



Interfaith Power & Light

A Religious Response to Global Warming

Selected Quotes from Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'* or "[Praised Be: On the Care of Our Common Home](#)"

Quotes on Climate Change

"Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day."

Chapter 1, paragraph 25

"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."

Chapter 1, paragraph 23

"If present trends continue, this century may well witness extraordinary climate change and an unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequences for all of us. A rise in the sea level, for example, can create extremely serious situations, if we consider that a quarter of the world's population lives on the coast or nearby, and that the majority of our megacities are situated in coastal areas."

Chapter 1, paragraph 25

"There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy."

Chapter 1, paragraph 26

Quotes on Humanity's Relationship with the Earth

"[The earth] now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her."

Preface, paragraph 2

"We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters."

Preface, paragraph 2

"Modernity has been marked by an excessive anthropocentrism..."

Chapter 3, paragraph 116 (Anthropocentrism: the assessment of reality through an exclusively human perspective)

“Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.”

Chapter 4, paragraph 139

“Today, the analysis of environmental problems cannot be separated from the analysis of human, family, work-related and urban contexts, nor from how individuals relate to themselves, which leads in turn to how they relate to others and to the environment.”

Chapter 4, paragraph 141

Quotes on Climate Change's Impact on the Poor

“The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.”

Chapter 1, paragraph 23

“Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry.”

Chapter 1, paragraph 25

“A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.”

Chapter 2, paragraph 91

“If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all. If we do not, we burden our consciences with the weight of having denied the existence of others.”

Chapter 2, paragraph 94

“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.”

Chapter 4, paragraph 139

“Every violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment.”

Chapter 4, paragraph 142

Quotes on Over-consumption

“The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.”

Chapter 1, paragraph 21

“These problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish.”

Chapter 1, paragraph 22

“It is hard for us to accept that the way natural ecosystems work is exemplary: plants synthesize nutrients which feed herbivores; these in turn become food for carnivores, which produce significant quantities of organic waste which give rise to new generations of plants. But our industrial system, at the end of its cycle of production and consumption, has not developed the capacity to absorb and reuse waste and by-products. We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them.”

Chapter 1, paragraph 22

“Is it realistic to hope that those who are obsessed with maximizing profits will stop to reflect on the environmental damage which they will leave behind for future generations? Where profits alone count, there can be no thinking about the rhythms of nature, its phases of decay and regeneration, or the complexity of ecosystems which may be gravely upset by human intervention.”

Chapter 5, paragraph 190

“The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs to buy, own and consume.”

Chapter 6, paragraph 204

Quotes on Our Call to Action

“Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.”

Chapter 6, paragraph 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. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity.”

Chapter 6, paragraph 211

“Because the stakes are so high, we need institutions empowered to impose penalties for damage inflicted on the environment. But we also need the personal qualities of self-control and willingness to learn from one another.”

Chapter 6, paragraph 214

“We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it.”

Chapter 6, paragraph 229

“An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.”

Chapter 6, paragraph 230