



Friday: Sharing Our Common Home

Keywords

Sharing Oppression Diakonia Ecological Conversion Laudato Si' Covenant Common Good Dialogue

The PowerPoint to accompany this lesson plan can be found at www.catholicschools.ie

What is *Laudato Si'* about?

Watch: <http://www.icatholic.ie/wp-content/video/?ID=35784>

Group Discussion:

In groups of no more than 4 students, discuss the following questions:

1. List concrete examples that illustrate Pope Francis' statement 'The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.'
2. Why do you think Pope Francis would state 'We are not God' in his Encyclical letter?

Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'* describes the world as a 'caress from God' and a 'gift from God'. *Laudato Si'* is calling us to action. And the biggest challenge for all of us is the challenge to 'examine our lifestyles.' What can we do to improve how we treat our world? How can I show those I share the world with, how I cared for the world and tried to protect it? Let us take a minute to examine *Laudato Si'* a little further.

Watch: <https://youtu.be/lcP5E2trsX4>

Think – Pair – Share

1. What alternative is offered to the burning of Fossil Fuels?
2. Explain the term 'Ecological Conversion'. Reflect on what makes an 'Ecological Conversion' a 'True Conversion'.
3. Do you think that viewing the world as a 'sister with whom we share life' changes how we would treat others and the world around us?

Reflective Exercise:

Having watched the short video and discussed the questions above, what do you understand by the term 'Conversion'. Try to work out the difference that a 'change of mind' can have versus a 'change of heart'.

The following video is called 'The Cry of the Earth'. It consists of quotes and images. While watching it, keep these quotes in your mind for the task that follows. This video requires us to respond to the beauty of the earth.

Watch: <https://youtu.be/32hNg6M3Z2c>





The following are the quotes found in the video:

'In the beginning God created the heavens & the earth and God said 'Let there be light' (Book of Genesis)

'I see his blood upon the rose, and in the stars the glory of his eyes, His body gleams amid eternal snows, His tears fall from the skies.' (Joseph Mary Plunkett)

'I see his face in every flower; The thunder and the singing of the birds, Are but the voice – and carven by his power, Rocks are his written words.' (Joseph Mary Plunkett)

'God saw that all God made was indeed very good. And God said: 'I now establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature on earth.' (The Book of Genesis)

'You love all that exist because your spirit is in all things.' (The Book of Wisdom)

'I draw to myself today, strength of Heaven, and glory of sun, brightness of moon, radiance of fire, swiftness of lightning, speed of wind, depth of the sea, stability of earth, firmness of rock ...' (St Patrick's Breastplate)

Task: Students are invited to divide into the following groups: Art, Poetry and Drama. Students are asked to choose one of the quotes that appeared on the video and respond to it through the medium of either art, poetry or drama. Once the task is completed, each group shares their work with the other groups in the class. If you had the time, you get allow classes to show their work to other classes within the school.

Extension Exercise

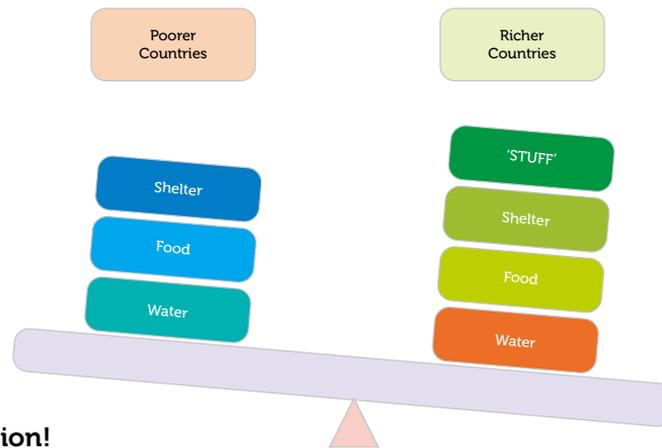
Take the quote from the Book of Wisdom. Investigate what this statement really means.

Stewardship

In the book of Genesis, we are told that God made us 'stewards' of his creation. This means that we have a responsibility both to the physical world, and to the people in it. We need to focus on the Common Good – that which is of benefit to us all. How can we say that we are caring for our common home in order to share it with others and with those in the future and have the following situation?



If this process continues, there will not be a Common Home to share!



This is called oppression!

Research Task:

Using the Trócaire website (www.Trocaire.org) research 'Climate Justice'. Prepare a digital presentation on Climate Justice. Begin by looking at the 'Activist Toolkit' and then divide into four groups or groups of two, covering one of the four following topics:

- (1) What is Climate Change?
- (2) What are the causes of Climate Change?;
- (3) What are the effects of Climate Change?;
- (4) What needs to change in Ireland with regard to Climate Change?

The toolkit is simply the starting point of your research. Please use a number of resources.

Numeracy Fact:

Vatican City has the most solar power installed per capita! (www.Trocaire.org)

Pope Francis makes some very challenging statements in this Encyclical that are not always easy to hear. One that is particularly challenging is that 'the world is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth'.

Discussion:

Do you think that environmental issues (e.g. climate change/loss of biodiversity) in our world are separate from social issues (e.g. poverty/human trafficking)?

Interdependence

Pope Francis says that we are 'interdependent'. Therefore, we rely on other people and we rely on the world around us. 'Interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan.' This is a very strong and challenging statement. If we are dependent on others, and dependent on the world around us, then we need to view our lives as a shared reality. We must make decisions, not just for ourselves ... but for others ... and for the world around us.



Watch: <https://youtu.be/4FdwZK6pL1M>

Think – Pair – Share:

Using a mind map, illustrate all the connections that John made when buying his corn. Once a pair have completed this task, turn to another pair and share your findings and see if you missed any!

A big part of interdependence is that, as Christians, we have been called to serve one another. The Greek word for this service is Diakonia. It is the kind of service that Jesus showed us through the washing of the disciples' feet.



Task:

Read Ephesians 4: 1-16. In order to become the Body of Christ, in what ways should we show service for others? Having reflected on the ways in which we show service to others, do you think this would be a good 'action plan' for working towards 'one world with a common plan'? Give reasons for your answer. Are there any ways of showing service that you could add to this list?

Numeracy Moments

1. If there are 100,000,000 different species on earth, and the extinction rate is 0.01% per year, how many different species become extinct each year?
2. It takes 1,000 years to grow 1 metre of peat. In some places peat can measure about 12 metres. Calculate how long it would take to grow this bog?
3. National Agricultural Statistics show how a honey bee decline from about 6 million hives in 1947 to 2.4 million hives in 2008. Calculate the percentage reduction of bee hives during this time? (statistics from www.greenpeace.com)
4. Of the 294 locations suitable for cultivating cacao in Ghana, only 10.5% of these will be suitable by the year 2050. Calculate the number of locations that will be suitable for cultivating cacao by 2050. (statistics from www.climate.gov)

Task:

Which to Save?

(taken from *Creating Future Resources*, www.Trocaire.org)

Imagine a gas had been released into the atmosphere that is deadly for seven different parts of nature. These parts of nature are: **Salmon, Rice Plants, Polar Bears, Bees, Irish Bogs, Coral Reefs** and **Cocoa Trees**. There is an antidote for the gas which will stop the gas killing these parts of nature. However, there is not enough of the antidote. You have to decide which part of nature should be saved.

SALMON	RICE PLANTS	POLAR BEARS	BEEES	IRISH BOGS	CORAL REEFS	COCOA TREES
Reasons for Saving						



Laudato Si' 202: 'We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone.' If we could see a common origin, have a sense of mutual belonging and think of the future as shared with everyone, we could achieve conversion – a change of attitude – which would lead to new attitudes and new possibilities of change for the better.

Reflective Exercise

Take a photo or pick an image that you would use as the front of a postcard. Address the postcard to your future grandchildren. Do not write any message on the postcard. The photograph/image needs to show that, in your life, you did your best to care for our common home and you want to share this with your grandchildren.

(Images: www.freeimages.co.uk)