



**With Sr Patricia Mulhall
And
Sarah Gardner Lobo**

ZOOM MEETING HELD ON 24th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7:30PM

Introduction: "Laudato Si" Paragraphs 1-16

Participants: 35

Contributions

Group 1

- Words repeated more than once – Shock, horror, shame, guilt, frustration at inertia, irresponsible behaviour, lack of interest, pollution, devastation of the oceans – full of plastic and rubbish.
- Appreciate everyone's sharing – ideas generated, good to hear another's point of view.
- Education key to understanding complexity of issue.
- We have been talking about this issue for years – David Attenborough has brought us to our attention years' ago.
- There is the need to look at the Social environment as well as the Natural one as each is linked with the other.
- Need to repair the social environment – stabbings in London suburbs, 'deprived' areas where there is unemployment and prevalence of 'gangs'
- Education paramount – key to understanding that all need to co-exist. Explore, enjoy, appreciate the Beauty of Creation. Education will help towards this.
- 'World groaning in travail' (Romans) very apt. 'See nothing but ourselves' growing up in a selfish world. Education is so important. Do the 'little things'. Each of us can do something.
- How do we persuade people to behave in a certain way?



- We have to make it 'hurt' before people will do anything.
- We are dumping our rubbish on other countries – taking it by ship.
- The issue is SO BIG, what difference will I make? Yet little things important, every little action counts.
- Education is important, but self-education paramount.
- For years, trying to do a series of 'little things' recycle, avoid plastic, use detergents that are not harmful to the environment, cut down on the use of detergents.
- General horror at what's happening to our Planet.
- Need for change with Big Business, Industry – and this may be a cost to consumers.
- Requires a Global Debate!

Group 2

- We added shame to shock and horror expressed by Group 1
- Individual responsibility we should all be instruments of change.
- Influencing politicians – might find politicians to support who are pro-saving the planet but may be difficult to support them if they were for example pro-abortion too.
- Why buy strawberries etc from other countries just to have fruit that is out of season all year round.
- There must be a better connection between nature and people. We are called to reach out to one another. Even the poor should use their voice, they have a right and it is they who suffer most the consequences of the extravagance and throw away wealthy society for which wealth is defined has having a home and a car.
- The dependent links between physical and social environments needs to be understood and promoted.



Group 3

- We need to respect, care and preserve the creation that God has created for us.
- Education is KEY.
- We would never think of harming our mother or sister so why harm God's Creation.
- PRAY ABOUT IT - THINK ABOUT IT - SPEAK ABOUT IT
- Instead of driving somewhere we should consider walking or cycling.
- Some areas are so much better than others at collecting recycling – we need to speak to our councillors to make a difference.
- St Francis looked upon all creation as mother, sister, brother ... the earth, the beasts, the flowers, and the birds.
- What would our grandchildren / great children think of us if we do not actively do something?
- Children are being taught about recycling at some schools.
- Some children are better than the parents at recycling.

Group 4

- Most points had been discussed in other groups.
- Pope Benedict's statement "the book of nature is one" [para.6]
- The deterioration of nature is closely connected to how we treat it
- We need to remember the presence of God, rely on God rather than politicians!
- One integrated problem – be aware of it.
- The image of the Earth as sister & mother. We wish only good things for our family; we must treat the Earth in the same way
- Creation as God's temple
- Many of the Pope's teachings are reflected in the actions of other organisations/initiatives e.g Friends of the Earth, James Lovelock – Gaia, Buglife.
- When you travel a lot, you see what a beautiful world we have.



- Our pace of development exceeds the pace of recovery of the earth, we need to develop a balanced approach – against the damage we are doing.
- Happy the Pope is trying to engage the Catholic church with the problem.
- There is a lot to do – our first task is to read Laudato Si' & look again at tonight's presentations.
- Think recycle & sufficiency – do I need more shoes?
- Depriving future generations.
- We must take care of people who become unemployed because of losing their jobs due to climate change.
- A first step – to acknowledge what we have done & respond to Patriarch Bartholomew's call to repent [para.8]

Group 5

- The state of our world feels like an insurmountable problem that we must address even though it is scary.
- We are all guilty of not caring for our world and even though we are trying we can do better. We are just individuals but if we all joined together, we could make a difference.
- Big countries should do more for our world.
- Young people are very aware of our environmental problems and are not afraid to speak up and do something about it.
- Paragraph 6 – “the deterioration of nature is closely connected to the culture which shapes human coexistence” is a very important statement.
- We should not wait for governments or someone else to do something, each one of us needs to deal with the situation.
- Paragraph 14 – “We require a new and universal solidarity” is so true. It is essential that we all get involved, make our voices heard and give our wholehearted support.
- Paragraphs 1 & 12 mention St Francis. He is a wonderful example to us. He showed us that we are here to share our lives and gifts with nature and each other. We all need St Francis' mindset as we face the challenges of restoring our world.



- St Therese of the Little Flower used a flower to describe the beauty of God.
- The world is so damaged – how have we got to this point?
- We are finished if we lose sight of God.
- Paragraph 6 talks about creation being misused when we see nothing but ourselves, no higher instance. We need the humility to accept God as the higher power.
- Paragraph 6 – “the book of nature is one and indivisible”. We need to treat the world as our global family.
- We are stewards of creation, so we need to be mindful of everything we do, and start acting responsibly even when it is difficult, inconvenient, and costly.
- Who else is taking action to restore our world apart from the Catholic Church?
- We all interconnected as children of God, responsible for each other.
- When it comes to it, we own nothing – we cannot take it with us when we die. It is on loan.
- Our talents are God-given so we need to be careful how we use them.
- We are called to address reality head-on.
- Like St Francis we should see the beauty of God around us and enjoy the beautiful world we have been given.
- We must take care of people who become unemployed because of losing their jobs due to climate change.



NEXT MEETING

**10th March
7:30 p.m.**

Laudato Si

***Chapter 1:
What is happening to our common home?***

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