

5. The situation is serious

Laudato Si' reiterates frequently the seriousness of the present ecological crisis and Pope Francis calls on all people to take urgent action.

Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, action, here and now. We need to reflect on our accountability before those who will have to endure the dire consequences... Our common home is being pillaged, laid waste and harmed with impunity... We cannot allow certain interests – interests which are global but not universal – to take over, to dominate states and international organizations, and to continue destroying creation. People and their movements are called to cry out, to mobilize and to demand – peacefully, but firmly – that appropriate and urgently-needed measures be taken. I ask you, in the name of God, to defend Mother Earth. [§161]

READING

When the full scope of the damage we live by is fully taken in, it is undeniably crushing. I think we've all felt a terrible sense of being frozen in the headlights of an unstoppable juggernaut that is the globalised coal- and oil-based military-industrial-media economy, along with its vast web of national corporate power relations, digital information, options, and gossip. It is greased equally by foreign wars and the seamless collusion of all who enjoy the comfortable living conditions and infinite distractions of the industrially developed countries of the world. All of us on board the juggernaut have chosen to live obliviously towards its immense destruction of the earth's natural capital. We have deregulated ferociously unrestrained corporate entities, licensing them to exploit the earth's "resources" without mercy, just as if they were limitless. (Murphy, 2016, p. 123)

Where is the urgency of the ecological crisis in our ministry and in your own community?

... you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.
James 4:13-14

Let's pray for the courage to accept the reality of the state of our Earth

For the commitment to speak up for change.
For the patience to take one step at a time.
For the hope to imagine a different future.
Help us Creator God, to lead the way through our actions toward ecological renewal and sustainability.
Amen.