

PRESENTER NOTES

This PowerPoint has been developed to raise awareness of the key messages of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si' (Praised Be): On the Care of our Common Home*, released on 18th June 2015. This Encyclical is a clarion call to all faithful and people of good will, to respond to the need to work towards greater ecological (environmental and human) justice.

The presentation is split into two sections: the first is a background on the key messages of the Encyclical, the calls to action, and how we can respond. The second is a prayer and reflection based on St Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of Creation* – the inspiration for the Encyclical's title.

Please note:

- There is a link to a video on one of the slides. You will need an internet connection to watch the video. It will open in a separate browser.
- This is a PowerPoint saved as PDF. To view like a PPT, open in View>Full Screen mode.

LAUDATO SI' (PRAISED BE TO YOU): ON THE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME



OUR COMMON HOME

Pope Francis has released a new Encyclical, entitled *Laudato Si': On the Care of Our Common Home*.

An encyclical is a letter circulated by the Pope to Catholic churches worldwide. It is also addressed to all people of good will.

Papal encyclicals provide analysis, in the light of the Gospel and of the Tradition of the Church, on relevant issues for the faithful.

"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." [14]

WHAT IS AN ENCYCLICAL?

= LONG 'LETTERS'
WRITTEN BY POPES
TO THE CHURCH
AND THE WORLD



<https://vimeo.com/131171122>

OUR COMMON HOME – CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD

There has always been a 'deep green streak' in Catholic teaching and spirituality. Pope Francis' encyclical is carrying this legacy forward to address the challenges we face in the 21st century.



OVERVIEW

The whole Encyclical captures the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental justice in building and protecting Our Common Home.

The Pope **highlights the ‘intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet’.**

Protecting the planet requires an integrated approach to **combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.**



Photo credit: Isabel Corthier, Caritas International, Belgium

SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

The encyclical:

- Accepts the scientific consensus that global warming and climate change are real, and
- That human activity is the root cause of this 'ecological crisis' (and therefore the solution also lies with us).

"We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it." [229]

SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

The encyclical also:

- Highlights the fact that the world's poor often bear the most severe consequences of climatic disruption
- Addresses climate change as a human rights issue: those who are the least responsible for carbon emissions are the most impacted, and therefore their rights and dignity need to be upheld through concerted efforts and action

"...hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" [49]

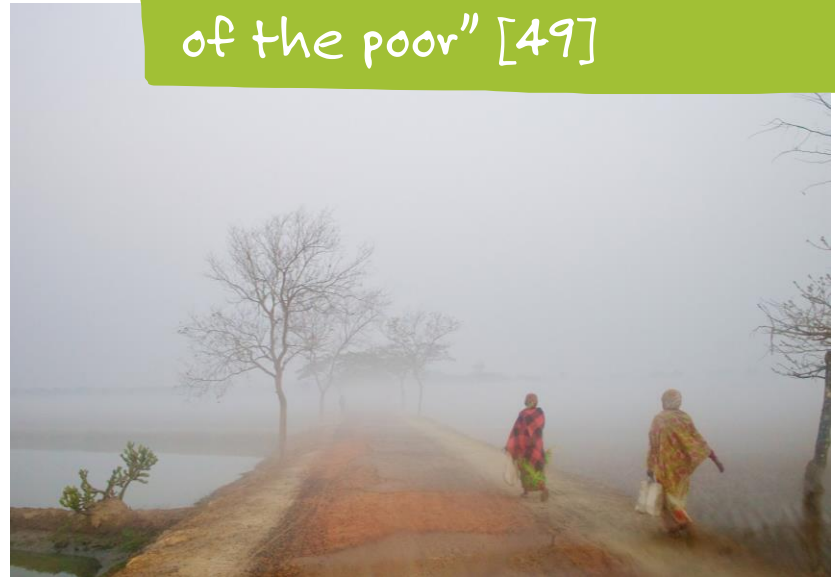


Photo credit: Richard Wainwright

THE CARITAS RESPONSE

The following few slides introduce three communities affected by climate change around the world: Gusto's in Bangladesh, Martina's in the Solomon Islands, and Rowan's in remote rural Australia.

They are stories of hope and resilience, which indicate how we are working with local partners to mitigate the effects of climate change through innovation and creativity.

BANGLADESH – CLEVER FARMING!

Before 2008, Gusto was a poor and landless farmer. His family did not have enough money to send their three children to school, and often there was not enough food to eat.

Gusto's village is one of the most vulnerable in the world to climate change – especially to rising sea levels, extreme river floods, more intense tropical cyclones and very high temperatures. This means farming is a risky business.



Photo credits: Richard Wainwright

BANGLADESH – CLEVER FARMING!

"[The Caritas program] has ensured my family's food security." Gusto

After joining the Caritas program in 2008, Gusto learnt new ways to protect his crops, like putting the vegetable beds higher up and using rice that can grow even in salty water (saline-resistant crops).

Gusto's family now has enough food for the whole year. He also teaches other people in his village the same skills he learnt.



Photo credit: Richard Wainwright



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SOLOMON ISLANDS- NURSERY RHYMES PROGRAM

Martina is a class teacher in West Honiara. She enjoys clapping and singing with the children in her classroom. She knows they are not only having fun, but also learning lifesaving skills.

Using well-known tunes and simple lyrics, children learn what to do in the event of potential disasters that face the Solomon Islands such as cyclones, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis.

The Disaster Risk Management Project trains teachers to help young children to learn strategies for keeping safe during disasters and emergencies, which often occur early in the morning when the children are at school.



Photo credits: Richard Wainwright

AUSTRALIA – ABORIGINAL CARBON FUND

Climate change is making Australia hotter, with more very hot days and with longer and more frequent heatwaves.

Australia's First Peoples are deeply connected to their traditional lands. But these lands are located in some of the hottest areas of the country. Rising temperatures have increased the risk of devastating bushfires.

Caritas is working with Rowan, who is from the Wondunna clan of the Badtjala people. He has set up the Aboriginal Carbon Fund.



Photo credits: Kowanyama Land Office

AUSTRALIA – ABORIGINAL CARBON FUND

Over the last 40,000 years, the traditional owners in Australia actively managed the land by making small fires in winter. This prevents very hot fires in winter. This prevents very hot late-season fires. They also only produce a little amount of carbon (greenhouse gases) that will go into the atmosphere.

By counting the amount of carbon saved, the Fund can sell carbon credits to reduce national carbon emission levels.



Photo credits: Kowanyama Land Office

AUSTRALIA – ABORIGINAL CARBON FUND

Over the last few years, this program has prevented the hot summer fires, and it has also had social benefits.

The Kowanyama project gets people out on country and gives them access to bush tucker and other resources. It gets families and clans together, and helps with maintaining traditional knowledge and a healthy lifestyle.

It provides for better management of country. And it strengthens people's connection with country.



Photo credits: Kowanyama Land Office

What
can we
do?



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CALL TO ACTION

This Encyclical calls for a change to the political landscape, but above all in individual hearts through the re-orientation of our lives and attitudes to live more simply and sustainably.

The focus is on the Common Good: that our responsibility as good stewards of creation is to care for our world and not 'steal' resources from future generations, or impact on our brothers and sisters around the world living in poverty.

"Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home." [13]



"Society, through non-governmental organisations and intermediate groups, must put pressure on governments to develop more rigorous regulations, procedures and controls."

[179]



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CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS

Pope Francis calls for a revolution of our hearts and minds, for a transformation of our societies and individual lifestyles, to live in harmony with God's creation.

He challenges 'the modern myth of unlimited material progress'.

He asks us to redefine our notion of progress and rethink our current public values which put financial and economic growth before ecology and the needs of the most vulnerable communities and people.

"If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society." [208]

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We should aim to choose simpler and more sustainable lifestyle choices.

For example, we can:

- Decrease the amount of waste we produce, and make sure to reduce, reuse, recycle
- Switch to renewable energy sources
- Consider taking public transport, car-pooling, walk, run, cycle...
- Plant trees
- Turn off lights when not in use

"There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions." [211]



Photo credits: Erin Johnson

TAKE ACTION: HEARTS 4 CLIMATE

Take part in Caritas Hearts 4 Climate to make your own personal pledge for climate justice and send a clear message to our Prime Minister that, out of love and compassion, you are asking for strong climate action.

Send a 'love letter for climate justice' to our PM.

Go to:

<http://www.caritas.org.au/act/our-common-home/hearts-4-climate>



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VIDEO – STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=177&v=gkD-x6Mk3AI>

Explore more at www.caritas.org.au/cst

"We are the first generation that can end poverty, and the last generation that can avoid the worst impacts of climate change."

- Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General



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PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Based on St Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of Creation" (also known as the "Canticle of the Sun" or "Canticle of Creatures"), and reflecting on the stories of hope and resilience from three of Caritas Australia's partner organisations.

The response is '**May you be praised**' (*Laudato Si*)

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord!
All praise is Yours, all glory, all honour, and all
blessing.





Be praised, my Lord,
through all Your
creatures, especially
through my lord
Brother Sun, who
brings the day; and You
give light through him.

And he is beautiful and
radiant in all his
splendour!

Of You, Most High, he
bears the likeness.



Today we reflect on our brothers and sisters around the world most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice, and particularly those who are already experiencing the effects of climate change.

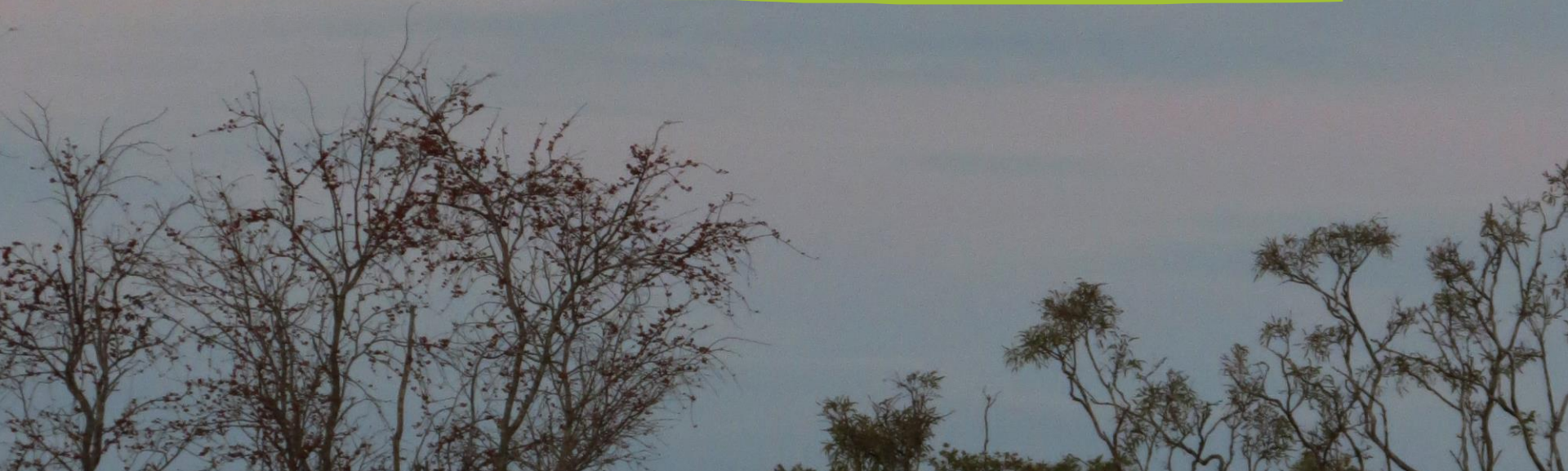


We give thanks for the stories of hope and resilience coming from the communities with whom Caritas Australia works. Communities like the ones in Bangladesh, Australia and the Solomon Islands, where people like Gusto, Rowan and Martina are working to mitigate the effects of climate change.

May you be praised.



Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon
and the stars; in the heavens You have
made them bright, precious and beautiful.



We give thanks for the ancient culture of the First Peoples of Australia, for their deep connection with, and respect for, the land, moon and stars;

May we humbly learn from their traditions as we work to care for your creation.

May you be praised.





Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through which You give Your creatures sustenance.



We give you thanks for Gusto's community in Bangladesh, which has rebuilt after the devastating cyclone Aila in 2009.



We give thanks that, with support from Caritas Australia, the community now has renewable fresh water supplies, and is using more sustainable practices that are renewing the local environment and protecting crops in the wake of future disasters.

May your name be praised.



Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.



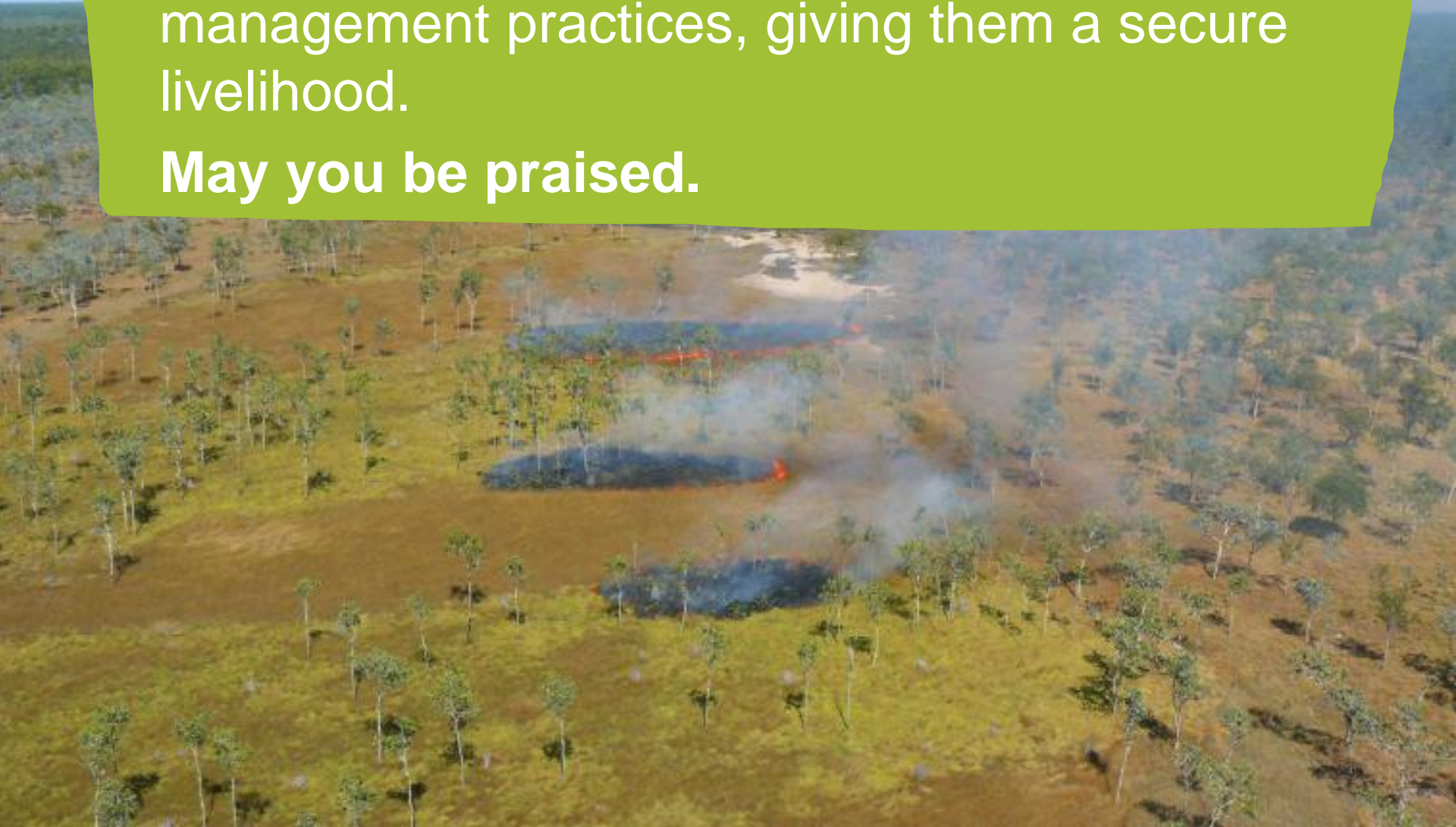
We thank you for communities in Bangladesh who have learnt new techniques that allow them to use the same fresh water to grow rice and farm fish in one field. **May you be praised.**

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You brighten the night. He is
beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and
strong.



We give thanks for communities in remote rural Australia, whose owners are now able to care for the land using traditional land management practices, giving them a secure livelihood.

May you be praised.



Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.



A photograph of a man and a woman working in a field. The man in the foreground is smiling and looking down at his work. He is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt and a striped dhoti. A dark cloth with red and white patterns is draped over his head. The woman in the background is wearing a purple sari with gold borders and is also working in the field. The field is filled with green plants, possibly cabbages or similar leafy vegetables. The background shows a hilly landscape with some trees and a clear sky.

We give thanks for the communities of Bangladesh living on fertile land most vulnerable to extreme weather. May their commitment and innovation in adapting to sustainable farming inspire us to renew our lives and use resources responsibly so all may benefit from the fruits of the earth.
May you be praised.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of You; through those who endure sickness and trial.

We recognise that the effects of climate change are already being felt around the world, and include growing risks to human health and livelihoods. We thank you that, through our actions, we can work towards climate justice.

May you be praised.





Happy are those who endure in peace, for by You, Most High, they will be crowned.



We give thanks for Martina and her community in the Solomon Islands as they teach children and families their nursery rhymes and songs to prepare for natural disasters.



May they grow in strength and resilience
and may we grow in our understanding of
how our actions are connected to the
wellbeing of our one global human family.
May you be praised.



Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve Him with great humility. **Amen.**

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Photo credits for prayer and reflection slides:
Caritas Australia, Richard Wainwright,
Kowanyama Land Office



The Catholic agency
for international aid
and development