

7. Solidarity: Working together for Earth

To save the world from ecological catastrophe, all people need to stand up and act. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls for dialogue and common action. He addresses the encyclical to 'every living person on this planet'.

The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. Dialogue among the various sciences is likewise needed, since each can tend to become enclosed in its own language, while specialization leads to a certain isolation and the absolutization of its own field of knowledge. This prevents us from confronting environmental problems effectively. An open and respectful dialogue is also needed between the various ecological movements, among which ideological conflicts are not infrequently encountered. The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue which demands patience, self-discipline and generosity, always keeping in mind that "realities are greater than ideas". [§201]

READING

As heirs to the biblical tradition, we believed that the planet belonged to us. We never understood that this continent had its own laws that needed to be obeyed and its own revelatory experience that needed to be understood. We have only recently considered the great community of life here.

The indigenous peoples of this continent tried to teach us the value of the land, but unfortunately we could not understand them, blinded as we were by our dreams of manifest destiny. Instead we were scandalised, because they insisted on living simply rather than working industriously. We desired to teach them our ways, never thinking that they could teach us theirs... we never saw ourselves as entering into a sacred land, a sacred space. We never experienced this land as they did – as a living presence not primarily to be used but to be revered and communed with. (Berry, 2016, p. 24)

*How can
your ministry
build solidarity in
the fight for
the Earth's
future?*

*Give ear, O
heavens, and I will
speak; let the earth hear the
words of my mouth May my
teaching drop like the rain, my
speech condense like the dew;
like gentle rain on grass, like
showers on new
growth.*

Deuteronomy 32:1-2

Let's pray together this vow from Active Hope

I vow to myself and each of you
To commit myself daily to the healing of our world
and the welfare of all beings.
To live on Earth more lightly and less violently
in the food, products and energy I consume.
To draw strength and guidance from the living Earth,
the ancestors, the future beings, and
my brothers and sisters of all species.
To support each other in our work for the world
and to ask for help when I feel the need.
To pursue a daily practice that clarifies my mind,
strengthens my heart and supports me
in observing these vows.
activehope.info/vows.html