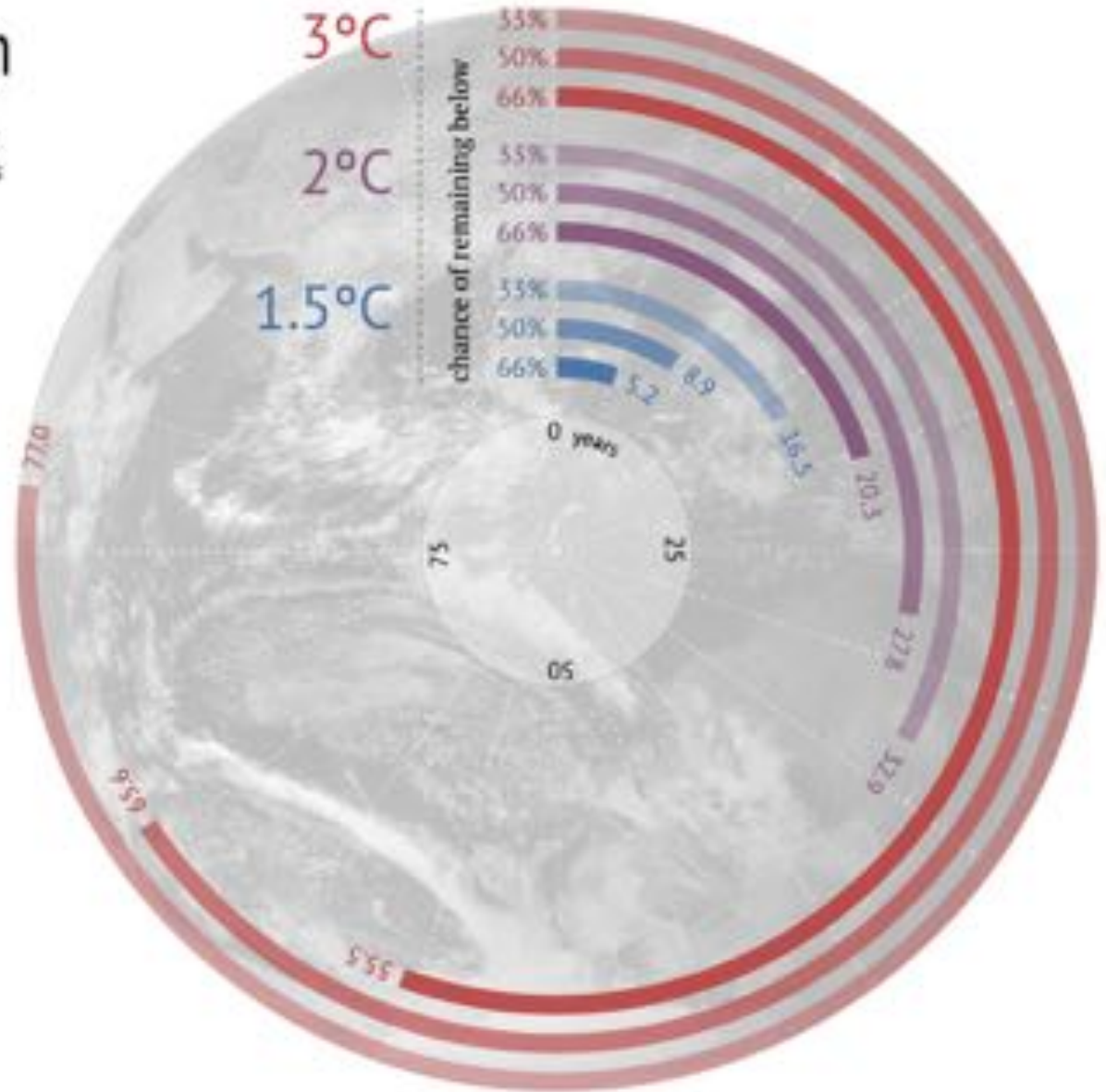
THE GREAT URGENCY TO ACT





Carbon Countdown

How many years of current emissions would use up the IPCC's carbon budgets for different levels of warming?



“What kind of world do we want to leave
to those who come after us,
to children who are now growing up?”
(Laudato si’, 160)



“... future generations stand
to inherit a greatly spoiled world.

**Our children and grandchildren
should not have to pay the cost of our
generation's irresponsibility.**

I beg your pardon, but I would like to
emphasize this: they, our children and
grandchildren should not have to pay
– it is not right that they should pay –
the price of our irresponsibility..

*(Pope Francis' Address to the CEOs of Oil Companies
at the Vatican on 14 June 2019))*

“All is not lost.

Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start.” (LS, 207)

As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning . . . Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

(Earth Charter – LS, 207)

If you listen to what your heart tells you, you will feel part of a new and courageous culture, you will not be afraid to face risks and work to build a new society. The risen Jesus is our strength! As I told you in Panama and I wrote in my Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: “Please, do not leave it to others to be protagonists of change. You are the ones who hold the future! Through you, the future enters into the world. I ask you also to be protagonists of this transformation ... I ask you to build the future, to work for a better world”.

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to Young Economists
and Entrepreneurs Worldwide
(1 May 2019)

Learning from the Wisdom of **INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**



“For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values”
(Laudato Si', 146).

How much we can learn from them! The lives of indigenous peoples “are a living memory of the mission that God has entrusted to us all: the protection of our common home”
(Address, Puerto Maldonado, Peru, 19 January 2018).

Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants at the International Conference marking the 3rd Anniversary of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* (6 July 2018)

The important role of **FAITH COMMUNITIES**



“Religions play a very important role in this task of promoting care and respect for the environment, especially in this integral ecology. Faith in God leads us to know Him in his Creation, which is the fruit of his Love for us, and it calls us to look after and protect nature.

Thus it is necessary that religions promote a true education, at all levels, which will help to spread a responsible and receptive attitude to the need to care for our world ...”

Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants in the Symposium Sponsored by the Organization of American States and by the Institute for Interreligious Dialogue of Buenos Aires
(8 September 2016)

LAUDATO SI' 2020

**(5th Anniversary of the Encyclical &
50th Anniversary of the Earth Day)**

**[Proposals from the Sector on
“Ecology and Creation”, DPIHD, Vatican]**

XII: Announcement of the Catholic Church's Commitment to Become Totally Sustainable, beginning with the Vatican and with the involvement of local communities (in 7 years!)

the **D-50** (fifty or more **Dioceses** embarking the road to sustainability),
the **S-50** (fifty or more **Schools**),
the **U-50** (fifty or more **Universities** or Colleges),
the **H-50** (fifty or more **Hospitals** /health centres),
the **B-50** (fifty or more **Businesses**),
the **C-50** (fifty or more **Cities** or Villages),
the **F-50** (fifty or more **Farms**)

VII: Institution of the **Laudato Si'** Awards

Best *Laudato si'* Individual

Best *Laudato si'* Family

Best *Laudato si'* Educational Institution

(school, college, university, etc.)

Best *Laudato si'* Faith Community

(parish, diocese, church, religious order, etc.)

Best *Laudato si'* Action Initiative

(participatory people's movement, etc.)

Best *Laudato si'* Economy/ Business/Labour Initiative

(in the area of circular and shared economy)

Best *Laudato si'* Communication Initiative

(academic publication, artistic production, etc.)

4th Anniversary (2019): to be held in Africa
(Nairobi, Kenya – UNEP headquarters)

5th Anniversary (2020): at the Vatican

**6th Anniversary (2021): to be held in one of the pacific
Islands (Oceania)**

**7th Anniversary (2022): at the Vatican and later at the
World Youth Day (Lisbon)**

**8th Anniversary (2023): to be held somewhere in the
Americas**

9th Anniversary (2024): to be held somewhere in Asia

10th Anniversary (2025): at the Vatican





The Ten

Green

Commandments

of *Laudato Si'*