



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

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

Chapter 2: Laudato Si' Paragraphs 62 - 100

Participants: 27

Contributions

Group 1

Paragraph 98

Jesus lived in full harmony with creation. He led a simple life – He did the will of his Father. Jesus worked with his hands, in daily contact with the matter created by God to which he gave form by his craftsmanship.

Paragraph 91

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. A wide-ranging blueprint for mankind. Concern for the environment must go hand in hand with a sincere love for one another – We must have compassion for our fellow man.

Paragraph 93

God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favouring anyone. It is not in accord with God's plan that this gift be used in such a way that its benefits favour only a few. Agrees that the earth is a shared inheritance whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. Should we



be searching for water on the moon when there are children on earth dying of thirst. 'Fidelity to the Creator?' – nobody should go without the basic necessities for life. The next war will be about water.

Paragraph 75

A spirituality which forgets God as all-powerful and Creator is not acceptable. That is how we end up worshipping earthly powers, or ourselves usurping the place of God, even to the point of claiming an unlimited right to trample his creation underfoot. The best way to restore men and women to their rightful place, putting an end to their claim to absolute dominion over the earth, is to speak once more of the figure of a Father who creates and who alone owns the world. Otherwise, human beings will always try to impose their own laws and interests on reality. We cannot be God. We need humility. God has given us so much to enjoy. One should speak once more as the figure of a Father who creates and who alone owns the world. Human beings sin when they act or try to act like God and impose their own laws and interests on reality. Is our throwaway society also throwing away relationships and going into a new relationship without trying to fix the old one.

Paragraph 92

We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people. Every act of cruelty towards any creature is 'contrary to human dignity'. Everything is related and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters together on a wonderful pilgrimage.

Paragraph 70

In the story of Cain and Abel, we see how envy led Cain to commit the ultimate injustice against his brother, which in turn ruptured the relationship between Cain and God, and between Cain and the earth from which he was banished.



The story of Cain and Abel occurs soon after Adam and Eve leave the Garden of Eden. It is imperative to realise that all creation belongs to God: this on loan to us.

A book by Jordan Petterson – “Twelve Rules of Life” was recommended.

ROOM 2

Paragraph 52

The rich countries should give more support to poorer ones.

Paragraph 66

The fundamental relationship between God, our neighbour and the earth was broken by sin.

Paragraph 80

If we implore the Holy Spirit which "can be said to possess infinite creativity, proper to the divine mind, which knows how to loosen the knots of human affairs including the most complex and inscrutable" will help to save us.

Paragraph 85

"That every creature sings a hymn of existence" so each is necessary, unique and cannot be replaced.

Paragraph 93

The earth is a shared inheritance. Christians do not recognise a right to private property.

Paragraph 95

If we don't want to deny the existence of others, we need to make sure the natural environment is for all. We are custodians,/administrators not owners.

What each of us pledged to do in response to these insights:

- To buy local produce or at least from the UK. Avoid buying plastics and recycle particularly clothes.
- To buy food in season. Pray to the Holy Spirit to inspire the decision makers and politicians to play their role and for us as individuals.
- To be part of the solution, buy more fair-trade products.



- To support local economy and jobs by buying local produce. The land acts as a spiritual barometer
- To use the garden to grow our own.
- To be a good role model in treating all equally as we are one human family and all deserve access to the natural world, rich and poor.
- Quoting GK Chesterton "Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective" Paraphrased to spend your money without hurting your neighbour.

Group 3

Canticle of St Francis – this was a favoured paragraph by a few of our group. It was felt that in order to fully appreciate the richness of the words and understand it the piece needed to be reread numerous times. Franciscans are called to see how everything around us is God's- we see creation everywhere.

God's plan: Is God's plan misinterpreted by the clergy?

Some of our group spoke of their disappointment that women were overlooked in the Encyclical. The importance of the relationship between the seed and the soil can be likened to the seed of life and the womb and so the importance of women cannot be overlooked.

The symbiotic relationship of all living things was described simply in paragraph 86 and highlighted the important part all living things have in our world.

Science and religion. The point was made that scientists can often be arrogant, thinking they know it all but there is much that cannot be explained by science and we perhaps need to get back to the simple things in life and love. What are scientists searching for? For example, space exploration- what help is that going to be for the earth?

The theme of tilling and fallowing was liked by many in the group. Some did not realise that the idea of fallowing was in the bible and in fact an ancient ritual. The idea of only taking what you need from the earth and leaving the rest for others was very appealing. The idea of sharing. Unlike recent times in



this pandemic when people were starting to hoard. We should all give ourselves a fallow time to rest and reflect.

The suggestion that harming a single creature could lead to a possible harming nature towards fellow humans was discussed.

GROUP 4

The group had identified a wide number of different paragraphs which had spoken to them personally and these were discussed among the group. Individual paragraphs were then chosen for particular reflection.

Paragraph 84

Although each human being is an image of God, each creature has its own purpose; everything is the caress of God.

Paragraph 88

The spirit of life dwells in every human creature: nature is the locus of God's presence: the respect with which women should be treated.

Paragraph 91

The abomination of human trafficking, especially that of women and children.

Paragraph 92

Time to pause and reflect what is happening worldwide which is contrary to human dignity; how little human life is valued.

Paragraph 90

We continue to tolerate that some consider themselves more human than others, as if they had been born with greater rights.

Paragraph 94

The rich and the poor have equal dignity for "the Lord is the maker of them all".



What each of us pledged to do in response to these insights:

- It was agreed that it was very difficult to find solutions to the many ills at governmental or global levels; however, we must continue to raise awareness of the problems.
- It had been said that Love is the faithful heart of the Cosmos, so continuing to love and to be patient would succeed in the end.
- Do small things with great love.
- So pleased that *Laudato Si'* addresses nature but also includes issues of social justice.
- Pray and do what is right, even if you have to stand up and stand out to do it.
- Practice little improvements to environmental issues; use less water, recycle, buy sustainable food. Little things add to a wider effort.
- Be grateful for what we have: shelter, food and warmth.
- Be as simple in our lives as Jesus was.
- Pray for the poor and suffering.



NEXT MEETING

7th April 2021

7:30 p.m.

Laudato Si'

Chapter 3:

The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis

Leaders:

Sr Mary Patricia Mulhall

mpmulhall@yahoo.co.uk

Sarah Gardner Lobo

sarah.gardnerlobo@gmail.com