



LAUDATE DEUM

Pope Francis' recent ecological teaching, *Laudate Deum*, calls for an urgent rethinking of our relationship with nature. Building on the foundation laid by *Laudato Si'*, eight years ago, he concedes that our efforts have been insufficient as the *"world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point."*

Francis critiques the prevailing mindset that views nature as a backdrop for human exploitation and limitless ambition. He emphasizes that *"we are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it,"* and thus *'we [do] not look at the world from without but from within'.*

This statement underscores a profound truth: we are not simply stewards or guardians of nature; **we are nature, protecting itself.**


This shifts us from an anthropocentric worldview – where nature is exploited for profit – to a holistic perspective that recognizes nature as a living entity, deserving of rights, respect, and protection.

At the core of planetary health and human survival is biodiversity. Nature isn't just scenery; it is the bedrock of our existence, providing a stable climate, clean water, breathable air, fertile soil for food, and resilience against disasters. The biodiversity we see today is the fruit of billions of years of evolution. It forms the web of life of which we are an integral part and upon which we so fully depend.

Yet, due to reckless human activities, biodiversity is experiencing alarming rates of species extinction and ecosystem degradation. The main culprits behind this biodiversity loss include land and sea-use change, invasive species, climate change, resource overexploitation, and pollution. In Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada is currently developing a National Biodiversity Strategy, which aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

To advocate for Mother Earth's rights in Canada's upcoming National Biodiversity Strategy, sign the petition: www.sierraclub.ca

Now is the moment for collective action. Pope Francis implores us all to take responsibility for safeguarding nature for the next generations. He advocates for a new ecological consciousness that influences policymakers and governments to ensure a sustainable future for all beings.



**The world sings of
an infinite Love:
how can we fail to
care for it?**

(LD, 65)

Think about the idea that nature is part of you ... and that it sings “of an infinite Love” ...

How does this shape your understanding of our collective responsibility to care for life on this planet?

Column by: Yolande Whalen (Justice Coordinator)