



**LAUDATO SI'  
WEEK 2023**



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame



 YouTube Originals

# **THE LETTER**

A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH

**WATCH NOW**

Resource Guide

# **THE LETTER**

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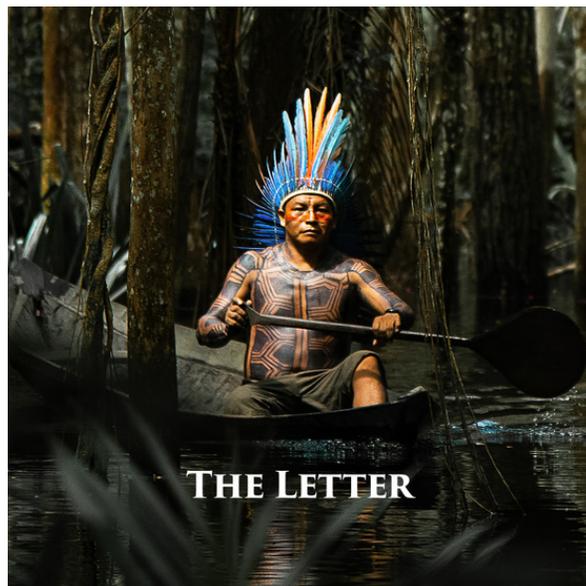
## About the film

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote *Laudato Si'*; an encyclical letter about the environmental crisis to every single person in the world. A few years later, four voices that have gone unheard in global conversations have been invited to an unprecedented dialogue with the Pope. Hailing from Senegal, the Amazon, India, and Hawaii, they bring perspective and solutions from the poor, the indigenous, the youth, and wildlife into a conversation with Pope Francis himself. This documentary follows their journey to Rome and the extraordinary experiences that took place there, and is packed with powerfully moving personal stories alongside the latest information about the planetary crisis and the toll it's taking on nature and people.

The film is 80 minutes long. Please note, the film does contain subtitles. Subtitles are available in English, Italian, Spanish, French and Portuguese.



*Laudato Si' encourages us to see how "everything is connected." The way we treat the Earth, our common home, is a reflection of how we treat each other. Caring for each other means caring for the home we share.*



## Before the Film

Before watching the film, take a moment for reflection or prayer. Read Scripture or a quotation from *Laudato Si'* aloud. If you are with others, ask them to reflect silently for one minute and then share how their faith has called them to attend this event.

You may want to consider readings such as "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28) or "We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth [cf. Gen 2:7]; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters." (*Laudato Si'*, 2)



Click here to watch  
**THE LETTER**



## After the Film

When the film is finished, sit quietly for one minute, reflecting on what you have seen and how you feel called to contribute to the better future we are building together. If you are with a group, you may consider offering the following quotation as a prompt for reflection:

“Whether believers or not, we agree today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone.”

(Laudato Si’, 93)

### Reflection prompts:

- How did the film make you feel? What is your key takeaway from the film?
- How does Catholic social teaching encourage us to take our personal contributions to the ecological crisis seriously?
- The film encourages us to take action. Why is taking action important?
- What actions can we as a community take to protect our common home?



# RESOURCES

## Websites

**The Letter:** <https://youtu.be/Rps9bs85BII>

**SSND Laudato Si' website:** <https://ssnd.org/shalom/laudato-si/>

- Atlantic-Midwest Province: <https://atlanticmidwest.org/laudato-si-congregation>
- Central Pacific Province: <https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/get-involved/laudato-si>
- Province of Africa: <https://africassnd.org/about-us/shalom/care-of-all-creation-laudato-si>

**Laudato Si' encyclical:**

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

**Laudato Si' Action Platform:** <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/about/>

**SSND commitment to Laudato Si':**

<https://gerhardinger.org/ministry/global/shalom-networkjpic/commitment-to-the-laudato-si-action-platform/>



# COMMON PRAYER

for the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

## Laudato Si'

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,  
You created us in your own image and made us  
stewards of all your creation.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land  
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home  
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to  
all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to  
preserve it.

May we help each person secure the food and  
resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,  
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being  
left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope  
and fraternity so that we may experience a true  
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the  
consequences of this global pandemic,

Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are  
needed in search of the common good,

Now more than ever may we feel that we are all  
interconnected and interdependent,

Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth  
and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more  
fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we  
make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

