Laudato Si’
“Birthing the Holy”

In the Care for Our Common Home and Our Domestic Church

Session 1 – “Praising the Lord!”

Christopher J. Renz, OP
Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology
OVERVIEW OF ADVENT RETREAT

Friday Evening
- Praising the Lord – an contextual overview of Laudato Si’
- An Integral Ecology - Theological and Spiritual Perspectives
  - Rights of indigenous peoples, of immigrants, and of the land

Saturday Morning
- Pilgrims Walking in Mystery
  - we are called to be “stewards of the mysteries”
  - our home is the Heavenly Jerusalem
- Christ Our Light! Thanks Be To God!
  connecting Catholic culture and worship
CONTINUITY AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grounded document both directly and indirectly in **continuity** (ressourcement) and **development** (aggiornamento) of teaching.

- Following John XIII, in *Pacem in Terris*, and the general call of Vatican II, to reach out to “every living person on this planet ... to enter into a **dialog with all people** about our common home” (n. 3).

- Employs methodology of “**see, judge, act**” used by John XXIII in *Mater et Magistra* (n. 236), adopted from Pius XII and Cardinal Joseph Cardijn.
CONTINUITY AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Dialog**
  - with brother bishops
  - with scientists, drawing upon “the best scientific research of today” to explore current ecological crisis (n. 15)
  - with other faith traditions

LS, n. 8-9
“...we need only take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair.

Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems”

LS, n. 61.
Nine Recurring Themes (N. 16)

- the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet
- the conviction that everything in the world is connected
- the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology
- the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress
- the value proper to each creature
- the human meaning of ecology
- the need for forthright and honest debate
- the serious responsibility of international and local policy
- the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle
Six Science Topics

- Pollution and Climate Change
  - Waste and the “throwaway culture”
  - Climate as a common good
- Water
- Loss of biodiversity
- Quality of Human Life and Breakdown of Society
- Global Inequality
- Lacking a culture needed to confront the present crisis
- Need dialog and transparency in decision-making, with a preferential option for the poor; problem of multi-national corporations
There is an “urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a frank dialog in the service of life, especially human life” (n. 189).

- reject a magical concept of the market (n. 190)
- Have serious thought for the real value of things, their significance for persons and cultures, and the concerns and needs of the poor.” (n. 190)
- redefine our notion of progress (n. 194)
We urgently need a humanism capable of bringing together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision.

Today, the analysis of environmental problems cannot be separated from the analysis of human, family, work-related and urban contexts, nor from how individuals relate to themselves, which leads in turn to how they relate to others and to the environment."

Laudato Si’, n. 141.
Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom you give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor; and bears a likeness of you, Most High.

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 whom you give sustenance to your creatures.

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

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

\[ E = mc^2 \]

Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs" (n.1)