



Reflection on Laudato Si'

Rejoicing in all life with whom we share our planet

Our founding father, Saint John Baptist de La Salle had high ambitions for his schools. He wanted his schools to contribute to the construction of a fraternal world. Our moral science course addresses topics relevant to today's A-level students, matters they need to be aware of to become the next generation of great leaders our planet deserves. Without the practice of principles or virtues which lay down firm foundations for building character, there cannot be an integrated personality.

All living beings are marvelously inspiring and can teach us much about how to live, how to react, and how to cope, if we open our eyes. It is indisputable that all other animals (for we are but one) share our capacity for love, grief, joy, and pain. For these reasons "morality" demands a complete and total effort, involving and forming the whole human being. By its very nature it is each time and every moment a living act.

The alternative is a tragic spectacle of people working out their own imbalance and frustration on others.

Humanity continues to rule the Earth with an iron fist, taking whatever we desire from anyone and everyone powerless to defend themselves, including people of other colors and abilities. As a result of our collective behavior or meek silence, we face ongoing war and conflict, imminent global environmental deterioration and the extinction of many species and plants. Many tend to forget that we are surrounded by animals whose lives are interwoven with ours, billions of which are killed every year for human consumption after living confined in horrible conditions on factory farms and enduring untold extremes of suffering.

Our module "Our care for our common home", consists of 7 Laudato Si ecological themes, to which we added three. For we can adopt a sustainable lifestyle, empower communities, uplift economies ecologically, home the poor and the stray, and save all the energy we can, however **Unless we respond to the cry of the voiceless**, our call to protect the animals with whom we share our planet, many species will shrivel away; **Unless we lift up our hearts and raise our voices for peace** our Global leaders, "authorized" by corporate greed and military readiness, will continue to vouch for war; **And unless we grow ethical leaders**, human beings capable of realizing "leadership shifts", act on promises made and live by consensual action, aiming to transform humanity into a non-violent, just and fraternal society, we will miss our "second Ark of Noah".

The mind, when controlled, provides a reservoir of peace and generates abundant energy for human upliftment. It has the capacity to become the poise of the soul. Let us awaken our innate capacity to transform the physical, moral, mental and spiritual well-being of man as a whole: Let us rejoice in all life with whom we share our planet.

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