



established 2005

FRANCISCAN SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

enriching Franciscan spirituality within schools



charism support



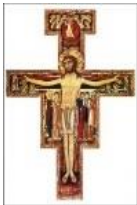
resources



connection

JUNE 2020 FSA Year of Conversion & the month devoted to Laudato si'

2020 invites us to be jubilant as we connect more deeply and spiritually to our Franciscan spirituality, to all FSA school communities and to our common home – planet Mother earth.



It has been five years since Pope Francis published his encyclical *Laudato si'*. During 2020 we are invited to reflect on and to take action.

Fr John Boyd-Bolan ofm writes about this in our first scholarly article for "FRANCISCAN VOICES" (see page 2)



from POPE FRANCIS

At the beginning of "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis explains why he chose St. Francis of Assisi's name when he was elected bishop of Rome: "I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast." (10)

Then he describes the ways in which St. Francis' life serves as his guide and inspiration: "He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his open heartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace." (10)

Sourced from EarthBeat [Digging Into Laudato Si'](#) feature series. [View the full series.](#)

REFLECTION

- Consider how St. Francis lived his life and how much inspiration Pope Francis draws from him. In what ways can you incorporate a greater consciousness for nature, the poor, society and peace into your life?
- What can you do right now to make a positive difference in the lives of others in your school community?

ACT

Enacting just policies in our schools, that forefront people and environments is necessary now more than ever. **Relook at yours.**

Understanding *Laudato si'*



View Fr Dan Horan's fourteen part series

Laudato si' - Chapter 1, Section 1: Pollution and Climate Change

In the first chapter of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis refers to "a throw away culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish." (LS22)

ACT: Global environmental protection agencies estimates that textile waste [occupies](#) nearly 5 percent of all landfill space. This month, shop for clothing at a consignment store instead of buying new. This might feel like an obstacle while we're social distancing, but you can find great online sites for browsing Australian secondhand clothes, including [The Closet](#) and [Mottainai](#).





FRANCISCAN VOICES – a distinctly Franciscan series of articles from Franciscan scholars around the globe, *exclusively for you from FSA.*



Franciscan Scholar:
Fr John Boyd-Bolan ofm
Holy Spirit Province, Aust

FSA is privileged to begin our **Franciscan Voices** series with John Boyd-Bolan ofm

Father John is a Franciscan Friar and currently the Chaplain at Padua College, Kedron, Queensland

[LINK](#).

He has been on the college staff for over 30 years, most notably as Rector.

Fr John has completed Doctoral studies at the Catholic University, Leuven and for 15 years taught at Yarra Theological Union in Melbourne.

LAUDATO SI

Pope Francis's stunning Encyclical has earned much deserved attention for its ringing declaration that climate change poses a real and present danger, and is caused "mainly as a result of human activity. (LS23) The text of the Pope's *Laudato Si'* though is far broader than that, with a wholesale condemnation of market fundamentalism. He critiques and indicts the global economic market for "plundering the Earth at the expense of the poor and of future generations."

The Encyclical grounds its teaching both in Scripture and in centuries of Catholic social teaching. It is consistent too with the Pope's apostolic exhortation "*Evangelii Gaudium*." Calling the earth our home, he sees our world today as more like an immense pile of filth. (LS21) We are perverting the earth and failing in our responsibility to care for God's creation. The reason, he says, is that we have made a god of the market and consumerism, and forgotten our responsibility to the common good. The desire of companies to maximise profit will hardly stop to reflect on the environmental damage that accompanies this obsessive quest. His critique of blatant capitalism is in the context of the damage it does not only to the environment but also human dignity, where so many in the developing world are exploited- with poor wages, and no protection in the work place.

The lessons of the financial crisis, that by the way hardly impacted Australia, the Pope says, has not been assimilated. "Whatever is fragile, like the environment, is defenceless before the interests of the deified market, which becomes the only rule." (LS33)

The Pope goes on to speak in positive terms about the concept of work. Work is mentioned in the Encyclical as a setting for rich personal growth, creativity, and planning for the future as we develop our talents and, live out our values. The goal "should be steady employment for everyone, no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning." (LS103)

Maybe as we climb out of this world wide pandemic, we might look again at the pitfalls of globalisation. We might ponder the profound challenge the Encyclical puts before us. That economic policy must be grounded on moral values, and measured in terms, not of how much money the few make, but the respect accorded rights of all, and the benefit if the environment.

DEAR FSA MEMBERS –

Farewell to Executive Officer Alison Stone who will be moving to Tasmania to take up a DP position. She will no longer be with FSA come June 2020.

For all your needs
CONTACT:
fsa@fsa.asn.au

Stained glass window at Greccio Sanctuary *A Stone*



FRANCISCAN SPIRIT

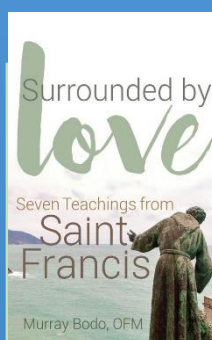


FRANCIS IS OUR MODEL FOR PEACE

Saint Francis began a new evangelization in his own time, not by trying to be social reformer. He simply loved Christ and lived the Gospel, and he and his brothers became thereby catalysts for social change. They became “Holy Fools” who turned the world upside down by simply living the truth of the Gospel of Christ. Like Francis and his brothers, we all can learn to love again, even in the midst of division and war. And the map Francis gave us for learning to love is the Gospel and his own life of following in the footsteps of Christ. This map has been summed up beautifully in his Peace Prayer, a prayer he did not write but certainly is the way he prayed and lived and taught by example. It is a prayer that outlines everything that made Francis the peacemaker that he was and the model for peace that he is for us today. It is a prayer that shows us how to find the truth again, if we’ve lost it, or to continue living in the truth we’ve already found and are trying to live.

— from [Surrounded by Love: Seven Teachings from Saint Francis](#) by Murray Bodo, OFM

Like what you have read above?



Find more inspiration
in this book by
Franciscan Friar & poet,
Murray Bodo
Franciscan Media

Laudato si' Prayer

(from the 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si*)

A prayer for our earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Did you know this prayer has been put to music?



See [link here](#).

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All schools should have received their invoice by email. We thank all schools for attending to this statement immediately. Your payment ensures FSA can power our mission to connect, resource and support our schools.



The FSA website is being updated. Please be patient as we work on behalf of all member schools.

