

I came that you may have
life, and have it abundantly.

Jesus of Nazareth, *Gospel of John* 10:10



Laudato Si' and Creation Care for CBC Missionaries

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Marilyn Kott (Volunteer)
Commissioned by Christ
Laudato Si' Faith Group

CBCLaudatoSi@outlook.com

<https://www.cbc-missions.org/laudato-si-faith-group>

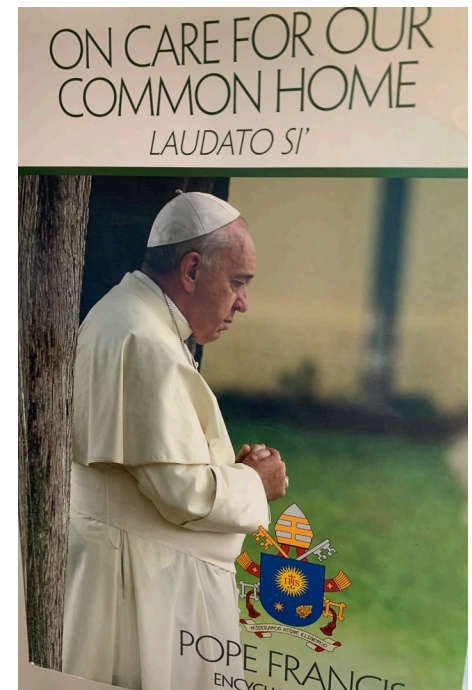
Creation Care

- Introduction
- What is Laudato Si'?
- Creation Care As a Faith Responsibility
- Creation Care in CBC, and on this Trip
- What Can Missionaries Do?
- Conclusion

What is Laudato Si'?

- Pope Francis, 2015, encyclical
- Church teaching on the environment
- Addressed to *all people of good will* to Care for Our Common Home
- Formal Catholic Teaching

Invites us into deeper relationship with God through everyone and everything that He created...



We Are Meant to Be Caretakers...



to “till and keep” the Garden

(Gen 2:15)

Requirement of Faith

Why should people of faith care about the environment?

- Respect, Love for the Creator
- Caring for
 - Other creatures
 - The Poor
 - Future generations

...Everything in Interconnected...

CBC Vietnam Mission Trip

Connecting Laudato Si' to Missionary Work

1. Opportunity to learn about our connection to our brothers and sisters in Vietnam and to the natural world there.
2. How does the natural world sustain the Vietnamese people? How do the people sustain the natural world?
3. What special environmental issues does Vietnam seem to face?
4. How does this relate to our Catholic faith?
5. What is your dream for the people of Vietnam?



CBC Vietnam Mission Trip

Issues Threatening all of Creation in Vietnam

1. Deforestation and soil degradation

- Logging, and slash-and-burn agricultural practices, overuse of chemicals, landfill management

2. Water Pollution

- Poor agricultural practices, as well as overfishing and sanitation, waste “leaching” from landfills

3. Overfishing, dams, poor fishery management

- Threaten marine life populations

4. Plastic Pollution

- 4th highest rate of plastic pollution in the world

5. Air pollution

- Urban industrialization and population migration are rapidly degrading environment in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

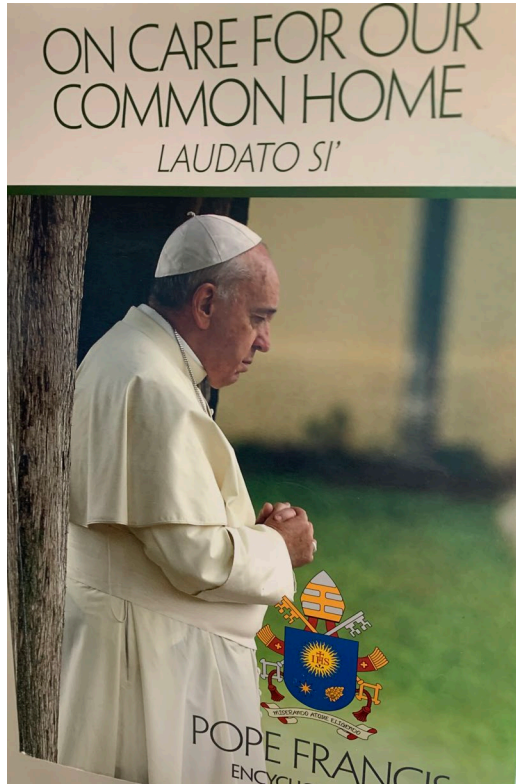
CBC Vietnam Mission Trip

Some Good News for Creation

1. Vietnam Govt “Decision 450” (June 2022)
 - Holistic approach, focuses on goals 2030 to 2050, envisions a “circular economy”
2. Positive Steps from other governments
 - US Gov (USAID), air, water, plastic solutions
3. NGO work, a sample
 - Conservation International (in the Greater Mekong)
4. Catholics responding to Laudato Si’
 - Caritas Da Lat, Laudato Si’ Movement

A Final Word...

LS's special appeal to modern society...



- **REDUCE CONSUMPTION**
 - “Stuff” is polluting our world and our hearts
- **LIVE SIMPLY**
 - Overcome the “throw-away” culture
- **RETURN TO GOD**
 - Resist the pull of consumerism



How can CBC Missionaries get involved?

- **Pray** in gratitude for everything God gives us, including our place in His Creation
- **Learn** what our faith has to say, and how our actions affect the environment and the poor
- **Act!** Remember that even small actions make a big difference
- **Advocate** – consider ways to encourage others to care for Creation

[Laudato Si Faith Group — Commissioned by Christ \(cbc-missions.org\)](https://www.cbc-missions.org/laudato-si-faith-group)

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4 proposed steps for action this week

1. **Pray** a rosary for all of Creation in Vietnam, and for God's help in caring for it.
2. **Take a walk** in the outdoors, and think about your friends in Vietnam doing the same. Notice the plants and animals. Notice the air and water. How are we connected to Vietnam through these beings?
3. Make a commitment to **remove one piece of single-use plastic** from your life, since this is a major problem in Vietnam.
4. Consider how you can answer Pope Francis' appeal for a **return to simplicity** as part of our Catholic faith.

God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good...



End

1. [Vietnam - The World Factbook \(cia.gov\)](https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/vietnam/#environment) https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/vietnam/#environment
2. [Addressing Environmental Pollution | Vietnam | U.S. Agency for International Development \(usaid.gov\)](https://www.usaid.gov/vietnam/addressing-environmental-pollution) https://www.usaid.gov/vietnam/addressing-environmental-pollution
3. [https://www.vietnam-briefing.com/news/vietnam-approves-long-term-strategy-on-environmental-protection-decision-450.html/#:~:text=Currently%2C%20Vietnam%20ranks%204th,to%20World%20Bank%20\(WB\).](https://www.vietnam-briefing.com/news/vietnam-approves-long-term-strategy-on-environmental-protection-decision-450.html/#:~:text=Currently%2C%20Vietnam%20ranks%204th,to%20World%20Bank%20(WB).)

1. Vietnam Govt: DECISION 450: [https://www.vietnam-briefing.com/news/vietnam-approves-long-term-strategy-on-environmental-protection-decision-450.html/#:~:text=Currently%2C%20Vietnam%20ranks%204th,to%20World%20Bank%20\(WB\).](https://www.vietnam-briefing.com/news/vietnam-approves-long-term-strategy-on-environmental-protection-decision-450.html/#:~:text=Currently%2C%20Vietnam%20ranks%204th,to%20World%20Bank%20(WB).)
2. Other govts (US, through USAID).
<https://www.usaid.gov/vietnam/addressing-environmental-pollution>
3. NGO, an example: Conservation International work in the Greater Mekong river area
<https://www.conservation.org/places/greater-Mekong>
4. Catholic work, Caritas International, Caritas Da Lat, Caritas Da Lat: <https://caritasvietnam.org/en/caritas-da-lat-lang-nghe-va-dap-lai-tieng-keu-cua-trai-dat-va-tieng-khoc-cua-nguoi-ngheo/> .
5. <https://laudatosimovement.org/>

Closing prayer – from St Francis of Assisi

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong, and no man is worthy to mention Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.

And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendour! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Cont'd...

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no living man can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.

Blessed are those who will find Your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.
Amen.

