

## Social Justice

### 7<sup>th</sup> Theme of Catholic Social Teaching: Care for God's Creation

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The Book of Genesis, the very first book in the Bible, tasks human beings with a responsibility for stewarding all of creation. Creation, in this sense, is the whole created world, Mother Earth and all of us, her children. In 2015, the late Pope Francis gifted us with an encyclical entitled: Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. Pope Francis penned words and wisdom to bring to the world's attention the imposing dangers of climate change which threaten our earth and our life as we know it. Since the publication of Laudato Si' there has been a concerted effort by environmental groups throughout the world to slow down and, in some cases, reverse the warming of the earth and the resulting harm that will come from it. Catholic Climate Covenant is one group in the United States that is raising awareness and providing support for Americans who are addressing these urgent issues. You can learn about Catholic Climate Covenant here: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Learn more about this theme of Catholic Social Teaching by viewing this video:  
CST 101: Care for Creation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSnXuCxiHXE>

### **Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching**

**Life and Dignity of the Human Person:** All people are sacred and have inherent dignity, regardless of their circumstances.

**Call to Family, Community, and Participation:** People are both social and sacred, and they realize their dignity in community.

**Rights and Responsibilities:** People have a right to life, food, shelter, healthcare, education, and employment.

**Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:** Society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members.

**The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:** Work is a gift from God, and workers have a right to decent wages, safe working conditions, and the right to join unions.

**Care for God's Creation:** People are stewards of the earth and each other.

**Solidarity:** People should work together to achieve the common good, especially for the poor and vulnerable.

