Pope Francis has spoken out strongly about ecology. His encyclical, *Laudato Si’* or “Praised Be”, is based on Catholic values and ideas. Following are excerpts from this encyclical, with citations included for your reference.

**The Problem**

“The earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor” (2)

**Policy and Political Leadership**

“True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good.” (178)

**Reality of the Problem and Necessity to Act**

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” (217)

**Your Action Matters**

“Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening in the world into our own personal suffering and thus discover what each of us can do about it.” (19) “Truly, much can be done!” (180)

“A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.” (202)

“There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions” (211)

**Consumerism**

“The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume.” (204)

“Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction.” (205)

**Climate Change**

“A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system...Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it.” (23)

“If present trends continue, this century may well witness extraordinary climate change and an unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequences for all of us.” (24)

**Living More Sustainably**

“Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or carpooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices.” (211)

**Ecology and Social Justice**

“We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged, and at the same time protecting nature”. (139)

**Sustainable Business**

“As long as production is increased...no one calculates the losses entailed in the desertification of the land, the harm done to biodiversity or the increased pollution. In a word, businesses profit by calculating and paying only a fraction of the costs involved.” (195)

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