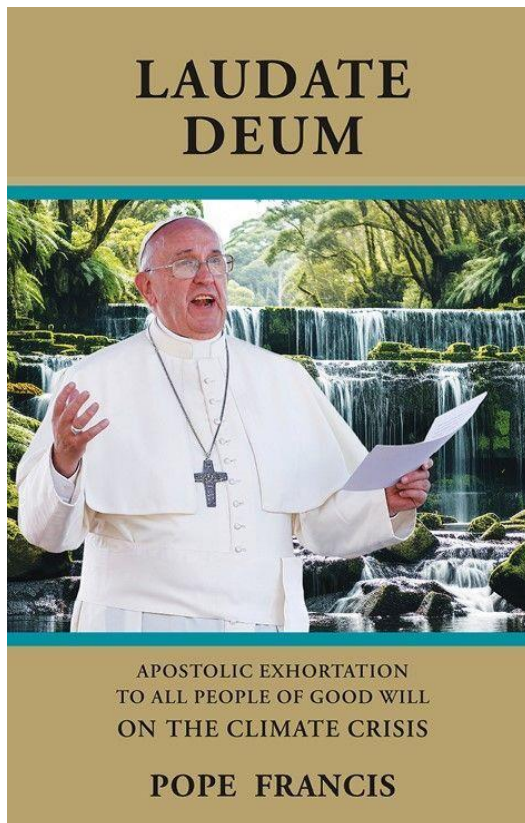


Apostolic Exhortation Laudate Deum (4 October 2023) by Pope Francis



Laudate Deum is an apostolic exhortation issued by Pope Francis on October 4, 2023, coinciding with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The title is Latin for "Praise God."

This document serves as a follow-up to Pope Francis's earlier encyclical, ***Laudato Si'*** (2015), which addressed the care of our "common home"—the Earth and the environment. *Laudate Deum* specifically focuses on the global climate crisis, warning that the world's response has been inadequate, even as the effects of climate change become increasingly severe and threaten both humanity and future generations.

Laudate Deum is an official Catholic Church document that urgently calls for real, collaborative, and swift action to tackle the climate crisis, emphasizing social justice and the preservation of the planet for present and future generations.

The main contributions of ***Laudate Deum*** to the climate crisis discourse are:

Urgent Call for Concrete, Timely Action: Building on *Laudato Si'*, *Laudate Deum* emphasizes that responses so far have been inadequate and calls for immediate, decisive action to mitigate worsening climate impacts, especially on vulnerable populations.

Moral and Spiritual Framing: It reiterates the climate crisis as a moral issue, urging all people of goodwill to recognize their responsibility in caring for creation, linking ecological care to human dignity and spiritual values.

Critique of Technocratic and Economic Models: The document critiques the dominant technocratic paradigm and profit-driven economic systems that prioritize short-term gains over the common good and environmental sustainability.

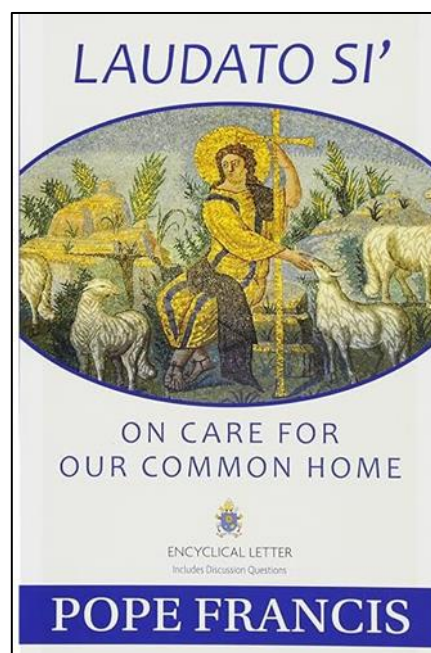
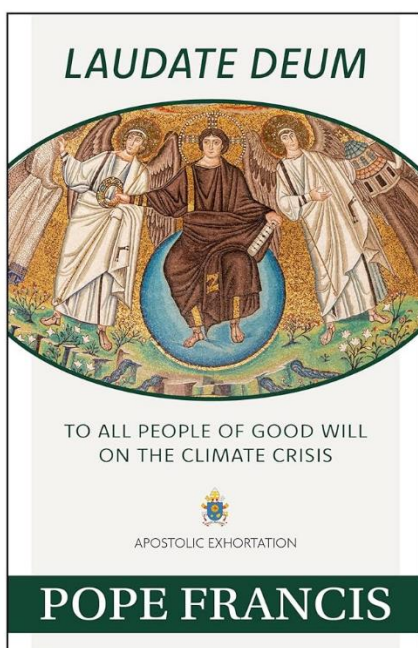
Highlighting the Failure of International Politics and Climate Conferences: Pope Francis sharply criticizes the weakness of international diplomacy and the failure of climate summits (COPs) to deliver sufficient commitments, urging that COP28 and future meetings must be turning points with real, enforceable outcomes.

Focus on Social and Environmental Justice: It stresses that the climate crisis disproportionately affects the poor, indigenous peoples, and future generations, calling for equity in climate action and accountability from developed countries.

Introduction of "Situated Anthropocentrism": The exhortation proposes a nuanced view of human centrality that recognizes humans as part of a universal family interconnected with all creatures, promoting respect and care for the whole ecosystem.

Encouragement of Collective Responsibility: It calls for broad societal engagement, including local communities and political leaders, to foster a culture of ecological stewardship and intergenerational justice.

In summary, ***Laudate Deum*** advances the Church's ecological teaching by stressing urgency, justice, systemic critique, and spiritual motivation, while demanding stronger political will and global cooperation to confront the climate crisis effectively.



Laudate Deum builds on the moral framework of ***Laudato Si'*** in several significant ways, deepening and expanding Pope Francis's integral ecological vision with renewed ethical and anthropological insights:

Reinforcement of Integral Ecology Rooted in Virtue Ethics: Both documents emphasize integral ecology, which connects care for the environment with social justice, the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity. ***Laudate Deum*** continues the ethical discourse of ***Laudato Si'*** by stressing the cultivation of ecological virtues—such as humility, responsibility, and care—that enable a genuine ecological conversion and lifestyle change away from aggressive consumption toward conscious stewardship.

Stronger Anthropological Foundations: ***Laudate Deum*** elaborates on the human role in creation by introducing the concept of “situated anthropocentrism,” acknowledging that while humans have a unique and central value, their life is deeply interconnected and unsustainable without other creatures. This nuance builds on ***Laudato Si'***'s emphasis on humans as part of a universal family linked by “unseen bonds,” fostering a sacred respect for all creation.

Moral Urgency and Clearer Call to Action: While ***Laudato Si'*** framed climate change as a moral crisis, ***Laudate Deum*** intensifies this by urging concrete, timely, and collective action, especially from those most responsible for emissions. It critiques climate denial more sharply and stresses the failure of political systems to act adequately, thus reinforcing the ethical imperative to protect vulnerable populations and future generations.

Integration of Social and Environmental Justice: Both documents link ecological care with social justice, but ***Laudate Deum*** more explicitly highlights the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on the poor, indigenous peoples, and youth. It calls for participatory approaches that empower marginalized communities, reinforcing the ethical principle that care for the environment is inseparable from care for human dignity.

Scriptural and Theological Continuity: ***Laudate Deum*** continues to draw from the Judeo-Christian tradition, emphasizing that care for creation flows from the Christian faith and the biblical vision of humans as stewards of God's creation. It deepens the spiritual motivation for ecological responsibility found in ***Laudato Si'***, inviting all people of goodwill to embrace this sacred duty.

In summary, ***Laudate Deum*** builds on ***Laudato Si'*** by reinforcing its integral ecological ethics, sharpening the moral urgency for action, expanding the anthropological understanding of humanity's place in creation, and deepening the connection between environmental stewardship and social justice—all grounded in a shared spiritual and moral vision. ***(created by the help of Perplexity AI)***

Resources:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2023/11/30/laudato-si-laudate-deum-pope-francis-246618>

<https://worldmissionmagazine.com/from-laudato-si-to-laudate-deum/>

<https://www.caritas.org.au/news/blog/explainer-laudate-deum-and-the-call-for-urgent-climate-action/>