



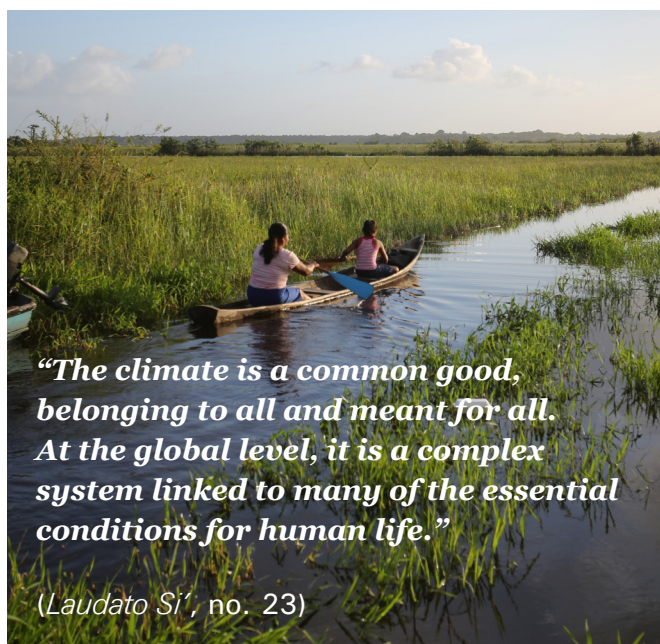
Fourth Sunday in Easter

Happy Earth Day!

Sunday, April 22, 2018

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis brings attention to our “throwaway culture,” which “quickly reduces things to rubbish” (no. 22). In your daily life, try to identify the ways in which you can choose reusables, rather than disposables, such as coffee mugs, reusable bags, or cloth napkins, and commit to making one change during this month.

Before and after meals, say a short prayer of thanksgiving for the lifegiving food that sustains and nourishes us. Briefly consider how all nourishment ultimately comes from the earth, and give thanks for all the human hands that helped bring this food to your table. May we recognize, as *Laudato Si'* has taught us, that this “moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life” (no. 227).



***“The climate is a common good,
belonging to all and meant for all.
At the global level, it is a complex
system linked to many of the essential
conditions for human life.”***

(Laudato Si', no. 23)

Prayer for the Care for Our Common Home

Father of all,
Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship--
with You,
with ourselves,
with one another,
and with creation.

Christ our Lord,
both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the human family
by recognizing that we are all connected—
to our brothers and sisters around the world,
to those in poverty impacted by environmental
devastation,
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,
giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all—
individuals and families,
communities of faith,
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in
poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may
together care for our common home.

Amen.