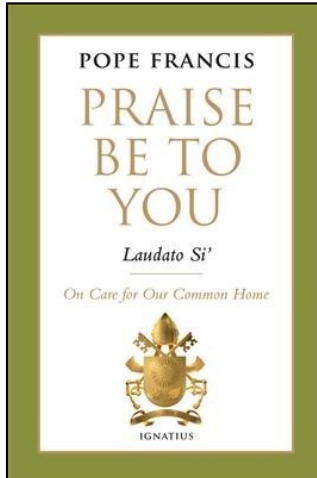


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Ignatius Press announces plans to release a deluxe, high quality hardcover keepsake edition of new encyclical by Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

San Francisco, June 18, 2015 – The earth is the common home of humanity. It is a gift from God. Yet man’s abuse of freedom threatens that home. In his encyclical *Praise Be to You (Laudato Si')*, Pope Francis challenges all people to praise God for his glorious creation and to work to safeguard her. **Ignatius Press** will release a high-quality, hardcover edition of this encyclical, available in early August, which can be pre-ordered now at www.OurCommonHome.net

The encyclical letter takes its name from St. Francis of Assisi’s *Canticle of the Creatures*, which depicts creation as “a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.”

“This sister,” Pope Francis declares, “now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.” He calls for an “integral ecology” based on what Pope St John Paul called an “ecological conversion” — a moral transformation linking the proper response to God for the gift of his creation to concern for justice, especially for the poor. He challenges people to understand ecology in terms of the right ordering of the fundamental relationships of the human person: with God, oneself, other people, and the rest of creation.

Francis examines such ecological concerns as pollution, waste, and what he calls “the throwaway culture.” Climate, he insists, is a common good to be protected. He explores the proper use of natural resources and notions such as sustainability from a Judeo-Christian perspective. The loss of biodiversity due to human activities, decline in the quality of life for many people, global inequality of resources, as well as concerns over consumerism and excessive individualism also threaten the good order of creation, writes Pope Francis. While valuing technology and invocation, he rejects efforts to repudiate the natural order, including the moral law inscribed in

human nature or to rely simply on science to solve ecological problems. Moral and spiritual resources are crucial, including openness to God's purpose for the world.

Expounding the biblical tradition regarding creation and redemption in Christ, Francis stresses man's subordination to God's plan and the universal communion of all creation. "Dominion", he maintains, means "responsible stewardship" rather than exploitation. He rejects treating creation as if it were "divine" and insists on the primacy of the human person in creation. He also explores the roots of the ecological crisis in man's abuse of technology, his self-centeredness and the rise of practical relativism. Without rejecting political changes, he implores people to change their hearts and their ways of life.

Popes Benedict XVI, St John Paul II, and Paul VI addressed key themes regarding stewardship of God's creation and justice in the world. But Pope Francis is the first to devote an entire encyclical to the subject.

About the Author

Pope Francis, formerly Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina, is the 266th Bishop of Rome. He is the first Latin American and the first Jesuit Pope. The author of numerous books, including *The Way of Humility*, *Choosing Life*, and *The Light of Faith*, Jorge Bergoglio was elected Pope in March, 2013.

Mark Brumley, President of Ignatius Press, and **Fr. Joseph Fessio, S.J.**, Editor-in-Chief of Ignatius Press, are available for interviews about this encyclical.

To set up an interview or to request a review copy, please contact:
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