

LIVING LAUDATO SI' TE KAWE I NGĀ TIKANGA LAUDATO SI'

POPE FRANCIS AND LAUDATO SI'

Catholic social teaching guides us in our daily actions and life choices. One of the most powerful and challenging letters in recent times was written by Pope Francis in 2015. *Laudato Si'* (translated as *Praise be to You*) calls us all to take action and care for our common home.

As we reflect on how people can show love and help others, let us be challenged to live out Laudato Si' every day!

Key Messages

- We are hurting our common home
- Everything is connected
- Change (ecological conversion) is required
- Indifference and selfishness are part of the problem
- Less is more
- The poor are disproportionately affected
- Ongoing discussions are required



When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship in union with them.

[#57] **TAKE TIME TO PRAISE OUR CREATOR**

The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. [#21] **FIND WAYS TO REDUCE WASTE**

Climate change is a global problem with serious implications, ... it represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity today. [#25]

RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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. [#211] **MAKE SMALL CHANGES TO CARE FOR CREATION**

The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognise any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves. [#6] **THINK OF OTHERS AND TRY NOT TO BE SELFISH**

All is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good. [#205] **HOLD ON TO JOY AND GIVE THANKS WHENEVER YOU CAN**

There is little in the way of clear awareness of problems which especially affect the excluded. Yet they are the majority of the planet's population, billions of people... Hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. [#49] **REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE EXCLUDED AND FORGOTTEN**

...the principle of the common good immediately becomes a summons to solidarity with the poorest of our brothers and sisters. [#158] **STAND UP AND HELP THE POOREST**



When media and the digital world become omnipresent, their influence can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously. [#47] **REFLECT ON HOW TECHNOLOGY IS USED AND HOW LIFE CAN BE KEPT SIMPLE**

Nature is filled with words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise, interminable and nerve-wracking distractions, or the cult of appearances? Many people today sense a profound imbalance which drives them to frenetic activity and makes them feel busy, in a constant hurry which in turn leads them to ride rough-shod over everything around them. [#225] **TAKE TIME TO LISTEN, REFLECT AND PRAY**



CHALLENGE FOR US TO CARE FOR CREATION AND LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE

HE WERO KI A TĀTOU KIA TIAKINA TE AOTŪROA KIA NOHO HEI TANGATA AROHA I TE AO

Y7-8

KEY CHALLENGE

Make changes to care and protect creation

★★★★★ Example - Sr Anne Sklenars and team

A recent Catholic Volunteer Overseas (CVO) with Caritas, Sr Anne Sklenars, ran a training course in Kiribati. After strong storm surges washed up huge piles of rubbish and plastic on the beach, she led a large group of youth to clean up the local environment.


Catholic Volunteers
Overseas



Why is it important?

Pope Francis explains why small daily actions and changes to protect creation are so important:

There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions... which directly and significantly affect the world around us... We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread. Furthermore, such actions can restore our sense of self-esteem; they can enable us to live more fully and to feel that life on earth is worthwhile. (#211-#212)

How can we do it?

At times it is easy to convince ourselves that we cannot make any impact where we live. We can dismiss our influence as insignificant and too small. Yet, if everyone did the same, nothing would ever happen! Mother Teresa reminds us that, 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.'

Some of these changes could be super small: 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, ... Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it... (#211)



LESSON OUTLINE ANGA AKORANGA

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will...

1. Understand the main messages of *Laudato Si'* and how they relate to their own daily actions
2. Develop a unique idea to care for creation through the inaugural Caritas Kaitiaki2Share competition



KARAKIA

Find a good location outside to sit with your class and encourage students to remain silent and soak up the beauty of God's creation. After a short time, you may wish to offer short prayers of praise or sing a song of praise to our creator.



SETTING THE SCENE

From previous lessons we have been reminded about the challenge of managing limited resources and the importance of the environment in places like West Papua, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. In 2015, Pope Francis wrote an encyclical called *Laudato Si'* to encourage all of us to care for creation. He challenged us all to make positive changes in the way we treat others and our planet.



VIEW

Watch [Laudato Si' Animation for Children](#) to again be reminded about the key messages of *Laudato Si'* at a basic level (this was part of the Solomon Island lesson previously).



ACTIVITY

Share the **Living Laudato Si'** page with students and ask them to highlight the three messages or quotes that speak to them. Get students to compare what they found to be important.



DISCUSSION

Discuss together how students are challenged to make changes in their own daily actions for the good of God's creation. Are these changes difficult?



VIEW

Watch the video [A Difference](#), created by students at Maeroa Intermediate in Hamilton, that went on to win the Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival Short Film in 2018. Are any of these options the small change that could be made by some members of the class? Read paragraph [#211](#) for ideas too. Share the example of **Sr Anne Sklenars** too.



REFLECTION

As you watched the video made by the Maeroa Intermediate students, did you think about what your class could do in a similar way – to use your talents and impart a message to other young people around the country?



DISCUSSION

Like for Ursula Rakova and her community, and the Huwala people of West Papua, the idea of creation extends beyond just the physical environment. Creation importantly encompasses the people as well. Get students to talk about what they imagine when they hear the word 'creation'.



VIEW

Watch the videos made by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), an American Caritas agency, that outline three of the key related CST principles that remind us that caring for creation includes both people and the natural environment. These principles include [Solidarity](#), [Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable](#) and [Stewardship \(Care for God's Creation\)](#).



ACTIVITY

Give out **Worksheet 23: Kaitiaki2Share** to encourage students to enter the inaugural Caritas Kaitiaki2Share competition. Students are challenged to come up with new fresh ways that we can care for creation. There are five possible formats for them to enter the competition.



DISCUSSION

Share thoughts and ideas based on the Kaitiaki2Share competition and the endless possibilities.



ACTION

Get students to write down a small change that they are committed to carry out for the future (to protect and care for creation). Challenge them to share this at home too and to see if their other family members are prepared to support them and even make their own changes too.

WORKSHEET 23 WHĀRANGI MAHI 23

Kaitiaki2Share

Starting this year, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is running a competition to find great practical ideas on how we can care for our planet. The Caritas **Kaitiaki2Share** competition will provide a platform for the greatest and most creative minds in our country (our young people) to come up with new fresh ways that we can care for creation. Check [online](#) for details about [prizes](#) and more.



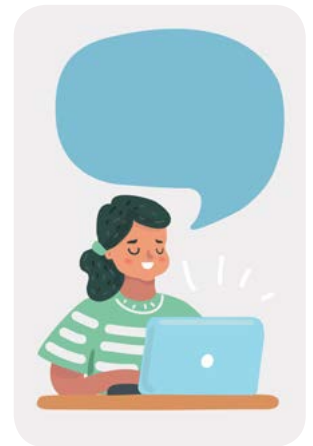
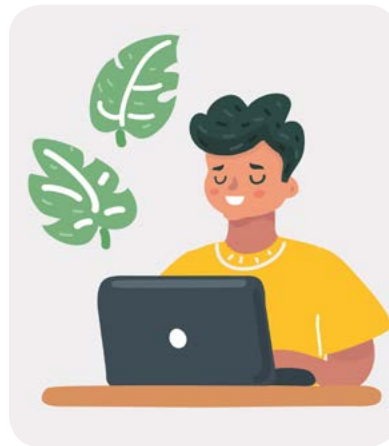
Design an ingenious plan

OR

Write an inspirational poem

OR

Craft a meaningful short story



Draw a clever diagram, image or piece of art

OR

Create a motivational video



All entries can be sent to education@caritas.org.nz before 15th May 2020.

The best entries will be shared on the Caritas website and go into the draw to win a prize.