



Laudato Sí “SOBRE EL CUIDADO DE LA CASA COMÚN”

El encarte de hoy contiene una conversación entre James Martin, SJ y el Arzobispo Thomas Wenski. Ellos hablan sobre como la carta encíclica explica el poder que el cambio de clima tiene sobre los pobres.

***Martin:* CRS (Servicios de Ayuda Católica) sirve exactamente a esas personas de cuales habla Laudato Si’. Estas son las personas marginalizadas. Estas son las personas más afectadas por el cambio de clima. Y como dice el Papa, una de las razones por la cual son más afectadas es porque tienen menos recursos para combatir el cambio ambiental. Si tú vives en la costa, en Blangadesh, no te puedes mudar porque no tienes dinero. Y no tienes los medios para poder defenderte contra el cambio de clima. Entonces, ¿quiénes son esas personas, donde están y que están haciendo y que necesitan? Pues son exactamente las personas que CRS sirve. Laudato Si’ significa un enfoque en las necesidades de personas en una forma en la cual no se había visto antes en la Iglesia.**

“La Iglesia siempre ha velado por los pobres. Y Jesús, claro, pidió en el Evangelio que cuidáramos del pobre sobre toda otra

persona. Pero la conexión entre el cuidado del ambiente y el cuidado de los pobres nunca se había hecho de manera tan sólida.”— Padre James Martin, SJ

Así es que, en una forma afirma, en una manera diferente, el buen trabajo que CRS hace por todo el mundo. Entonces se puede llamar “la carta encíclica de CRS.”

Wenski: Los pobres son los que menos son responsables por la degradación del ambiente, y ellos son los que van a pagar las consecuencias igual si algo se hace o si nada se hace. A menudo, los pobres definitivamente no tienen los recursos para mudarse de un área impactada, por ejemplo de las mareas crecientes. Y si se toman medidas que aumentan impuestos para tratar el problema, los pobres salen pagando una medida desproporcionada, especialmente si no hay alguna mitigación para disminuir la carga que el pobre tiene que cargar.

Así es que pienso que la carta encíclica pone a los pobres al frente y en el centro, y nos recuerda que ellos sufren las consecuencias del cambio de clima. También nos reta en que al tratar con el cambio de clima no hagamos a los pobres sufrir de nuevo.

Estos extractos son de una conversación entre la Dra. Carolyn Woo, Directora Ejecutiva de Catholic Relief Services y el Padre James Martin, SJ, y el Arzobispo de Miami, Thomas Wenski. 8 de Junio, 2016.

Católica Relief Services’ “Conversaciones del Cambio Climático: Laudato Si Un Año Después”.



Laudato Si

On Care for Our Common Home

As part of our ongoing discussion of Pope Francis' Encyclical, these inserts share conversations with prominent Catholic thinkers. Today's insert is the thoughts of Dr. Carolyn Woo, Executive Director of Catholic Relief Services.

The encyclical emphasizes the power of climate change on the poor. What does Laudato Si' mean for the people who CRS serves?

Woo: I'm going to make four points. The first one is that, as I alluded earlier on, there are three billion people who will suffer the effects of climate change. And "suffer" is the word. And they're the ones who are least responsible for creating this issue because they are too poor to really have the types of habits or industry that would lead to climate change. So for most people, and Catholics in particular, I think that the Pope raises this and it becomes a social justice issue. And we also know this has implications because down the road these countries will need resources in order to address this problem.

The second one I think is brilliant, is how the Pope links our way of living to the poor. And I think in fairly colorful strokes it illustrates the waste that we have, the consumption that we are addicted to, the selfishness in our society and how these different behaviors lead to other people suffering.

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The third point is of course we are seeing the effects of these consequences in the people we serve. We are addressing this problem from two dimensions. The first part, which is my point three, is about mitigation. And so CRS is very active working with Congress. We've visited quite a number of our representatives and our senators on this particular issue, asking what they're doing.

But this is mitigation. We have to reduce the effect of carbon—reduce carbon in our economy. And so this whole area of mitigation, our website has this page specifically to illustrate these stories, educate our constituents so that they could actually see some of this, and again use their vote, use their voice to bring about a low carbon economy.

The fourth thing is really adaptation, and it is very sad to watch, because in Central America for example—and it's not limited to just that region of the world, it's actually around many different regions—but if you look at Central America agriculture, some of the productivity now of the crops are maybe one out of six of what it used to be. Farmers used to be able to count on two rain seasons—a short one and a long one. The short one has gone away, and the long one is completely unpredictable. It's not that there is no rain, it's just that it doesn't come at the time when you have planted your seeds, or when it comes it's a deluge that it washes away the seeds rather than nurtures them.

And so we are seeing Central American farmers really suffering the effects and it renders them so poor. I mean, they were poor to start out with, but here they lose all the other assets and sometimes they have to sell their land. And when they sell their land they become homeless. They go and join the urban poor. We see this whole cycle of what climate change is doing and we're trying to help people adapt by introducing different methods—perhaps different seed, planting different crops, moving from coffee, for example, to chocolate.

So we are going as fast as we know and adopting a lot of innovations along the way to help farmers adapt. Even one or two degree changes could affect them dramatically.

So my point really is, the whole area of mitigation and adaptation are the focuses of CRS work now, but thank the Pope for raising this as a social justice issue because it really is, and also linking us and our behavior to this problem.

These excerpts are from a conversation among Dr. Carolyn Woo, Executive Director of Catholic Relief Services, Fr. James Martin, SJ, and Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski. June 8, 2016

Laudato Si On Care for Our Common Home

Today's insert contains conversation between James Martin, SJ, and Archbishop Thomas Wenski. They discuss how the encyclical explains the power of climate change on the poor.

Martin: CRS (Catholic Relief Services) serves exactly those people who Laudato Si' is talking about. Those are the people on the margins. Those are the people that are most affected by climate change. And as the Pope says, one of the reasons that they are most affected by climate change is because they have fewer abilities to deal with it. If you're living in Bangladesh by the sea, you can't move because you don't have any money.

And you don't have the wherewithal to defend yourself against climate change. So who are those people, where are they and what are they doing and what do they need? Well, they're exactly the people that CRS serves. So what Laudato Si' means for those people is a focus on their needs in a way that I don't think has been done before by the Church.

"The Church has always looked out for the poor. And Jesus, of course, asked us in the Gospels to care for the poor above all other people. But the linkage between caring for the environment and caring for the poor has never been made so strongly." — Father James Martin, SJ

So in a sense it affirms, in a different way, the wonderful work that CRS does all over the globe. So, it could be called “CRS’s Encyclical.”

Wenski: The poor are the ones who have had or are least responsible for the degradation of the environment, and they’re going to be the ones that will have to pay for its consequences, whether nothing is done or whether something is done. Oftentimes, the poor definitely don’t have the resources to move away from an area that’s impacted by, for example, the rising of tides. And if measures are taken that increase taxes in order to deal with climate change, the poor will end up paying a [disproportionate] share for the remedies unless some mitigation is taken to defray the burden that the poor might be asked to carry.

So I do think the encyclical does put the poor front and center, and reminds us that they suffer the consequences of climate change. It also challenges us that as we address climate change, we don’t make the poor suffer again.

These excerpts are from a conversation among Dr. Carolyn Woo, Executive Director of Catholic Relief Services, Fr. James Martin, SJ, and Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski. June 8, 2016

Catholic Relief Services’ “Conversations in Climate Change: Laudato Si One Year Later”.

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