Responsible Joy, Genuine Praise

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Everything Is Connected: Reflections on "Home"  
5th Anniversary of Laudato Sí  
May 21, 2020
"My hope . . . is that we can move . . . to the establishment of operational consortia among our universities . . . [among these] a consortium focused on our shared concerns about global environmental degradation which affects more directly and painfully the lives of the poor, with a view to enabling a more sustainable future for our world."
Laudato Sí is the 296th Encyclical since Pope Benedict XIV recovered this form of papal communication in 1740.

Laudato Sí is the first encyclical to offer a sustained reflection on our relationship to the natural world and with that, a fresh appraisal of our relationship with ourselves, each other, and God.

The closest any previous encyclicals got to this topic were two commemorating St. Francis.

Auspicato Concessum  Leo XIII  1882  7th centenary of St. Francis’ birth
Rite Expiatris  Pius XI  1926  7th centenary of St. Francis’ death

Joy  Praise
The world is a joyful mystery” 12
But how responsible is our joy if our actions make “the earth, our home . . . look more and more like an immense pile of filth”? 21
“we must reject [the idea] that our being created in God’s image justifies absolute domination over other creatures; [there is] a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature.” 67

“Laudato sí, mi’ Signore” 1
But how genuine is our praise if “thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence” because of our actions? 33
“Other living beings have a value of their own In God’s eyes: by their mere existence they bless him and give him glory” 69
Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 24, 2020

Responsorial Psalm Verse 4 of Psalm 27:
One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to Dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, that I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate his temple.

Gospel Reading John 17:1-11
I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do . . . I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world.

Joy, with responsibility to nature

Praise, with all of nature
Healing Earth is a free access, online textbook in environmental science that combines ethical analysis, spiritual reflection, and a call to action — fully expressive of Pope Francis’ integral ecology.

April 2015

2010

“promote depth of thought and imagination”

2011

create a “living textbook” in environmental science and ethics
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