

WAKE UP THE WORLD! Reflections with Pope Francis

You are invited to prayerfully spend time with the following quotations and reflection questions and share your insights and these materials with others.

From *Laudato si': On care of our common home*

(O)ur common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us....

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor... (1-2)

From *The Joy of the Gospel*

It is essential to draw near to new forms of poverty and vulnerability, in which we are called to recognize the suffering Christ.... There are other weak and defenseless beings who are frequently at the mercy of economic interests or indiscriminate exploitation. I am speaking of creation as a whole.... God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement. (210, 215)



For reflection and discussion

- When have you personally experienced creation itself as poor and vulnerable? What feelings or actions did such experiences evoke in you?
- How does understanding Earth and all creation as “weak and defenseless,” “abandoned” and “maltreated” expand our understanding of our Christian identity and mission?
- What would it mean for us to “wake up” personally and societally to the pain of creation? To what transformation of mind, heart and relationships is our species now being called?