Senior Summer Reading Assignment 2026
Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home - Pope Francis

(Questions taken from Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home Discussion Guide from the

Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development)

All seniors are to have read Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home by the first day of school.
Each student will submit handwritten notes to the study guide questions below to their English teacher
on the first day of school in the fall. (The book will be discussed and addressed in varying ways throughout the semester in your Religion and English classes).

Our Common Home

1. Pope Francis calls for dialogue that includes "everyone." Who should be included in the conversation who may currently not be? With whom are Catholics called to dialogue about the future of our common home?
2. The climate belongs to all and is meant for all, yet a disproportionate amount of the earth's resources are consumed by the United States and other wealthy countries. What does Pope Francis propose must happen in order to address this?

A Moral and Spiritual Issue

1. What does nature teach us about the Creator? Has your own experience of the created world helped you to pray or communicate with God?
2. When we fail to care for creation, what impact does this have on our relationship with ourselves,
others, God and the earth?
3. Reflecting on the Creation Story in Genesis 1:1-2:3, as well as other Scriptural passages that Pope Francis mentions in Chapter 1 of Laudato Si', how does Scripture call us to care for God's creation?

We Are Not God

1. How has the incorrect vision of humans' role in the world that Pope Francis describes in the quotes above contributed to many of the problems Pope Francis named in chapter 1, such as pollution, climate change, access to safe, drinkable water, loss of biodiversity, and global inequality?

Integral Ecology

1. Integral ecology links care for people and care for God's creation. How is our concern for our fellow human beings connected to our concern for the environment?
2. Pope Francis encourages us to listen both to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor (no. 49).
What happens when we are attuned to only one or the other?

Care for Persons in Poverty

1. Re-read paragraphs 25 to 31 and 48 to 52 of Laudato Si'. How are persons in poverty–who contribute to it the least–often impacted the worst by environmental devastation?

Creating A Culture of Solidarity, Encounter, and Relationship

1. As Pope Francis points out, we live in an interdependent world. What is our responsibility to other members of the human family, given this interdependence?

Climate Change

1. What are you observing locally or in other parts of the country or world that causes you to think about climate change?
2. What changes can we make to our lifestyles, production and consumption to better care for one another and creation?

A Time to Act–As Individuals and Communities

1. How can we encourage a serious dialogue in the Catholic community–in our parishes, schools, colleges, universities and other settings–-on the significant ethical dimensions of the environmental crisis?
2. What efforts are happening in our local community that individuals, families, and Catholic communities can participate in?

A Reason to Hope

1. In the face of vast challenges, why does our faith call us to hope?
2. How can we live out God's vision for healed and renewed relationships with God, self, and others and creation?