

Session 5

How can we keep making a difference?

We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread. Furthermore, such actions can restore our sense of self-esteem; they can enable us to live more fully and to feel that life on earth is worthwhile.

- Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 212

What are we learning?

In today's session, we will:

- Understand the role of faith in addressing climate change
- Discern what an ecological school could look like
- Respond with the progress of our projects as we live Laudato Si'

Today's prayer



Dear God,

All-powerful and ever-loving God, we thank you for the gift that is creation. We see your wonder and grace in everything from the smallest seed to the mightiest tree.

As we celebrate your beautiful creation, the Earth, fill us with hope and love as we cultivate a sustainable future through our work.

Praise be to you!

Amen

Activity: Imagining an Eco-School



- Imagine your school in 5 years winning an award for being the most environmentally friendly school in the country

What changes have taken place for your school to reach this achievement? Here are some areas to consider:

- Energy
- Food production
- Education
- Spirituality
- Transport
- School uniforms
- Technology
- Nature
- Waste and recycling

- Draw and label your eco-school- be as creative and colourful as you'd like!

Tip: Start small by imagining a classroom. Then, expand your ideas to the whole school.

Activity: Planning your presentation



- Report back on your progress since the last session

Since last session, we have...

- Is there anything you still need to complete to finish your project?

Next, we need to...

Who will do this task?

Deadline?

- Begin planning your presentation. Use the C.A.R.E. model to address the presentation's key questions.

<p><i>Consider</i></p> <p>What did you do to care for our common home?</p>	<p><i>Aim</i></p> <p>Why did you do it? Why is this topic important in your school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Link this to Laudato Si'
<p><i>Evaluate</i></p> <p>What will you do next? Think about the long-term impacts for your school</p>	<p><i>Respond</i></p> <p>How did you do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● What went well? Did you face any barriers/problems?

● Summarise your goals to achieve by the next session

By next session, we will...

Your notes...

Reflection: Faith and the climate



- Read this extract from *Laudato Si'*

"Science and religion, with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both.

Given the complexity of the ecological crisis and its multiple causes, we need to realise that the solutions will not emerge from just one way of interpreting and transforming reality. Respect must also be shown for the various cultural riches of different peoples, their art and poetry, their interior life and spirituality.

If we are truly concerned to develop an ecology capable of remedying the damage we have done, no branch of the sciences and no form of wisdom can be left out, and that includes religion and the language particular to it." (LS, 62-3)

- What is Pope Francis saying here? Summarise his argument in your own words.

- Reflect on the role of your beliefs in responding to climate change

- Is religion important in addressing climate change? Why/why not?