



Laudato Si' Earth, Our Common Home
...a new dialogue about shaping the future...
God... Neighbor...
Earth...

Originally prepared for Corporation for the Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston
Board of Trustees Prayer — 2015-2016 — Prayer I

Introduction: *Leader of Prayer*

On *Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si')* is the new appeal from Pope Francis addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. This encyclical is written with both hope and resolve, looking to our common future with candor and humility.¹ Our prayer for each board meeting will reflect on *Laudato Si'* in light of how our discussions and decisions as trustees and administrators of a CSJ Sponsored Ministry are shaping the future of our planet.

¹United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/pope-francis-encyclical-laudato-si-on-environment.cfm>

Reader 1: a Reading from Genesis

And God said, This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. - Genesis 9:12-13

Reflection: — *from Laudato Si' : On the Care of Earth, Our Common Home*

Reader 2: The creation accounts in the book of Genesis contain, in their own symbolic and narrative language, profound teachings about human existence and its historical reality. They suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself.

Reader 3: This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. *LS #66, 67*

Laudato Si' — Prayer excerpts

RESPONSE: **May we move always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.**

- ◇ Triune God, 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. **RESPONSE**
- ◇ Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. **RESPONSE**
- ◇ 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. **RESPONSE**

FOR Reflection: ***How can I/we remain attentive to shaping inclusive dialogue and decisions that serve both this Ministry and the future of our planet?*** *pause*

Closing Prayer: All 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.
In every relationship may we be and act in ever-widening circles of love poured out toward every kind of neighbor without distinction. *Amen.*

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Closing Prayer: *Laudato Si'* #246 & Constitution of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, *Life in Mission* 3-2

Photos: Rainbows — Ocean Bluff, Marshfield, MA, August 2015