

Name _____

“On Care for Our Common Home” (“*Laudato Si*”) Reading Guide

As you read and answer the specific questions for your assigned paragraphs, annotate using the following symbols in the margin:

- Place a ✓ next to things you agree with or personally identify with.
- Place a ! next to things you think are particularly relevant to the lives of young people, both in the United States and around the world.
- Place a ? next to things you question or do not understand.

Group 1

1. (Paragraphs 1–2) What is significant about the Latin title of this encyclical?
2. (Paragraphs 3–9) Why do you think Pope Francis mentioned all of those who have enriched the Church’s teaching on care for the environment?
3. (Paragraphs 17–19) Explain the problem of “rapidification.”



Group 2

4. (Paragraphs 20–22) Explain the problem of "a throwaway culture."
5. (Paragraphs 23–26) What does it mean to say that "the climate is a common good"?
6. (Paragraphs 23–26) Why are there concerns about the climate?

Group 3

7. (Paragraphs 27–31) What is the issue with water, and why is it a concern?
8. (Paragraphs 48–49) Explain the connection between caring for the poor and caring for the environment.
9. (Paragraph 50) Explain Pope Francis's reasons for rejecting solutions focused only on "reducing birth rates."



Group 4

10. (Paragraph 65) What do the great biblical narratives say about the relationship of human beings with the world?
11. (Paragraph 66) (a) What are the three fundamental, intertwined relationships, (b) what happened to them, (c) why, and (d) as a result, what was distorted?
12. (Paragraph 67) What is (a) the *incorrect* interpretation of Genesis 1:28 that Pope Francis insists we forcefully reject, (b) what has it led to, and (c) what *should* our interpretation be?

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Group 5

13. (Paragraphs 53–54) Note the reason(s) why Pope Francis characterizes certain responses to caring for the environment as weak.

14. (Paragraph 76) Clarify the significance of “creation” as distinct from “nature.”

15. (Paragraphs 96–100) In each paragraph, note at least one way Jesus lived in full harmony with creation.

Personal Reflection

16. (Paragraph 246) Which of the two prayers best reflect your own prayer to God for the environment? Why?

(The quotations on this handout are from Pope Francis’s encyclical “On Care for Our Common Home” [*“Laudato Si”*], at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html. Copyright © LEV.)

