

Catholic Charities Collection –August 30, 2020

Give to Change Lives

Our neighbors across Chicagoland who live in poverty have been especially burdened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since it has started, Catholic Charities has been there for them answering the most urgent requests.



Please give to the Catholic Charities collection on August 30, 2020 to feed, comfort, shelter, and care for the most vulnerable among us and to connect them to Catholic Charities' network of services that will guide them as they work through extraordinary challenges.

Domestic Violence Surges During Pandemic

Covid-19 has made life more dangerous for many already at risk. Financial crises, home confinement and prolonged stress have increased the frequency and intensity of domestic violence. The Illinois DV Hotline has reported that calls for help increased 50% in March, from 60 to 90 a day. Nationwide estimates of DV emergency calls to 911 range from 10% to 30% increase and even higher.



Those causing harm to their partners are under greater stress during the pandemic. Their behavior of power and control is exacerbated because social contacts and movement of both spouses are severely restricted. Victims lack freedom to talk to friends or confidants, not to mention calling for help. Sadly, child abuse has also increased because whole families are confined in close quarters day and night. Statistics of child abuse, however, are lower because, now out of school, children have less opportunity to seek help.

Let's recognize these challenges and call those we think might be suffering abuse in any way to express our willingness to help. If you know or suspect someone is a victim, please check on them! If they are in immediate need, help them call 911, the National DV Hotline: 800-799-7233, the Illinois DV Hotline: 877-863-6338, or a reputable domestic violence agency for help.

26 Key Quotes from Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment, *Laudato Si*

By ChurchPOP Editor – June 18, 2015



Pope Francis just released the second encyclical of his pontificate, [*Laudato Si*](#), on the importance of caring for the environment.

We recommend you read the whole thing. But until you have time for that, here are 26 key quotes to give you a sense of the main ideas:

1) The opening line, quoting St. Francis of Assisi

“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”.

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; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. (1-2)

2) Environmental destruction comes from the same evil that leads to social destruction: moral relativity

The social environment has also suffered damage. Both are ultimately due to the same evil: the notion that there are no indisputable truths to guide our lives, and hence human freedom is limitless. We have forgotten that “man is not only a freedom which he creates for himself. Man does not create himself. He is spirit and will, but also nature”. (6)

3) The Pope’s appeal to the world: we all must work together to protect our planet

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. [...]

Regrettably, many efforts to seek concrete ^{Text} solutions to the environmental crisis have proved ineffective, not only because of powerful opposition but also because of a more general lack of interest. Obstructionist attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. We require a new and universal solidarity. [...] 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)

To be continued...

Fr. Wayne Svida