

# Select Quotations from *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*

## *Laudato Si'*

*"The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she 'groans in travail' (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7)" (Laudato Si', #2)*

*"Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity." (Laudato Si', #30)*

*"Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right." (Laudato Si', #33)*

*"The entire material universe speaks of God's love, God's boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God." (Laudato Si', #84)*

*"The created things of this world are not free of ownership: 'For they are yours, O Lord, who love the living' (Wis 11:26). This is the basis of our conviction that, as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect." (Laudato Si', #89)*

*"Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society." (Laudato Si', #91)*

*"Ecology studies the relationship between living organisms and the environment in which they develop. This necessarily entails reflection and debate about the conditions required for the life and survival of society, and the honesty needed to question certain models of development, production and consumption. It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected." (Laudato Si', #138)*

*"[I]t is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred*

*space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values." (Laudato Si', #146)*

*"No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us." (Laudato Si', #205)*

*"The divine Persons are subsistent relations, and the world, created according to the divine model, is a web of relationships. Creatures tend towards God, and in turn it is proper to every living being to tend towards other things ... The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures." (Laudato Si', #240)*

*"Eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place" (Laudato Si', #243)*

## *Laudate Deum*

*"Some effects of the climate crisis are already irreversible, at least for several hundred years, such as the increase in the global temperature of the oceans, their acidification and the decrease of oxygen... This is one of the many signs that the other creatures of this world have stopped being our companions along the way and have become instead our victims." (Laudate Deum, #15)*

*"Artificial intelligence and the latest technological innovations start with the notion of a human being with no limits, whose abilities and possibilities can be infinitely expanded thanks to technology. In this way, the technocratic paradigm monstrously feeds upon itself." (Laudate Deum, #21)*

*"Contrary to this technocratic paradigm, we say that the world that surrounds us is not an object of exploitation, unbridled use and unlimited ambition." (Laudate Deum, #25)*

*"The Judaeo-Christian vision of the cosmos defends the unique and central value of the human being amid the marvellous concert of all God's creatures, but today we see ourselves forced to realize that it is only possible to sustain a 'situated anthropocentrism'. To recognize, in other words, that human life is incomprehensible and unsustainable without other creatures." (Laudate Deum, #67)*

*"We now know that creation can no longer be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting that we live in. Our duty to protect human life and the biblical injunction to care for the earth which we share with the rest of God's creation are closely entwined." (Catholic Bishops of Aotearora New Zealand, Te Kahu o e Ora: A Consistent Ethic of Life, p.2)*