

Our Common Home (OCH) Booklet **Book Study Guide**

This booklet presents an easy-to-understand overview of the climate crisis and its spiritual and practical effects. It presents ideas on how to care for our climate, our air, our water, our food supply, and our shared future. In each of these areas this booklet considers what needs to change and specific actions we can take.

To begin:

Read aloud the opening “Our common home” and pause to reflect.

Then pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, discussion and ideas of actions as you review the [OCH booklet](#). Use the prayer from Pope Francis within the [Laudato Si'](#) encyclical found on the last page of this booklet #246, ‘A prayer for our earth’.

Choose one or more of these questions to discuss:

- What is your favorite part of the booklet? (hint, there is no right or wrong answer)
 - a). Pictures/Colorful graphics = you're a person who appreciates beauty.
 - b). Combination of ties to our Catholic faith, ie. quotes from *Laudato Si'*, questions with references to the Bible, Eucharist and Catholic Social Teaching with Science, ie. stating statistics that affect the climate, water, air and food = you are aware of how these aspects are connected.
 - c). I like that the booklet provides ideas to act on today and into the future = you are a person ready to protect life and help people and planet.
 - d). I've been concerned about some of these issues for some time now, it's wonderful to know solutions are available = you are a person of Christian hope.

- What did you think of the statistics within this document? Such as: acute hunger is rising in 50 countries while 1/3 of food is wasted, each year around 12 million tons of plastic enter the oceans and since 1970 global wildlife populations have declined by two-thirds. Do they concern you? Which concerns you the most? Why does it concern you most?

- What do you think of these essential facts: Since 1970, global wildlife populations have declined by two-thirds, access to clean water is a growing challenge, outdoor air pollution kills more than 4 million people each year, intensive agriculture has reshaped the planet and by 2050 we would need three planets to support current lifestyles. Are you concerned by these facts and others listed in the booklet?

- Which actions listed can you start tomorrow? In your life, your family's life and in your parish's life? Which action/s are more involved or that you would like to think about for the future? What drives you to these actions: concern for your health or family members, concern for future generations, I feel called by God to act for his creation, I want to act in solidarity for the poor, or other?

- Here are some suggested solutions for key topics:
 - Protect and restore habitats on land and sea. Idea for action: transform a yard, garden, school, farm, or parish into a [Saint Kateri Habitat](#).
 - Eating less meat and dairy and cutting food waste reduces pressure on ecosystems. Check your [Carbon Footprint](#) here.
 - Water must be treated as a scarce and precious resource. Education on conserving water is crucial. Celebrate [World Water Day](#) - March 22, World Oceans Day, June 8 and all these other days [List Of National Water Days](#).
 - We need to move beyond consume-and-throwaway systems toward circular approaches. Read what the [Dept. of NC Environmental Quality](#) is doing or this article on [Composting without a yard](#)
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Do you think these solutions are achievable and when? In 5 years, 10 years, longer or shorter? What can you do?

Activity: Create your own Canticle of Creation, similar to St. Francis' - [Canticle of Creation Template](#) Fall in love with creation again.

Thank you for taking the time to review this Vatican sponsored booklet. May we all consider: "God has written a precious book, whose letters are the multitude of created things. From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine. (*Laudato Si'*, 85).

Do you feel called to connect with others that are concerned about these issues? If so, contact the Diocese of Raleigh, NC Catholics Caring for our Common Home (N4CH) coordinator, Monica Kleimeyer, to connect with others in your area. Email: mitzkleimeyer@nccommonhome.org

By: Monica Kleimeyer, *Laudato Si'* animator and coordinator of NC Catholics Caring for our Common Home (N4CH) in the Diocese of Raleigh