



Passion of the Earth Wisdom of the Cross

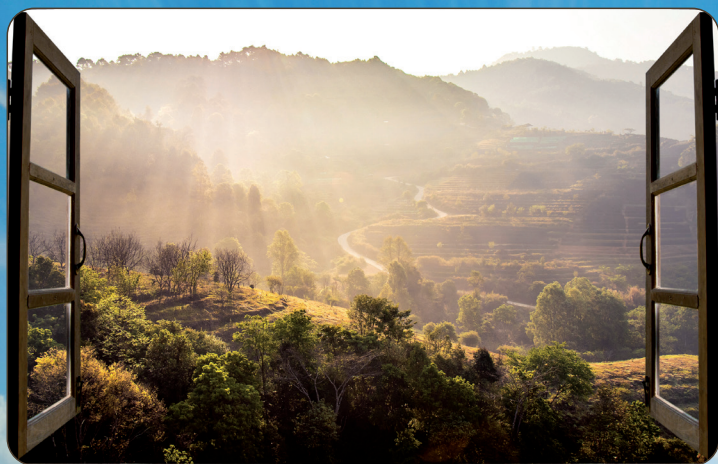
Session Five

The Cry of the Earth
and the Cry of the Poor

Addressing Climate Change
Reducing Carbon Emissions

A Six-Session Program of Formation and Action
for the Passionist Family
to Engage Laudato Si'

Caring for God's Creation
Embracing Gospel Justice
Renewing the Passionist Charism



"The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty."

– Pope Francis, Laudato Si' (175)

Keeping Alive the Memory of the Passion in the 21st Century

Introduction



Pope Francis calls for religious congregations to implement a Laudato Si' action plan.

How can you and your community respond?

Passionist Family Implementing a Laudato Si' Action Platform

In May 2020, Pope Francis put forth a call for religious congregations to embark on a seven year journey toward total sustainability in the spirit of Laudato Si' and create an action platform measured by:

1. Responding to the Cry of the Earth
2. Responding to the Cry of the Poor
3. Building Ecological Economies – ethical consumption and investments
4. Adopting Simple Lifestyles – sobriety in use of Earth's resources and energy
5. Creating Ecological Education – ongoing formation
6. Reawakening an Ecological Spirituality – recover a religious vision of God's creation
7. Promoting Community Action and Advocacy – systemic change

[Click here](#) to access the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform website and learn more about the moral and spiritual compass laid out by Pope Francis to create a more caring, inclusive, and sustainable world.



Christ Our Brother
by Bro. Michael Moran, OP

Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross is a six-session program of formation and action for the Passionist family to engage Laudato Si' and create a Laudato Si' Action Platform. Each session includes five segments:

Part 1: Education – Embrace the Message

The six sessions of the program align with the six chapters of Laudato Si'. This segment provides information to help participants understand and gain insight into a central theme of the chapter. The focus of this session is on waking up and paying attention to what is happening to our common home.

Part 2: Motivation – Consider the Issues

Pope Francis wants us to “become painfully aware” (LS 19) of what is happening to our common home. Throughout the encyclical Pope Francis addresses some of the most urgent environmental and social issues we face as a global community. Each session of this program focuses on one of those issues, offering participants an opportunity to become familiar with and sensitized to the suffering of the Earth.

Part 3: Discussion – Engage in Dialogue

This section offers guidance for structuring a community discussion. Participants should read parts 1-4 prior to the group meeting. Ideally, schedule 90 minutes for a conversation – 60 minutes on content of the encyclical and 30 minutes on considering an action plan. Use the questions provided to guide the discussion. The facilitator should decide in advance which topics to consider. Allow each person to share their reflections for two to three minutes. Listening is an essential ingredient to dialogue. After everyone has shared, open the topic for conversation. Before moving to the next question, allow for a few moments of silence so people can recollect themselves. Ask someone to record the key aspects of the sharing. This will help your community respond to Pope Francis' call for religious orders to create and implement a Laudato Si' Action Platform leading to an integral ecology.

Part 4: Respond – Take Action

Pope Francis calls us to reflect on how our lifestyles can often be thoughtless and harmful. Listed in this section is a menu of practical and concrete options for taking action to live out the directives of Laudato Si'. Consider what changes you can make as an individual and as a community or ministry site to better protect God's creation and embrace Gospel justice. Ecological conversion requires people to let “the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them” (LS 217). After each session, submit a report on the elements of your entity's action plan. These will be compiled and posted online to form a public statement of the Passionist Laudato Si' Action Platform.

Part 5: Resources – Learn More

This section offers additional information to further your education, enhance community conversations, and provide links to online resources for taking responsible action in building a Laudato Si' Action Platform.



Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross

The Worldwide Passionist Family • Engaging Laudato Si'

SESSION

5

Caring for God's Creation • Embracing Gospel Justice • Renewing the Passionist Charism

Session 5
Goal

PART
1

Embrace the Message

Responding to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor by addressing climate change

Laudato Si' – Chapter 5 Lines of Approach and Action

1. “There has been a growing conviction that our planet is a homeland and that humanity is one people living in a common home. An interdependent world not only makes us more conscious of the negative effects of certain lifestyles and models of production and consumption which affect us all; more importantly, it motivates us to ensure that solutions are proposed from a global perspective, and not simply to defend the interests of a few countries. Interdependence obliges us to think of *one world with a common plan*.” (LS 164)
2. “We know how unsustainable is the behavior of those who constantly consume and destroy, while others are not yet able to live in a way worthy of their human dignity. That is why the time has come to accept decreased growth in some parts of the world, in order to provide resources for other places to experience healthy growth. Benedict XVI has said that ‘technologically advanced societies must be prepared to encourage more sober lifestyles, while reducing their energy consumption and improving its efficiency’.” (LS 193)
3. “Put simply, it is a matter of redefining our notion of progress. A technological and economic development which does not leave in its wake a better world and an integrally higher quality of life cannot be considered progress. Frequently, in fact, people’s quality of life actually diminishes – by the deterioration of the environment, the low quality of food or the depletion of resources – in the midst of economic growth.” (LS 194)

Throughout *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis argues that the crisis evoked by climate change demands a thorough – and even radical – transformation in our personal lives and our social institutions. In chapter five, he applies this principle to our dominant economic and political philosophies, claiming that economics and politics should serve, rather than hinder, the flourishing of both human and nonhuman creation. An economy obsessed with maximizing profits and ever increasing productivity must be replaced with a truly humane economy whose fundamental goal is safeguarding the well-being of all persons, other creatures, and the environment. In order for this economic and political transformation to occur, we must wholly redefine our understanding of progress, prosperity, and a good life (LS 194). Moreover, the wealthy must learn to live with less so that the poor can “live in a way worthy of their human dignity” (LS 193).

This transformation will be greatly abetted if, first, concern for one’s self, group, or nation is replaced by a genuinely global perspective where priority is given to the good of all, including other creatures and the natural world. Second, religion and science must be viewed as complementary, not adversarial, and theologians and scientists must be in ongoing dialogue if we are to muster the wisdom and will necessary to overcome this grave global crisis.

We Passionists certainly have a role to play in implementing Francis’ revolutionary vision because, illumined by God’s love in the crucified Christ, we already know what God wants the world to be.



If you love your neighbor,
you will not pollute your neighbor’s air.



Consider the Issues

Climate Change

Earth's climate has always been changing – sometimes slowly, sometimes suddenly. 350 million years ago the climate was dramatically altered during a period of widespread volcanic activity. 65 million years ago a giant meteorite crashed into Earth throwing dust into the atmosphere where it lingered for years bringing about disastrous climate change causing dinosaurs to go extinct. But today's situation is unique. The change is being caused by one of God's creatures.

Humans have become a massive Earth-altering force. Our population has dramatically swollen (approximately 8 billion today, compared to 1.6 billion in 1900) and our technological prowess has exponentially increased.

The production of industrial chemicals and the use of petroleum have exploded. We can hardly imagine our life without the multiplicity of products which involve petroleum use. The benefits are remarkable. But petroleum also has harmful effects upon the planet's atmosphere. Plus, it is a non-renewable energy resource. The supply is limited. When it's gone, it's gone. We are now challenged to find renewable energy sources such as solar, wind or geothermal.

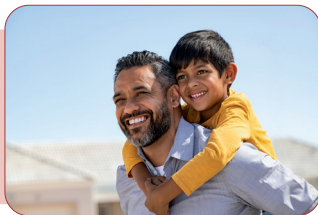
The United Nations' Interconnected Disaster Risks 2023 report says that we are dangerously close to tipping points on multiple fronts. Ice sheets are melting; ocean currents are changing; deforestation continues; extinctions are accelerating. We cannot ignore that everything is connected and "no one is saved alone" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 32).

The problem is urgent. "Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years" (LS 53). We must change our daily actions to live more sustainably. Reduce electricity generated from fossil fuels, cease deforestation, minimize transportation generated by fossil fuels, select food that is not transported over long distances, and hold our leaders accountable for making the necessary systemic changes. Taking steps to reduce our carbon emissions is important. CO2 affects the air we breathe and the quality of life on our planet.

Choose life.

Choose justice.

Choose the Living God.



Each section of this chapter has the word "dialogue" in its title. We are urged to dialogue on international, national, and local levels, including all, especially the most vulnerable. This chapter invites us all to a "frank dialogue in service of life" (LS 189).

"Climate change is a global problem with grave implications..."



... It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." (LS 25)

What the Church is Saying

1. "Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation." (Pope John Paul II, *World Day of Peace*, 1990 message, 16)
2. "The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.... 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." (LS 23)
3. "To express bluntly that this is no longer a secondary or ideological question, but a drama that harms us all, the African bishops stated that climate change makes manifest 'a tragic and striking example of structural sin.'" (Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, 3)
4. "Preservation of the environment, promotion of sustainable development and particular attention to climate change are matters of grave concern for the entire human family. No nation or business sector can ignore the ethical implications." (Pope Benedict XVI, letter to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople)
5. "From a superficial standpoint, we might well think that things do not look that serious, and the planet could continue as it is for some time. Such evasiveness serves as a license to carrying on with our present lifestyles and models of production and consumption. This is the way human beings contrive to feed their self-destructive vices: 'trying not to see them, trying not to acknowledge them, delaying the important decisions and pretending that nothing will happen.'" (*Querida Amazonia*, 53, 2020 Apostolic exhortation in response to Synod of Bishops of the Pan-Amazon region)



Engage in Dialogue

Community Discussion

The purpose of dialogue is to help us as individuals and as a community to respond to the Passion of the Earth by better caring for God's creation, embracing Gospel justice, and renewing our commitment to the Passionist charism in the context of *Laudato Si'*. Plan to spend approximately 30% of the meeting time to discuss and discern action steps suggested on page 6-7.

1. Prayer

Begin with "A Prayer in Union with Creation" from *Laudato Si'* on page 9, followed by a period of silence. Conclude the session with the prayer on page 8.

Chapter five focuses on Lines of Approach and Action

"So far I have attempted to take stock of our present situation, pointing to the cracks in the planet that we inhabit as well as to the profoundly human causes of environmental degradation.... Now we shall try to outline the major paths of dialogue which can help us escape the spiral of self-destruction which currently engulfs us" (LS 163).



2. Dialogue on the Environment in the International Community (164-175)

Climate change makes us aware "that our planet is a homeland and that humanity is one people living in a common home." A "global consensus is essential." We need "to think of one world with a common plan" (LS 164).

Already the global "ecological movement has made significant advances" but thus far countries have often not met the commitments they have made at global gatherings, particularly regarding greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing greenhouse gasses requires "those countries which are more powerful and pollute the most" to take "greater responsibility" and enter into "enforceable international agreements" (LS 169-173).

Prayer is a significant part of this process. "We believers cannot fail to ask God for a positive outcome to the present discussions so that future generations will not have to suffer the effects of our ill advised delays" (LS 169).

- How has climate change effected you? Has it brought you to the foot of the cross with others who are most impacted by climate change?
- Do you agree that industrialized nations have a greater responsibility in resolving the crisis of climate change? What might that look like?
- Pope Francis encourages prayer. How do your prayers include global scale challenges and events?

3. Dialogue for New National and Local Policies (176-181)

We need "greater attention to policies on the national and local levels" (LS 176). "While the existing world order proves powerless to assume its responsibilities, local individuals and groups can make a real difference" (LS 179).

"True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good....when we generate processes rather than holding on to positions of power" (LS 178). "Continuity is essential, because policies related to climate change and environmental protection cannot be altered with every change of government" (LS 181).

"Truly, much can be done" at the national and local levels, not just in regulation but in "promoting best practices and stimulating creativity in seeking new solutions" (LS 177, 180).

- What do you see as the gifts of your own country, local region and community? How can they be used in service of mitigating global climate change?
- Are climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss, water contamination connected to Catholic social teaching for you?
- Do you agree that we must participate in political life to bring about the vision of Catholic social teaching? Have you ever done this? How can you engage politically right now?



Engage in Dialogue

4. Dialogue and Transparency in Decision-Making (182-188)

A culture of consumerism prioritizes “short-term gains and private interest.” Environmental impact assessments are crucial to “genuine integral development.” A transparent process, with all stakeholders at the table, allows genuine risks and costs to be discerned.

- Thomas Berry, CP asserts, “Schools of business teach the skills whereby the greatest possible amount of natural resources is processed as quickly as possible, put through the consumer economy, and then passed on to the junk heap where it is at best useless and at worst toxic to every living being.” Where do you see this operative today?
- Berry proposes every species needs an economy in order to live. “There is need for the human species to develop reciprocal economic relationships with other life forms.” What might mutually supportive relationships look like?
- How could you or your community do an environmental impact assessment on energy consumption and food choices?



5. Politics and Economy in Dialogue for Human Fulfillment

This section invites us to redefine our notion of progress. Our advanced technological and economic developments have not consistently created a better world and a higher quality of life for all. Often “people’s quality of life actually diminishes – by deterioration of the environment, the low quality of food or the depletion of resources – in the midst of economic growth” (LS 194). “Businesses profit by calculating and paying only a fraction of the (environmental) costs involved” (LS 195).

We must “question the logic which underlies present-day culture” and rethink “processes in their entirety.” Politics and the economy must be in collaboration if we are to develop a strategy that is “farsighted and capable of a new, integral and interdisciplinary approach” which cares for the environment and protects the most vulnerable (LS 197-198).

- What are some of the assumptions that underlie our “present-day culture”? What values and criteria might improve our political and economic processes as well as our notion of progress?
- The passion of Christ continues today in the cry of Earth and the cry of the poor. Passionists commit “to share in the distress of all, especially those who are poor and neglected” (Rule and Constitutions, 3). How can our charism contribute to the political and economic dialogue?

6. Religions in Dialogue with Science (199-201)

Empirical science alone cannot provide a complete explanation of life, its meaning, or ultimate meaning. “Any technical solution which science claims to offer will be powerless to solve the serious problems of our world if humanity loses its compass.” There are “greater motivations” which sustain us to “live in harmony, make sacrifices, and treat others well” (LS 200).

Laudato Si’ invites us to dialogue – science with religion; among religions; and among the various sciences. “The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good” and embark on the path of dialogue with “patience, self-discipline and generosity” (LS 201).

- Do you feel comfortable engaging in the kind of dialogue Pope Francis is talking about, speaking with someone who might not share the beliefs or worldview of Laudato Si’? Could you do that from a pulpit? What would restrain you?
- “By constantly returning to their sources, religions will be better equipped to respond to today’s needs” (LS 200). St. Paul is our source: “Look upon the face of the Crucified, who invites you to follow Him.” What spiritual resources serve as your compass in responding to today’s needs?

7. Formation of an Action Plan

In this session we listen to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor and respond by taking action on climate change by reducing our carbon emissions. Consider the options on pages 6-7. During the community discussion, ask someone to record the key aspects of the sharing and complete online the Action Report. Go to www.passiochristi.org to submit a report on the action plan of your entity for this session. These will be compiled and posted online to form our Passionist Laudato Si’ Action Platform.



Take Action

Consider Ways to Reduce Carbon Emissions: Address Six Main Causes of Climate Change

1. Personal Energy Consumption



Energy is at the heart of the climate challenge – and key to the solution. Most greenhouse gases that blanket our planet Earth and trap the sun's heat are generated through energy production – burning fossil fuels to produce electricity and heat. Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, are the largest contributor to global climate change, accounting for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions.

- **REDUCE HEATING AND COOLING** – Reduce the energy burden by setting the thermostat to a lower temperature in the winter and setting it to a higher temperature in the summer. This will lower our contribution to global carbon emissions.
- **SAVE ELECTRICITY** – Turn off unnecessary lights.
- **OPT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY** – Installing solar panels is a great way to not only reduce carbon emissions but also reduce energy bill costs in the long term.
- **TRACK MONTHLY ENERGY CONSUMPTION** – Many people are not aware of their monthly energy consumption. Learn about your monthly usage and make changes over time. What gets measured gets changed!

2. Manufacturing Goods

Manufacturing and industry produce emissions, mostly from burning fossil fuels to produce energy for making things like cement, iron, steel, electronics, plastics, clothes, and other goods. Mining and other industrial processes also release gases, as does the construction industry. Machines used in the manufacturing process often run on coal, oil, or gas; and some materials, like plastics, are made from chemicals sourced from fossil fuels. The manufacturing industry is a huge contributor to greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.



- **SUPPORT SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS BRANDS** – Do your research. Choose brands and companies that prioritize sustainability and a strong commitment to human rights through practices such as adhering to ethical labor standards and sourcing environmentally friendly materials.
- **REDUCE, REUSE, REPAIR AND RECYCLE** – Electronics, clothes, plastics and other items we buy cause carbon emissions at each point in production, from the extraction of raw materials to manufacturing and transporting goods to market. To protect the climate, buy fewer things, shop second-hand, and repair what you can.



- **Focus on Plastics** – Heal our throw-away culture. Eliminate disposables, especially plastic water bottles. Plastics alone generate approximately 1.8 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually – 3.4% of the global total. Less than 10% is recycled, and once plastic is discarded, it can linger for hundreds of years.

3. Cutting Down Forests

- **Cutting down forests** to create farms or pastures causes emissions, since trees, when they are cut, release the carbon they have been storing. Each year approximately 12 million hectares of forest are destroyed. Since forests absorb carbon dioxide, destroying them also limits nature's ability to keep emissions out of the atmosphere.
- **PLANT TREES** – A mature tree can absorb an average of 22 lbs of carbon dioxide per year, playing an important role in helping society mitigate the effects of climate change.
- **PLANT NATIVE SPECIES** – Replace non-native plant species, especially any considered invasive. Plants, animals and insects depend on each other. Most insects will not eat non-native plants, which means birds and other species lose a food source. Biodiversity suffers.
- **PROTECT BIODIVERSITY** – Take action to protect biodiversity. Defend rainforests, create wetlands, protect habitats, make wildlife welcome. Climate change has altered marine, terrestrial, and freshwater ecosystems around the world. Up to one million species are threatened with extinction.

4. Transportation Choices

Choices we make on how we get from one place to another – driving, flying, ferrying, biking, and public transportation – have a large impact on carbon emissions. Our transportation choices result in the production of global carbon emissions.



- **REDUCE AIR TRAVEL** – Flying has a significant impact on our planet because planes are heavy and their engines require a lot of fuel to power. Planes burn fossil fuels to get their energy, producing huge amounts of emissions.
- **REDUCE TRAVEL** – Can you imagine taking one step in the direction of less driving? Have meetings by using Zoom.
- **SACRIFICE** – Before getting into the car, ask: is this trip absolutely necessary? Can I combine errands into one trip? Can I walk or bike? Can I take public transportation?
- **CONSIDER ELECTRIC VEHICLES** – An electric vehicle could be shared by the community for short trips. It can reduce your carbon footprint by an average of 2 tons per year.



Take Action

5. Food Choices

What we eat and how food is produced affects our health and the environment. Food is grown, processed, transported, distributed, prepared, consumed, and sometimes disposed of. Each step creates greenhouse gases that trap the sun's heat and contribute to climate change. This includes methane from cattle's digestive process, nitrous oxide from fertilizers, carbon dioxide from cutting down forests for the expansion of farmland, emissions from manure management, rice cultivation, burning of crop residues, and the use of fuel on farms. About a third of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions is linked to food.



□ **EAT MORE PLANT-BASED FOODS** – Consuming animals has a high impact on our planet. Population growth and an increasing demand for meat and dairy results in clearing land and deforestation to make room for animal farms and growing animal feed. This results in loss of biodiversity and greater strain on resources like water and energy. Switching to a plant-based diet can reduce your annual carbon footprint by up to 2.1 tons with a vegan diet and up to 1.5 tons for vegetarians.

□ **THROW AWAY LESS FOOD** – Whether throwing away food you make or buying groceries you do not end up using, food waste results in unnecessary use of resources like land, water, and energy, and also results in unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions from production and landfill. You can reduce your carbon footprint by up to 1.3 tons annually.

□ **SHOP LOCAL AND ORGANIC** – Food miles (how far our food travels) and fertilizer use are important topics to consider. The longer the distance our food travels from the farm to our plate, the higher the greenhouse gas emissions from transport vehicles. Shopping and eating local can help reduce the food miles travelled and you can save up to 1.1 tons of carbon emissions annually.

□ **COMPOST** – Composting is a simple and impactful action to help reduce emissions from our food system. When we throw our food waste in the garbage, the food waste will typically travel more miles because landfills are further away from our neighborhoods, resulting in higher transport emissions.

6. Consumption

The consumption of goods such as clothing, electronics, and plastics plays a part in climate change. Our lifestyles have a profound impact on our planet. The wealthiest bear the greatest responsibility: the richest 1% of the global population combined accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than the poorest 50%.

□ **USE GREEN BUILDING MATERIALS**

□ **MAKE YOUR BUILDINGS SUSTAINABLE** – Next time you plan a building project or even a minor repair, check the green credentials of the materials you use.

□ **PURCHASE FAIR-TRADE PRODUCTS**

□ **SHOP WISELY** – Know where products come from and how they are produced, and make buying choices accordingly.

Respond to Cry of Earth and Cry of the Poor

Climate change is increasingly impacting human security around the globe. Unpredictable rainfall and extreme weather events can trigger competition for food and water; declining agricultural output can lead to a loss of income for a broad segment of the population; droughts, floods, storms and sea-level rise are already causing more than 20 million people to leave their homes and move to other areas in their countries each year.

□ **PRACTICE SOLIDARITY** – On our small planet we all share common challenges like the climate crisis. Support and contribute to people or organizations working with the most vulnerable communities.

□ **SPEAK OUT** – Use your ministry to speak out in solidarity with the poor and marginalized, actively support their struggles for justice and equality, and advocate for systemic change.

□ **ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE** – Take part in local and national dialogues supporting climate action.

□ **FOLLOW RELIABLE NEWS SOURCES** – Confused about what to believe and whom to trust? The volume of incorrect information about climate change has exploded. Sharpen your skills to detect who may or may not be telling the truth. Are you getting facts from a reputable news organization? How much evidence backs up what they say? Support information integrity.

□ **MOBILIZE FOR CHANGE** – Establish or join organizations to promote sustainability and human rights.

□ **ORGANIZE** and/or participate in events, workshops or campaigns with a clear objective towards our common future.

□ **PARTICIPATE** in programs offered by the Laudato Si' Movement, an organization to support individuals and institutions worldwide to bring Laudato Si' to life and help save God's creation. laudatosimovement.org

□ **VOTE LAUDATO SI' VALUES** – Use your voice and vote to support leaders who prioritize sustainability and human rights.



Small changes at the personal level can lay the foundation for changes at the national and global levels.



Learn More

Additional Resources to Further Your Education and Enhance Community Conversations

This section includes additional information related to the goal of session five to “Respond to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor” and the environmental issues for this session which are climate change and transportation choices. Click on the links in red to access online resources.



1. Science, Solutions, and Solidarity for a Livable Planet

The United Nations' website offers information and resources for addressing climate change and taking action in response to the cry of the poor and the cry of Earth. [Click here](#). (English, Français, Español)

2. Pope Francis' Film “The Letter: A Message for Our Earth”

The Letter is an 80 minute documentary film, telling the story of the *Laudato Si'* encyclical. Four voices which have gone unheard in global conversations have been invited to an unprecedented dialogue with Pope Francis, bringing perspective and solutions from the poor, the indigenous, the youth, and wildlife. This documentary follows their journey to Rome and the extraordinary experiences that took place there. [Click here](#) to watch. (Available with subtitles in English, Español, Italiano, Português, Français and automatic subtitles in all other languages. Dubbed versions are also available in Español, Italiano, Português, Français.)

3. How to have Challenging Conversations about Climate Change

We are living within a broken system that has created a planetary crisis. In order to build a better future, we must come together in new ways and see our faith in new lights. For many people, these new ideas can be challenging. [Click here](#) for a guide that may help you navigate conversations on climate change and faith that feel uncomfortable. (English, Español, Français, Polish)

4. Climate Justice and Gender Inequalities

Gender inequalities intensify vulnerability to climate change impacts. Women and girls are more vulnerable to climate-related disasters, in both the immediate impacts and their capacity to recover in the aftermath. [Click here](#) to read more here about how women and girls worldwide are affected by the climate crisis and what you can do. (English and Google translate)

5. Listen to the Voices of Youth on Climate Justice

Hear the voices of over 175,000 global youth from 160 countries on climate justice. Read the COP28 Global Youth Statement by [clicking here](#). Listen to the stories behind the Global Youth Statement in a 3 minute video available to watch on the same page. (Scroll down to find versions in English, Español, Français.)

6. Scientific Assessment of Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides governments with scientific information to develop climate policies. They assess the thousands of scientific papers published each year to provide a comprehensive summary about the drivers of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and how to reduce those risks. [Click here](#) to read the 2023 Synthesis Report. [Click here](#) to watch a 3 minute video. (Scroll down to bottom right to find video in various UN languages)

Prayer

O Giver of Life,
you called your chosen people to journey with you and blessed their movement.
Guide us as we search for alternative means to fuel our journeys.
Give us the creativity and courage to protect your creation and share its resources fairly.
Amen.





Prayer

from Laudato Si'

A Prayer in Union with Creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence
and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!



Christ in Glory by Bro. Michael Moran, CP

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Passionist Voices

"The natural world is the larger sacred community to which we belong. To be alienated from this community is to become destitute in all that makes us human. To damage this community is to diminish our own existence." – Thomas Berry, CP