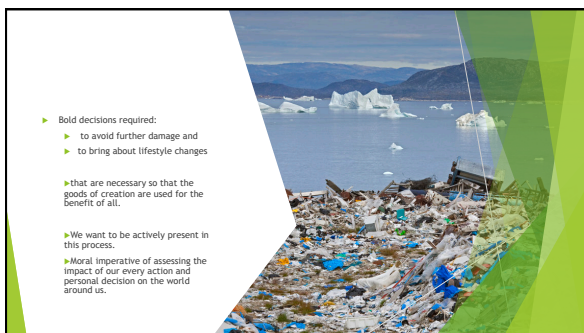


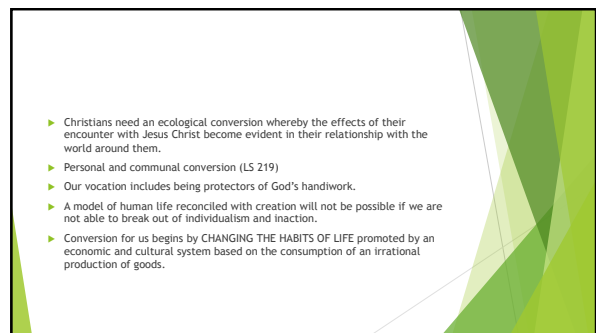
- ▶ We resolve, considering who we are and the means we have, **to collaborate with others in the construction of alternative models of life that are based on respect for creation and on a sustainable development capable of producing goods that, when justly distributed, ensure a decent life for all human beings on our planet.**
- ▶ This can inspire us on a daily basis



- ▶ Collaboration includes:
  - ▶ participating in efforts to analyse problems in depth; and
  - ▶ Promoting reflection and discernment that will guide us in making decisions that help to heal the wounds already inflicted on the delicate ecological balance.
  - ▶ Special care and concern for areas that are crucial for maintaining the natural equilibrium that makes life possible, such as the Amazon, the river basins of the Congo, India and Indonesia and the great extensions of open sea.
- ▶ **CARING FOR NATURE IN THIS WAY IS A FORM OF GENUINELY WORSHIPPING THE CREATIVE WORK OF GOD.**



- ▶ Bold decisions required:
  - ▶ to avoid further damage and
  - ▶ to bring about lifestyle changes
- ▶ that are necessary so that the goods of creation are used for the benefit of all.
- ▶ We want to be actively present in this process.
- ▶ Moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us.



- ▶ Christians need an ecological conversion whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them.
- ▶ Personal and communal conversion (LS 219)
- ▶ Our vocation includes being protectors of God's handiwork.
- ▶ A model of human life reconciled with creation will not be possible if we are not able to break out of individualism and inaction.
- ▶ Conversion for us begins by **CHANGING THE HABITS OF LIFE** promoted by an economic and cultural system based on the consumption of an irrational production of goods.

- ▶ Importance of gratitude - our home is God's dwelling place.
- ▶ Colossian 1:16 - All things have been created through him (Jesus) and for him.
- ▶ Greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving world's problems and offering ourselves to God (LS 220)
- ▶ Link between Contemplation on the Incarnation at the beginning of the Second Week and the Contemplation to Attain Love at the end of the Fourth Week - the sacramentality of creation.

**LIFE IS A GIFT,**  
and it offers us the  
**privilege, opportunity,**  
and **responsibility to give something**  
**back by becoming more.**

*— Anthony Robbins*

▶ Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to the sadness for what we lack. (LS 222)

▶ Each moment as a gift from God to be lived to the full (LS 226), how is God calling us to change?

Simple Reminders  
THE REMINDERS

### Laudato Si - What is happening to our Common Home

- ▶ Pollution, waster and the throwaway culture - LS 20-22
- ▶ Climate as a common good - LS23-26 - warming, model of development based on intensive use of fossil fuels, deforestation, impact on drinking water, acidification of oceans, destruction of ecosystems and extinction of part of biodiversity - NEED FOR CHANGES OF LIFESTYLE, PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION
- ▶ Need for new sources of renewable energy



- ▶ Water - LS 27-31 - fresh drinking water- lack of access and link to the poor especially in Africa. ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKABLE WATER IS A BASIC AND UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHT AS IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR HUMAN SURVIVAL. Also linked to cost of food.



**Laudato Si - What is happening to our Common Home**

- ▶ Loss of biodiversity - LS 32-42
  - ▶ Loss of forests, some species face extinction
  - ▶ Need for creation of biological corridors
- ▶ Connection between creatures - all connected - need further research to more fully understand the functioning of ecosystems



- ▶ Decline in the quality of human life and the breakdown of society
  - ▶ Challenges of city life especially mega cities (see LS 148-152)
  - ▶ Effects of technological innovation on employment, social exclusion, inequitable distribution and consumption of energy and other services.



- ▶ Global Inequality - LS 48
  - ▶ Deterioration of the environment and society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet
  - ▶ Many professionals, opinion makers and centres of power are far removed from the poor and have little direct contact with them
  - ▶ Inequalities between global north and south - a true ecological debt exists - different countries have different responsibilities in responding to this grace situation

**A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach - it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear not only the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Seek to live together in a more universal communion**

Summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters - LS 158

The world is a gift that we have freely received and must share with others - LS 159 - Responsibility for the present and for future generations.

Called to be stewards of the earth who care and nurture it, rather than exercise reckless dominion over it - LS 116,118.

## Pope Francis and Laudato Si

- Invitation to all people of the world to enter more fully into dialogue - LS 3:14, 60, 64, 189, 201
- There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle - LS 211
- Examples from Laudato Si (211) include:
  - Avoiding the use of plastic and paper
  - Reducing water consumption
  - Separating refuse
  - Cooking only what can reasonably be consumed
  - Showing care for other living beings
  - Using public transport or carpooling
  - Planting trees
  - Turning off unnecessary lights

## Some other suggestions - RWC - Australian Province

- Installation of rooftop solar panels and rainwater tanks esp for garden/toilets
- Installing building insulation including ceilings, more efficient light globes, water efficient taps;
- Use of E10 and biofuels, greater use of public transport;
- Only buying recycled paper, reducing use of paper
- Reducing bottled water use



Example of our quality steel round tank (example only - not specific made)


- Only buying electricity from renewable sources
- Divestment from fossil fuel investments, ethical investing
- JCAP Flights for Forest Initiative - offset emissions
- Environmentally sustainable design new buildings and refurbishment using sustainable materials



## Further needs




- Further development of prayer/liturgy resources for ecological conversion
- Need for further conversation and formation - how do we hold together different voices and perspectives



- ▶ Ministries have responded to Caring for our Common Home in more concrete ways than Jesuit communities where they has been minimal conversation
- ▶ Main commitments: reducing water, reducing energy use within buildings, offsetting the impact of flights and using ethical suppliers.
- ▶ Strong culture of recycling but not necessarily to composting;
- ▶ Mixed responses to public transport use - perhaps a reflection of Province age profile;
- ▶ Low level commitment to environmental education, facilitating ecological conversation and sustainable land use.
- ▶ The Society does not own all of the buildings our communities live in, many of our community residences are over 100 years old.

### Ecological education - Laudato Si



- ▶ Can take place in a variety of settings - at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere (LS 213)
- ▶ Importance of the family as the heart of the culture of life.
- ▶ Political institutions and other social groups including the Church entrusted to raise people's awareness (LS 214).
  - ▶ Simplicity of life
  - ▶ Grateful contemplation of God's world
  - ▶ Concern for the needs of the poor
  - ▶ Protection of the environment
- ▶ Need a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature - challenge the paradigm of consumerism