NEW SERIES COMING SOON TO OUR FRANCISCAN ZOOM LECTURE SERIES

Laudato si' @10 YEARS

Four lectures commemorating the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' Laudato Si', an encyclical crafted to provide guidance on Earth's care.

CHRISTINA BAGAGLIO SLENTZ, PH.D.
October 12, 2023

KEITH DOUGLASS WARNER, PH.D., OFM
January 18, 2024

REGISTRATION:

FST.EDU/LAUDATO-SI-SERIES
7 PM PDT

For questions contact: Abigail Luna at 619-574-5806 or abigailLuna@fst.edu
October 12, 2023: A Catechesis of Laudato Si'
Christina Bagaglio Slentz, Ph.D.

Though “catechesis” is often associated with faith formation of children and youth, Laudato Si’ offers catechetical invitation to new and mature believers alike because this radical vision of integral human development introduces a complexity and scale of love for one’s neighbor unimagined in the pre-globalized world. This discussion presents three dimensions of Pope Francis’ second encyclical, which offer a powerful opportunity for revolutionizing the way we share the Gospel and invite people to such radical love. Taking a Franciscan approach, Laudato Si’ brings the Gospel to life, revealing the truth of the Living Word in the dynamics of creation, easily visible and accessible to all. Building upon this revelation, the encyclical compels us to action, offering a message of existential threat and prescribed Christian response that invites faith and reason into dialogue and awakens animation and transformation. Finally, the universality of Laudato Si’ encapsulates a consistent ethic of life in all forms, laying bare the gift of our cosmic interconnectedness and resulting in myriad pathways of caring for creation in response. Vital to this catechesis, Catholic institutions of higher learning must continue to refine related scientific and theological knowledge informing the pastoral work of Laudato Si’, distilling sophisticated phenomena into digestible formats, reducing perceptions of bias and politicization through quantitative analysis, and calling attention to the life-threatening consequences of failure to care for creation.

January 18, 2024: The Long Path of Renewal, Guided by Laudato Si'
Keith Douglass Warner, Ph.D. OFM

Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ calls for an integrated, spiritually-based approach to address the interlinked crises of global poverty and environmental catastrophes. Laudato Si’ has advanced Catholic social teaching about the environment, but has a more audacious scope than prior encyclicals: it calls for the cultural, educational, moral and religious renewal of all humanity. This is an important dimension of what Pope Francis means by “integral ecology,” especially for audiences outside of the Catholic Church. The ambition of its scope makes Laudato Si’ seem foreign or removed from the perspective of many ordinary Catholics, who for the most part remain disengaged from its call to action.

Laudato Si’ can best be presented to Catholics as a guide for evangelization, faith formation, and conversion in light of our planetary crises. Catholic audiences will be more likely to respond to its call to “the long path of renewal” if this can be presented in the context of a pilgrimage journey of renewal and conversion, as Laudato Si’s chapter 6 proposes.