

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/19/world/europe/pope-francis-in-sweeping-encyclical-calls-for-swift-action-on-climate-change.html>

NY Times

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Comments to "Pope Francis, in Sweeping Encyclical, Calls for Swift Action on Climate Change"

Dan Gordon

Eliot, Maine [4 hours ago](#)

I may not believe in God, but I do believe in Pope Francis. I believe in his willingness to accept the truths of science. I believe in his compassion for the suffering of poor humans and innumerable voiceless species. I believe in his courage to speak truth to the evil, glutinous, profit driven power brokers of the world. And I believe in his wisdom above all. Our one world, our Garden of Eden is under assault as never before and his riveting pronouncement is awakening us to action.

NYT Pick



Curt

Cleveland, Ohio [4 hours ago](#)

This is what Christian (not just Catholic) theology should be. The Christ described by the Bible advocated all of the best things in human relationships: love, forgiveness, responsibility, charity, and humility. (The only time Jesus did anything remotely violent was against the money changers in a temple... perhaps not a fan of bankers?) Pope Francis really gets "it" and is a reason for hope in a very messed-up world.



Socrates

Verona, N.J. [4 hours ago](#)

“Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.”

Once again, Pope Francis leads as he effortlessly blends the religious command to steward the Earth with reason and logic.

Let's see if our pathetically pretzeled plutocratic and propagandist right-wing can wake up and smell reality before they toast us all into their environmental end times.

NYT Pick

sophia

bangor, maine [4 hours ago](#)

I am not Catholic but I am so grateful for Pope Francis. His leadership might just change this world. We're on the precipice, we humans, and we must back now, our toes are hanging over the cliff and we are very wobbly and ready to fall. Something must be done fast and I love this man for trying. This practice of unlimited 'dominion over' the earth must end.

Pope Francis is a true disciple of the great teacher, Yeshua, who said, 'Love your neighbor as yourself', a simple declaration that is extremely difficult for humans to follow. But this Pope is trying. He is, simply, a great man. Long may he live, showing us the way. He has many enemies. I hope he stays safe and alive for a good long time so that he can keep teaching us. We need him.



Tom

is a trusted commenter [Midwest 5 hours ago](#)

Good for the Pope but I doubt any of the Catholic Republican presidential candidates will support him on this issue but on the other hand, they will definitely proclaim their religious ties when it comes to social issues, trying to have it both ways.

NYT Pick

Kathryn Maes

Denver, CO [4 hours ago](#)

Anyone who knows anything about Catholic Social Teaching could see this coming. We are simply Stewards of this planet, not owners! He is a true Jesuit who uses all his mind, heart, learning and faith to formulate his thoughts, beliefs and union with God. Bravo, Pope Francis, you have done it again, giving everyone so much to consider and to make the changes we so desperately need to help preserve this planet and to fulfill our responsibility to care for the poor and vulnerable.

marian

Philadelphia [4 hours ago](#)

I applaud Pope Francis on his stance on global warming and the environment. He is also smart enough to know that overpopulation as well as consumption of coal/fossil fuels is a major contributor to environmental catastrophe on all levels.

At some point, hopefully, before it's too late which it may already be, the Catholic Church needs to ease restrictions on birth control and encourage global family planning and smaller families. I don't expect the Church to approve of abortion, but easy access to effective birth control in all countries would be the best long term solution for climate change. Recycling and switching to efficient light bulbs just isn't going to cut it.

JW Mathews

Cincinnati, OH [4 hours ago](#)

Rick Santorum and his ilk won't like it, but Pope Francis lays out a perfectly truthful damnation of some in our societies who plunder, loot and deface our planet for personal gain. Science is clear on the danger of climate change. Only fools and pandering politicians deny it.

We'll read about condemnation of the Holy Father, but he is a scientist as well with a Master's Degree in Chemistry. Thank you Holy Father for your thoughtful guidance.

RH

Georgia [4 hours ago](#)

For all of our politicians who love to wear their religion on their sleeve, take note. You are being called to account.

Wrighter

Brooklyn [4 hours ago](#)

As a agnostic christian-leaning liberal I continue to be thoroughly impressed with Pope Francis and praise his efforts to make a stand against those who would seek to destroy this planet either for profit or political gain. To politicize environmental awareness and conservation is, to me, abhorrent and goes directly in the face of logic, reason and compassion. I am greatly looking forward to seeing how the presidential candidates from a certain party will continue to respond and affirm their faith in the church while at the same time refuting the man who is supposed to be their spiritual leader. The true colors will out.

NYT Pick

JimR

New York City [4 hours ago](#)

Conservative criticism of the Pope's position (waiting to pounce on this encyclical before its release) is poorly stated and plain wrong. This Pope in fact has a science

background and is a member of the Catholic clergy intellectual elite. He fully understands what the issues are. Further, in scripture, God gave Man dominion over the earth and its creatures. This phrase has been used to justify actions of the exact opposite. Humans are killing the creation. Instead, we have been behaving like an invasive specie. If this is not the highest human and spiritual concern, I don't know what is.

Jim O'Leary

New York [4 hours ago](#)

As an atheist, I have generally found reason to disagree with the traditional teaching of the Popes on abortion, contraception etc. But for the first time, I agree with his every word. Why his it taken so long for the Catholic church to wade in to this debate on climate change when caring for the poor and underprivileged is 'at the core of the church's teaching'.

This encyclical removes the cover from those conservatives who've been using the catholic church as a mantle. Denier in Chief James Inhofe, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee famously said 'The arrogance of people to think that we, human beings, would be able to change what He is doing in the climate is to me outrageous'. How he plans to 'square ' his interpretation of God's wishes with those of the Pope will be intriguing. Meanwhile, Rick Santorum's message to the Pope, "leave science to the scientists" is plain duplicitous. Mr Santorum would be the first to slam the door in the face of the first scientist who opposed his views on this subject.

Yesterday, Pope Francis cracked the lid on Pandora's Box. When he speaks in front of a joint session of Congress in the fall, he'll fling it wide open. I for one can't wait.

NYT Pick

Susan

New York, NY [4 hours ago](#)

Pope Francis should revisit the RCC's rules on birth control. If he doesn't believe over-population is part of the cause of climate change, then anything he says is meaningless.



Mal Adapted

Oregon [4 hours ago](#)

From the article: "he chastises those who cite Genesis as evidence that man has 'dominion' over earth and therefore an unlimited right to its resources."

Pope Francis's encyclical has enormous historical importance. In 1967, the historian Lynn White published a famous paper titled "The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis" in Science, the flagship journal of the American scientific establishment. It's

considered a founding document of modern Environmentalism. White's paper traced the cause of the accelerating degradation of the Earth's natural systems, which many in the developed world were then becoming aware of, to the belief in 'dominion' that Pope Francis cited in his Encyclical.

Now the Pope has acknowledged that "incorrect interpretations" of the founding document of his faith have justified the destruction of nature. Millions of his followers will be jarred out of their complacency, and recognize that material prosperity is not a God-given right, but that its full costs must be paid.

Science can tell us why things are the way they are, and what is likely to happen in the future, but it can't tell us why we should care. Now Roman Catholics have been told they **must** care. Perhaps it will turn the tide at last.

Arky Robbins

San Miguel de Allende, Mexico [4 hours ago](#)

As an atheist I am moved by the brilliant statement from Pope Francis. This is the bravest, most insightful and honest statement I have heard from any international figure and I only hope that his voice and conscience will be heard loud and clear by the self serving corporate capitalists and greedy others who are willing to sacrifice any and all future good on behalf of short term gain. Pope Francis is doing more for the good of humanity, in the true sense of his religion, and we greatly respect, if not worship him for it.

Mark Crozier

Free world [3 hours ago](#)

The bottom line is that climate change is above politics. This earth is all we have, it is our one and only home for now and always. It is our absolute moral duty to take care of it - ALL of it, oceans included - and also to ensure that not ONE more species is allowed to become extinct due to human behaviour. With all our knowledge, all of our technology, if we cannot do this, then we are truly a failure as a species. I am heartened that this Pope is such a visionary, if only our political leaders were equally able to speak with such clarity and without being encumbered by all the vested interests that have retarded progress on this issue. NOW is the time, we cannot afford to waste another minute debating this issue!

Sarah

Arlington, VA [4 hours ago](#)

"Bishops and priests around the world are expected to lead discussions on the encyclical in services on Sunday".

I hope that Jeb Bush and the new wunderkind of the Republicans, Marco Rubio, don't skip mass on Sunday in exchange for suddenly planned fund raisers.

John Edlmann

Arlington VA [4 hours ago](#)

A brave and wonderful human being, thank you Pope Francis.

**Clyde Wynant**

is a trusted commenter Pittsburgh [3 hours ago](#)

Note to The Pope; if your current job doesn't work out for any reason, please consider jumping into the U. S. Presidential race...

**Susan Anderson**

is a trusted commenter Boston [4 hours ago](#)

Pope Francis has the heart to speak from love. The common humanity that binds us is our best hope. Hatred and fear are destructive, while caring renews life.

The outcry and political PR continues to be unskeptical about denial and fight against admitting the simple truth (Gillis today):

"did the pope get the science right?"

"The short answer from climate and environmental scientists is that he did, at least to the degree possible in a religious document meant for a broad audience. If anything, they say, he may have bent over backward to offer a cautious interpretation of the scientific facts."

The endless proliferation of misinformation and outliers come from a mirror infrastructure, supported largely by the wealthiest industries on earth, derived from techniques honed since the era of big tobacco. It's much easier to imitate and distort than to do original work. As a result laypeople can easily be confused and are tempted to take the easier path and do nothing. "The world's most popular" is not a guarantee of truthfulness or quality, but of a preference for the political over the real.

In the end, nature is part of real reality. We cannot go on abusing our only and finite planet, exploiting its limited resources and dumping our waste, without consequences, in the service of ever more stuff and more and more people. As for space travel, have you looked at the costs and difficulties? We live on a still inhabitable planet; let's treasure it.

Chris

Manhattan [4 hours ago](#)

I'm not religious at all, but I'm consistently impressed by Pope Francis. This call to action on climate change is his most impressive move so far. It's something the world needs to make the highest priority, because it isn't just about the planet, it's about all the people who will be affected if we don't make major changes.

It will be interesting to see how the Republicans, oil companies, and other negative influencers on this topic respond. But I don't expect change out of them, so the rest of us just need to get them out of the equation.

George Corsetti

Detroit [4 hours ago](#)

He's right, of course. But the problem, out-of-control capitalism, is systemic and not amenable to change.

Why? Because, greed, selfishness and dominance of the rich ruling class has become an ingrained part of the American culture -- and America IS the primary offender here.

And the media? The hand puppet of the rich? They're a major contributor in maintaining the status quo. Just witness the attention given the lunatic fringe in the Republican Party and the neo-conservatives running the Dems. The US media are just profit-seeking corporations locked into the same shallow culture.

Capitalist "morality" is nonexistent. Their bible is a one-liner -- maximize the rate of return on invested capital.

**C. V. Danes**

New York [4 hours ago](#)

When even the Pope aligns with science on global warming, you have to wonder what leg the denialists have to stand on.

Carol Johnston

Indianapolis [4 hours ago](#)

To "till and to keep" is not the best translation of the Genesis description of the human role in Creation. "To serve and to guard," a more pointed charge, is better. Human beings are meant to exercise "dominion" in imitation of the way God does it: By fostering the mutual thriving of all species together. Pope Francis is to be commended for moral leadership in this. Hopefully it will help turn the tide.



Pato Moreno

Texas [3 hours ago](#)

This Pope is on the right track, but needs to immediately take the next step and jettison the Church's ridiculous ban on contraception, which significantly contributes to overpopulation in many of the poorest countries in the world, leading to further degradation of the environment.

Penpoint

Maryland [6 minutes ago](#)

Pope Francis is truly an inspirational, courageous leader. President Obama started out as one, but has failed to do the hard work of communicating and compromising to turn inspiration into action. In the U.S. we need to elect courageous, pragmatic leaders that will set big goals and work hard in a cooperative way to implement them.

cph

Denver [6 minutes ago](#)

Oh good grief this is getting tiresome. Just look at the by-def ultra-pragmatic reinsurance industry's POV if you want some sort of "proof" (cf. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-magazine/an-indust...>) Bottom line (appropriately enough) is that the planet-killing won't quit until we're all regulated into not killing it any further, which I suppose may or may not result in a healthy planet long-term; that of course is yet another conversation.

DRG

NH [6 minutes ago](#)

I have never understood the conservative argument that dominion means we can trash the earth to our hearts' content. According to theology, God himself labored hard to create this beautiful, irreplaceable, unique planet and he placed it in our hands: it is a sacred gift. If your father labored to build a wonderful family business and then placed it in your hands, would you interpret that to mean you should strip its assets, abuse its workers, and run it into the ground? Would you respect a person with that attitude? Thank you Francis for all that you are doing to open our eyes and make us better people. My family and I are not Catholic, but your words and deeds since becoming pope have touched us deeply.

NYTReader

Pittsburgh [4 hours ago](#)

I am not Catholic.
I am not religious.

On this subject the pope is correct.
We need to change our relationship with the environment and our fellow man.
The status quo is completely unsustainable and degrading to us all.

Katherine

Bradenton, FL [3 hours ago](#)

This is a special Pope with remarkable powers of overview and insurance insight. Is capitalism being attacked? Of course! It needs to be. It no longer has the answers society requires.

Michael Bain

New Mexico [4 hours ago](#)

This encyclical is a call to take care of the Earth, our home on which we all depend, and to take care of ALL who live on it.

To do this, successfully, some must consume less, some more, and all must consume within the Planet's ability to provide for those alive now and to provide for those who will live in the future—all the while protecting the natural beauty and diversity of the Earth—our collective home.

Only those humans devoted to mindless consumption and those humans who have given themselves over to avarice could argue against such a call.

The debate and reaction to this encyclical will allow us all to see clearly who cares for who and for what.

Michael Bain
Glorieta, New Mexico

Timshel

New York [4 hours ago](#)

"His most stinging rebuke is a broad economic and political critique of profit-seeking..."

It is greatly encouraging that such a powerful religious figure has not sold out to the wealthy and powerful and continues to even amaze people with his statements. This encyclical does look like an attack on the profit system, as was his earlier pastoral exhortation in which he practically said the profit system kills! You have to read the original document to get an accurate picture of what Pope Francis really said. And it is not really radical or new. It is basic Christianity: You cannot serve two masters: both God and Mammon. And all the rephrasing and hiding that the wealthy have done to obscure what Christ said is to no avail. They know they lie.

gin arnold

Cotacachi, Ecuador [4 hours ago](#)

Once again, this guy is the real deal. Five stars for his Holiness.

Thomas Renner

Staten Island, NY [3 hours ago](#)

What ever will the GOP do now. They love fosile fuel, especially coal. They love religion and hate common sense and science. Now the Pope has put a line in the sand. The human race and their home or short term money for big business. Not much of a choice for smart people!

hey nineteen

chicago [4 hours ago](#)

Wow. Just wow. Pope Francis, you rock!



Matthew Carnicelli

is a trusted commenter Brooklyn, New York [4 hours ago](#)

"Catholic theologians say the overarching theme of the encyclical is "integral ecology," which links care for the environment with a notion already well developed in Catholic teaching — that economic development, to be morally good and just, must take into account the need of human beings for things such as freedom, education and meaningful work.

"The basic idea is, in order to love God, you have to love your fellow human beings, and you have to love and care for the rest of creation".

"Integral ecology" is nothing but common sense, if you ask me. I nonetheless thank Pope Francis for speaking truth to power, and to the inescapable interconnectedness of all life.

frank m

raleigh, nc [1 hour ago](#)

Scientists as scientists will cringe at having to "love your fellow human beings and the rest of creation in order to love God" because that is a religious belief. But this encyclical is very, very welcome by most thinking persons. He has obviously become very informed. I have followed climate change for 50 years as a scientifically trained person and he speak complete truth in everything he says about the scientific, political and economic aspects. Even the note about carbon credits is absolutely correct and brilliant because carbon credits would simply allow the same outdated unregulated

capitalistic system which has created the problem, to attempt with more of the same, to undue the problem.

As he states, we need to reform the economic system we have with different values; it is a value problem as the church states. And a very critical one that needs immediate attention.

As I sit here writing this in NC, new temperature records are being set almost daily as those temps reach into the 100 degree range; in the nineties for days. And summer has not arrived yet.

As a leader of the world, he should be applauded. And I am an atheist.

Ron

New Haven [3 hours ago](#)

Oh.Oh. I wonder what all my white, Catholic, Republican neighbors are going to do now since they revere a party that is the anti-regulation, climate deniers, anti-science, and totally unenlightened party.

This I got to see.

sherm

lee ny [4 hours ago](#)

The Pope is laying out the truth in terms that the wealthy fully understand but have not contributed to their sense of purpose. The Pope knows that the wealthy nations , individuals, and tribes, so to speak, will find ways to sustain themselves using their economic and martial strengths. And this could even mean extracting and commandeering resources from the poor, such as newly arable land, to sustain a temperate archipelago for their climate adjusted habitat.

God praise the Pope. He has chosen to fight in the "just war" of our times.

Linda Schiff

Pennsylvania [4 hours ago](#)

He is a man for our time. His statements give all of us hope. I'm not a Catholic and I salute his goodwill and courageous acts and thoughts!

Lawrence Glickman

Medellin Colombia [3 hours ago](#)

The irony of the Pope embracing climate change is that the Catholic Church is responsible for one of the greatest causes of climate change and that is unlimited irresponsible population growth. Take California for example in 1971 the population was 16 million and today its 38 million you think that has anything to do with a shortage of water and air pollution? Of course it does. China avoided yearly famines by insisting on

a one child policy but yet the Vatican insists on stopping contraception education etc. What hypocrisy!



Christine McMorrow

Waltham, MA [3 hours ago](#)

“Critics will say the church can’t teach policy, the church can’t teach politics. And Francis is saying, ‘No, these things are at the core of the church’s teaching.’”

Pope Francis has decided it's time for the world to see an activist pontiff, one that moves beyond the abstract into the very practical application of theological teachings.

It's high time somebody did, and who other than the Pope, with all the moral and spiritual authority he embodies? It's clear that all the GOP candidates -- most of whom are beholden to the energy industries who pay for their campaigns--find themselves in a quandary about how to respond. The Pope's courageous encyclical challenges the very essence of the relationship between man, God, and earth.

Scripture repeatedly shows that Christ was far more interested in how man applied His teachings about personal relationships, compassion, and the husbanding of resources. What the Pope is saying is rankling the GOP because it highlights the hypocrisy of those who use religion as a cudgel on sexual issues, all the while dodging the totality of God's teachings on their duty to keep the environment safe for both man and God's creatures.

This encyclical also puts the blame squarely where it belongs on most science deniers: it's love of money and profits that's driving the raping of our planet. We would do well to heed the Pope's warning because we're running out of time, as folks around the globe can plainly see.



Joseph Roccasalvo

NYC [2 hours ago](#)

W.H. Auden, that prescient poet, once wrote: "We must love one another or die." The genius of Pope Francis, and that greater Francis before him, is to affirm this interpersonal love as parentally global. Pre-eminently it includes our mother, Earth, made chronically ill by human greed. The new encyclical is a clarion call to a "conversion of manners": to a radical reorientation of our planetary life toward the goal

of shared sustainability. It must happen now. No longer can we mope, grope, or cope. Hope has made it into that grim family of rhymes. So has the Pope.

joanne

st louis [3 hours ago](#)

As a "pro-choice" feminist who hates abortion (I regard it as a sometimes-necessary evil), and a strong environmentalist, and a committed United United Methodist Christian with deep Roman Catholic sensibilities, I cannot say how thrilled I am with this report. I will definitely read the encyclical and pray that persons of all religious traditions and of none will take heed of its warnings and take heart in its encouragement. Francis is absolutely correct in linking climate change to human activity, in leveling a critique of excessive consumerism, and of calling us First-Worlders out on our desire for comfort at the expense of the poor and vulnerable. Long live Francis!!

Michael Gordon

Maryland [4 hours ago](#)

It isn't often that the church finds itself on the right side of history. Pope Francis has, in this encyclical, hit the proverbial nail on the head. Well done!

PGeorge

Chicago [3 hours ago](#)

For those who put greenbacks at the center of the universe, this Papal letter will have no influence at all. For many today, capitalism has become a religion, not just an economic system – and like all faith based religions, do not expect the faithful to be moved by any appeal by the Pope. Too bad.

Tony

New Jersey [4 hours ago](#)

I cannot help but think of trump as I read coverage of the Pope, his concern for the poor, the environment and the animal kingdom. "I am soooo rich", "I build great walls!" If Dante were writing the Inferno today, no doubt he would put trump down at the bottom inhaling the devil's exhaust gases.

michelle

Rome [4 hours ago](#)

CONGRATUALTIONS POPE FRANCIS AND THANK YOU!!



Michael Boyajian

Fishkill [4 hours ago](#)

This pope is a true saint for advocating cutting edge environmentalism in the form of the legal policy known as environmental justice or if you will the adverse impact climate change has specifically on the poor.

gw

usa [1 hour ago](#)

As an agnostic and avid environmentalist very much concerned about over-population, I am nevertheless disgusted by those commenters who try to diminish this exciting historic moment with complaints. Give it time. Rome wasn't changed in a day. Don't trash this extraordinary reason for hope by making the perfect the enemy of the good. Of the very, very wonderful good.

Don And Jeff

Nyc [1 hour ago](#)

Thank you Pope Francis!!!

It is about time someone framed this as a MORAL ISSUE rather than a political one...

Carolyn Egeli

is a trusted commenter Valley Lee, Md [3 hours ago](#)

Do not confuse this appreciation for the sanctity of life with the desires of males to control.

David

Brooklyn, NY [3 hours ago](#)

Perfect example of disproving the notion that science and religion is mutually exclusive. Pope Francis has become the catalyst to show how science and religion can solve a global and moral issue of our generation.



Herman Krieger

Eugene, Oregon 9 minutes ago

Will they stop emitting black or white smoke into the atmosphere when selecting a pope?

sumus

Santa Fe 10 minutes ago

Well now that Science and Religion agree that human caused climate change needs to be address that only leaves the Republican party to be convinced. Good luck with that.

HERKIMER

ONTARIO 10 minutes ago

There is little global warming happening since 2005 for Global , Northern Hemisphere, and North American land areas during the last 10 years and for North America possibly as far back as 1998. Global and Northern Hemisphere land areas annual temperature anomalies show a flat or slightly negative or cooling trend of -0.02 C /decade and -0.05/ C/decade respectively since 2005 according to NOAA own Climate at A Glance data. Also their data shows that since 2005, for 34 out of 48 states or 70 % in Contiguous US states, the trend of annual temperature anomalies is declining at -0.69F/decade . The figure is -0.48 F/decade since 1998 .Only 8 Pacific coast states, including the Northwest, West and Southwest and 6 Northeast states show warming. A similar pattern appears in Canada where 7 out of 11 climate regions show declining annual temperature departures since 1998; one is flat and 3 show warming from the 1961-1990 base. In other words 70 % of North American climate regions are not experiencing global warming but cooling. Only the Pacific and Atlantic coastal regions and parts of the High Arctic regions show warming in North America and this is because they are being moderated by the oceans or ENSO events. Even in the Canadian far north including Tundra, Fjords and Mountains there has been a 6 C degree drop in temperatures since 2010.



Bos

is a trusted commenter Boston 21 minutes ago

This is not just Christian Theology, this is the good old Liberation Theology people so feared in the past

Sleater

is a trusted commenter New York 41 minutes ago

God Almighty bless this Pope. Thank you, Holy Father, for speaking from the core of what Jesus Christ called for in the Gospels. You are following His path; let all of us of faith, of all faiths, listen and act accordingly!

gw

usa 1 hour ago

As an agnostic and avid environmentalist very much concerned about over-population, I am nevertheless disgusted by those commenters who try to diminish this exciting historic moment with complaints. Give it time. Rome wasn't changed in a day. Don't trash this extraordinary reason for hope by making the perfect the enemy of the good. Of the very, very wonderful good.



Wally Wolf

Texas 1 hour ago

Why does man feel he is indestructible and can push the limits of the earth? We are destroying the only thing that supports our life.

Don And Jeff

Nyc 1 hour ago

Thank you Pope Francis!!!

It is about time someone framed this as a MORAL ISSUE rather than a political one...

Nyalman

New York 1 hour ago

I am hopeful Pope Francis will also speak about increasing free trade. The benefits of free trade are also settled science (almost 90% of academics agree on the benefits) and are a huge benefit to the poor globally. We need his voice on this as Free Trade denialists like Elizabeth Warren and many House Democrats continue to opt for obstruction at the expense of the country and the world's poor.



Susan Anderson

is a trusted commenter Boston 1 hour ago

The TPP gives power to multinational corporations to be above the law, to sue governments for lost profits. Communities seeking to protect themselves by regulating the excesses of profiteers will be set at naught. This gives you an idea of how it's done. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UsHHOCH4q8>

There is such a thing as ethics and doing right. Profit is not the ultimate good. Working people are not just subjects for reverse Robin Hood, lowering their wages to support the huge excesses of the rich and powerful.

But in any case, this is to claim that the Pope's job is to support your politics.

He has taken a highly ethical stand based on facts. So has Elizabeth Warren. Your guys, not so much.

RS

Philly 1 hour ago

So the Pope is a "cafeteria Catholic."

Who knew.

RandyJ

Santa Fe, NM 1 hour ago

As long as the environmental lobby opposes nuclear power in favor of fossil fuels, I have a hard time taking climate change too seriously.



Susan Anderson

is a trusted commenter Boston 1 hour ago

Well, they don't, so you can relax. For example, James Hanson. For another, many people like me. I don't like it, but advanced nuclear (the kind that recycles its fuel) is way less of a risk than big fossil, particularly the extreme forms such as deepwater and Arctic drilling, fracking, and tar sands, the boom and bust, privatization of profit and socialization of risk, and many many harms of unaccounted costs from fossil. Older grandfathered nuclear do pose a risk from toxic waste in a society that doesn't want to pay for infrastructure while weather ramps up, making power breakdowns more frequent and longer, but it's still not as bad as big fossil. Have you noticed the coal ash ponds? The dead and distorted fish (and people) around the tar sands in Alberta? The earthquake swarms (getting more frequent and powerful) in fracking regions (yes, the wastewater injection wells, and that about wastewater is not nontoxic either).

Vicky

Chicago 1 hour ago

Looks like the Pope finally found "modern" issue to talk about that would not be very touchy to the doctrine and that could potentially convince younger generation (leaving the church in droves) that the church is truly a progressive institution. I would personally prefer if the church stayed away from advocating, interpreting, or talking about science. Their track record is not very good when it comes to these matters.



Susan Anderson

is a trusted commenter Boston 1 hour ago

Check out the Vatican science department, not to mention the Pope's training in chemistry.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-16/how-the-pope-got-relig...>

bbop

Dallas, TX 1 hour ago

I am reminded of Revelation's words regarding end times "to bring to ruin those ruining the earth."

Jay

Massachusetts 1 hour ago

What would Galileo and the other early scientists who the Church refuted and punished say if they saw the Pope trying to push society and political leaders to believe in science and act on it. It is a stunning testament to the power of the climate change deniers that the most conservative (little c) institution in the world sounds progressive on this topic.

M PHILIP WIDOFF

Austin 1 hour ago

It is up to the people in our country and elsewhere to respond to this extraordinary act of courage and leadership by Pope Francis.

We must insist that our political leaders in both parties follow the Pope's example by putting aside short term political interests and act with courage and a sense of urgency. It is very difficult for those who have staked out positions denying the danger to change their attitudes and positions. But for the sake of our grandchildren and their children we must insist they do what is right and prudent. We can and must take action now to reduce the harm being caused by carbon emissions to our planet and all life on earth. The powerful interests that oppose action can only be defeated when we the people speak clearly and forcefully.

thrlgrp

NJ 1 hour ago

He has been steeped in Liberation Theology by the far left wing of the Catholic Church, His world view is that of a South American Socialist. Global warming is a hoax, I don't care how many scientists form the "consensus". It is a scheme to tax carbon emissions for the expansion of governments around the world, not the betterment of individuals. Science is not about consensus, it's about proof. Show me proof (not hypothetical computer models) and maybe I'll sign on. Otherwise the Holy Father needs to stay in the realm of religion and faith, where he belongs. His involvement here is akin to Hollywood actors lecturing Congress about homeless people. All show, no substance.

NYT Pick

Annie Dooley

Georgia 1 hour ago

I am glad he also mentioned developed countries like ours encouraging "more sober lifestyles" that reduce energy consumption and energy waste. This will have to come from the top of society who model for the rest of us what we should aspire to. Perhaps less jetting, smaller, more energy-efficient mansions, hybrid cars and limos, and locally grown food for their personal lives and of course as CEOs of businesses they can do so much more.



Politicalgenius

Texas 1 hour ago

This Encyclical on global warming will cause those who profit from the causes of global warming to attack Pope Francis, Believe it or not, however, Francis has just made a true friend and admirer in Texas where our politicians don't believe in regulations on anything.

Tom Carr

Atlanta 1 hour ago

It is too bad he doesn't talk about population growth, which is one of the main problems. If he changed the Catholic position on birth control that would be a truly heroic action.

Al Luongo

San Francisco 1 hour ago

This encyclical is magnificent. But what about Francis's views on overpopulation, abortion and birth control? I think they are irrelevant to the larger discussion.

By and large, Catholics the world over have been ignoring official teachings on contraception and even to some extent on abortion and will continue to do so.

Also, where poor people, especially women, are given half a chance, population goes down below replacement level anyway.

Besides, as a practical matter if Francis had come out in favor of artificial contraception and abortion, that's all anyone would be talking about and his larger and much more important message would be ignored.

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Jerry Steffens

Mishawaka, IN 1 hour ago

Pope Francis: "Climate change is a global problem with grave implications .. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity"

"a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases ... released mainly as a result of human activity."

Oklahoma Senator James Inhofe: "man-made climate change is the greatest hoax ever

perpetrated on the American people ... The arrogance of people to think that we, human beings, would be able to change what [God] is doing to the climate is ... outrageous."

Lynn

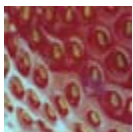
Nevada 1 hour ago

As one who was very upset with the Catholic Church about its protection of child abusers, I now have to say this Pope is giving the Catholic Church a chance to redeem itself. There are people who behave badly and those who behave well in any country, organization, or family. It is really nice to see someone truly following the teachings of Christ who is in power. I was raised Catholic and will never return to that Church, but I won't be as upset with them because this planet and all our future children and grandchildren and great grandchildren need someone in power like this to speak out for them. I do wish that he could address birth control as well.

Paul

Long island 1 hour ago

I, a non-Catholic, welcome Pope Francis' strong statement supporting the urgent need to address climate change due, in part, to human activity. It is, as the Pope notes, a "global problem" that demands global leadership, and Pope Francis is just such a leader who has established himself as strong moral voice. The planet whose creation we, in the West, celebrate, as a holy act, in Genesis is threatened with extinction and it is time, as the Pope states, to turn from crass exploitation for short-term profit to show the respect and love, in what the Pope and others would call "amor mundi," to save our beloved Earth and each other. To delay and deny by continuing to "put our heads in the sand" will only ensure that we as a species will all soon be buried there. Thank you, Pope Francis for speaking out. I only hope those politicians here in the United States who feel comfortable and sanctimonious in using Church doctrine to support their political agenda on abortion and same-sex marriage will embrace your leadership, their faith, and the people of the planet in the compassionate love that is at the heart of all religions.



charles almon

brooklyn NYC 1 hour ago

I may be wrong but it appears only in America, with our fossil fuel/energy industry, bought and paid for by legislators, is climate change a political football. Now these legislators have the task of attacking the Pope and his credentials while pandering to the religious right. Delicious. Bush can't catch a break.

NYer

NYC 1 hour ago

Words fail me in expressing my admiration for Pope Francis, on both this and several other issues he has recently addressed...to the benefit of all people of all religious persuasions.

Jacthomann

New Jersey 1 hour ago

Pope Francis just made the catholic church in vogue with the science and the challenges facing the humanity, the foremost-the human depravity and callousness in destroying the earth we stand on and dearly need. We are immune to the suffering of women and children in the world, displaced by war and seeking daily bread to sustain life. We dump billions of dollars to feed the war machine but none to save the humanity from further chaos. We are witnessing the destruction of the earth as we know it. Soon food production will halt due the toxic environment created by commercial farming and the application of pesticides. Pope Francis has now become the face of the 'living Jesus' whose message was to 'love thy neighbor', You do not have to a christian to heed his message but just a human being with a heart and a soul. This is the best ever that came out from the Vatican.

IClaudius

USVI 1 hour ago

As someone with a degree in chemistry, he is speaking as one who has a science background, so his critics will not be able to label him as one who speaks without technical knowledge; however, he needs to get back to the gospel by connecting global warming to its root cause: greed. Furthermore, as the largest landowner in the world, the Catholic Church is uniquely positioned to influence climate change by implementing green initiatives at its properties across the globe. Will the Pope now issue a mandatory directive concerning all Catholic-owned properties such as solar panels on churches, and no cutting trees on undeveloped land owned by the church?

Denverite

Denver 1 hour ago

This is actually a treatise against knowledge (no surprise there) and likely to harm the cause of addressing climate damage, I think. Because he doesn't own the role of the Vatican ITSELF in climate damage, he will just provoke more conflict over this issue. This simply reads to me as a defensive move; he's trying to deflect and avoid the claims more than a billion people on the planet have against the Vatican.

Mr. Joey B

Florida 1 hour ago

Has the Pope parked his 747 and gone into something more efficient like a G650?

Obie Benz

NYC 1 hour ago

This pope could make me believe there really is a God after all.

John Townsend

Mexico 1 hour ago

Re "The pope blamed environmental destruction on apathy, the reckless pursuit of profits, excessive faith in technology, and political shortsightedness. "

... no quite ... he needs to add the reckless intransigence of dogmatic religious doctrine.

Herr Lipp

Houston, TX 1 hour ago

The ONE policy which the Vatican could change to combat this problem is on birth control.

The Pope is telling everybody else to make sacrifices but won't do it himself.

He fits well into the current political landscape.

Dr. D

San Francisco, CA 1 hour ago

The Nobel Peace Prize for Pope Francis, well-deserved!

NYT Pick

frank m

raleigh, nc 1 hour ago

Scientists as scientists will cringe at having to "love your fellow human beings and the rest of creation in order to love God" because that is a religious belief. But this encyclical is very, very welcome by most thinking persons. He has obviously become very informed. I have followed climate change for 50 years as a scientifically trained person and he speak complete truth in everything he says about the scientific, political and economic aspects. Even the note about carbon credits is absolutely correct and brilliant because carbon credits would simply allow the same outdated unregulated capitalistic system which has created the problem, to attempt with more of the same, to undue the problem.

As he states, we need to reform the economic system we have with different values; it is a value problem as the church states. And a very critical one that needs immediate attention.

As I sit here writing this in NC, new temperature records are being set almost daily as those temps reach into the 100 degree range; in the nineties for days. And summer has not arrived yet.

As a leader of the world, he should be applauded. And I am an atheist.

ellen

new york city 1 hour ago

This Pope, while not perfect, has brought about a quantum leap for the Catholic church. It will be interesting to see how his intelligence, confidence and his pure devotion to humanity will hopefully influence us all to simply do the right thing. Those who continue to cling to old notions - which have defined them and their egos for so long - should seize this opportunity to shed that old armor and just join the family of mankind.



ernieh1

Queens, NY 1 hour ago
Viva il Papa Francesco!

t.b.s

detroit 1 hour ago
I feel like a kid again in the 1960's! Here we have, a pope like John XXIII, as inclusive as can be and a human!

Duncan Lennox

Canada 1 hour ago
How about creating a nation wide write-in-vote for Pope Francis in the 2016 US presidential election ? Bernie could be his VP to handle the day-to-day stuff.

Unworthy Servant

Long Island NY 1 hour ago
I intend to read the document , and the quotes set forth by reporters Goodstein and Yardley are encouraging and positive. But as a student of history, one has to chuckle a bit. Remember the Know Nothings? Remember the (justifiable in my view) fear and loathing 19th century Americans had of the Roman Pontiff who regularly condemned religious freedom and a free press and his church and the waves of RC immigrants? Remember the Thomas Nast political cartoon, "The American River Ganges", showing RC bishops as crocodiles about to devour huddling Protestant schoolchildren clutching a King James Bible?

There was a time when we expected our presidential candidates to treat Rome and its church with the disdain of a 16th century Reformation leader. Remember JFK and his obligatory appearance before the meeting of ministers where he assured them he was no tool of Rome? How times have changed! Not a single Protestant on SCOTUS. Not one, though I read that Breyer's daughter had become Episcopalian. Did we as a nation change or did the RCC at Vatican II? I'd say both but more so the RCC adopting the freedoms mentioned in our Bill of Rights and in the European conventions on basic rights (though not contraception). The encyclical speaks not so much to us but to the developing world whom Francis sees as the victims and where most of his flock resides these days as Catholicism fades in the developed world.

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