An Overview of Laudato Si-
The Care of Our Common Home

Methodology: SEE, JUDGE, ACT
SEE- 1- P. Francis in Chap. 1 States “What is happening in our World”.

JUDGE- 2- Chap. 2 What Scripture tell us of God’s Plan.

Chap. 3- The ROOTS of the ecological crisis.

4- What Integral Ecology is.

ACT- 5- Lines of Action and

6- Ecological education and Spirituality.
• **SEE**—“Scientific studies indicate that most **global warming**...is due to the great concentration of **greenhouse gases**...released mainly as a result of **human activity**...based on the intense use of **fossil fuels**” (par. 23)
• **Some RESULTS** of the trapped heat are: the melting of the polar ice cap, rising *sea levels*, dry areas even drier, causing *droughts*, and wet areas even wetter, causing *flooding*, leading to massive *migrations*, insect and bacteria life moving into new areas, stronger *hurricanes* and more frequent *wildfires*. 
• **JUDGE** - Gen. 1, 28 “Be fertile, multiply, fill the earth and have **dominion** over it”. Gen. 2, 15
• “The Lord/Creator settled man to the garden of Eden to **till** and **protect it**”.

The true meaning of dominion is **stewardship**.
• Humans are cooperators with the Creator. God gave humans FREE WILL.

Damage to the environment begins when humans no longer acknowledge God’s plan and superimposes his will over that of God.
The ROOTS of the Ecological Crisis = \textbf{Anthropocentrism}. Human ingenuity has gained an impressive dominance over humanity and the whole world. (internet, nuclear)
- “Our technological development has NOT been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience.”

- P. Francis speaks of the TECHNOLOGICAL PARADIGM = a “mindset with no interest in balanced production and distribution of wealth- poverty solved by market forces.”
• We have a “super-development of a wasteful consumeristic kind” (109).
- NEEDED is a distinct way of looking at things a new lifestyle and spirituality- to slow down.

- Modernity is an excessive ANTHROPOCENTRISM.
“Life begins to crumble when instead of a cooperator man sets himself in place of God” (117).

“There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology” (118).

(P. Benedict XVI and the Dali Lama spoke of increasing exterior deserts due to the growth in interior deserts or lack of moral values and principles.)
- The **lack of values** leads to relativism, and a "*throwaway culture*"-

- to **deterioration** of the quality of human life and to poverty and eventually violence (147/49)/

- There is **NEED to heal all fundamental human relationships**: with the Creator, with ourselves, with others and with nature.
- Chap. IV treats of **INTEGRAL ECOLOGY** = All aspects of human life are inter-connected (like pieces of the same cake).

- “Protection of the environment is an integral part of the development process” (141).
- Mere **technological solutions** run
- the risk of attending to **symptoms**
- and not the underlying problems
- (giving an aspirin).

- **HUMAN ECOLOGY** implies a
- relationship between **human life**
- and the **moral law**- to prevent
- deterioration to human life and
- the environment.
• Humans need to accept our bodies as a GIFT from the Creator as are all creatures of our world.

• Thinking that we have absolute power over our bodies leads to thinking we have absolute power over all of creation.

• We are only STEWARDS, protectors and developers of God’s gifts of creation. (God is the OWNER we are not.)
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• Human Ecology is inseparable from the notion of the **COMMON GOOD** = the sum of all conditions necessary for humans to reach their fulfillment.
“Our contemporary lifestyle is unsustainable” (161)

• Justice between generations
• means:
• “Sustainable development is inseparable from intergenerational solidarity”.
• ACT- Chap. V- “Lines of Approach and Action”.
- “There is a growing consensus that our planet is a homeland and that humanity is one family living in a common home” (164).
• An inter-dependent world obliges us to think of one world with a common plan. A **global consensus** is essential. (Paris Accords style- the process has a 45 year history).

• We know that technology based on high polluting **fossil fuels** and coal need to be replaced with renewable energy. (McKibben- this is a fight and our target is big oil).
• “The lack of progress is due to nations putting national interests above the global common good”, Rio 2012. (169)
• “Industrialized nations who benefited most have a greater responsibility for finding solutions” (The Bolivian Bishops).

“It’s a repo from the humans. They couldn’t handle the maintenance.”

Bill Murphy, San Diego, Sept. 21
Nations helping each other are “primarily **ETHICAL** decisions, rooted in **SOLIDARITY** between all peoples” (170).

“The same (economic, political technological & transnational)

**MINDSET** stands in the way of reversing global warming and eliminating poverty” (175).
• “Unless citizens control political power nationally, regionally and municipally, it will not be possible to prevent damage to the environment” (179).

• “PROFIT cannot be the sole criterion (187) it cannot consider nature or the environment (190)”.

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• “Politics must not be subject to the Economy or the Economy subject to Technology.” (189)
• (Both need to include ethical values and dialogue to protect human life and the environment.)
• “Believers (80% of Americans) must live consonant with their faith” (194).
“Promoting sustainability is a good investment” (191).

“It is time to accept ‘decreased growth’ in some parts of the world” (P. Benedict XVI in 194).

Benedict XVI
Proposed “eliminating the structural causes of the dysfunctions of the world economy
• Chap. VI- “Ecological Education and Spirituality”.

• “We need EDUCATORS capable of developing an ethics of ecology aimed at creating an ‘ecological citizenship’” (210).

“To commit a crime against the natural world
Is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God”.
(Patriarch Bartolomew)

1,200 Billion Catholics
400 Million Orthodox Christians
• “If we can **overcome individualism** we will be able to develop a **different lifestyle**” (206) (COVID is teaching us that we can make lifestyle changes when motivated.)

• “A change in lifestyle could bring **pressure** on political, economic, social powers” (206).
• “Political institutions and the CHURCH are entrusted with helping raise people’s consciousness” (214) (Ramanathan).

• “Our efforts at education to promote a new way of thinking suggests an ‘ecological conversion’” (216).
• “What we all need is an ecological spirituality” (216).

• “Self-improvement by INDIVIDUALS also need COMMUNAL conversion to bring about lasting change” (219).
• “Christian spirituality requires moderation, simplicity” – “Live simply, so that others may simply live”.

Where do I start?
• SUNDAY (like the Jewish sabbath) is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, ourselves, others and with the world/the earth” (237).