Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home

The first chapter of Pope Francis’ encyclical examines various environmental problems which, when added together, result in his bold claim that “the earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.”

He is not a climate change skeptic, and asserts that “lifestyle change” is required if the worst effects of global warming are to be avoided. Pope Francis also draws attention to the human right of access to clean drinking water, and to the “incalculable value” of plant and animal species which cannot be replaced by things that human beings can create from concrete or plastic. In each of these cases, he emphasizes how “huge global economic interests” lead to “certain ways of exploiting resources” that “irrationally demolish sources of life,” and that the poor disproportionately suffer these negative effects.

Pope Francis isn’t a stereotypical environmentalist who only loves nonhuman nature or opposes using it as a resource. Rather, we must stop placing “irrational confidence in progress and human abilities” and start thinking again “about the goals of human activity,” which is precisely what he goes on to do in the rest of the encyclical.

Provided by Dr. Nathan Kowalski of St. Joseph’s College at the University of Alberta.
Book Club Meeting
The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov 10th at 7 pm in SJC 1-01 to discuss The Martian by Andy Weir. And, as always, if anybody doesn't have time to read the whole book, no problem ... just read as much of it as you want. Contact Denise Young (deyoung@ualberta.ca) for more information. All are welcome!

Syrian Refugees Updates from Facebook
Syrian Refugee Update: We have three teams working to sponsor refugees: SJ1, SJ2 & SJ3.
1) SJ3 is up and rolling. They had their first full group meeting on Sunday.
2) SJ1's Joe has raised $27,000.
3) SJ2 is preparing to select their family.

QPR Training: Suicide Prevention
You will learn how to question a person about suicide, persuade the person to get help and refer the person to the appropriate resources. Learn the myths and facts about suicide, skills for identifying warning signs and clues about suicidal thought, the steps for preventing suicide: Question, Persuade, Refer, and the social services that exist on campus and in the Edmonton community for people struggling with thoughts of suicide.
November 2nd 5-7pm Newman Centre. For more information: theresa.robinson@ualberta.ca

Strathcona Ecumenical Mission
The Ecumenical Mission of Strathcona County is now in its 26th year, bringing Christians from across the Sherwood Park area together for prayer, reflection and friendship. This year's mission is led by Bishop Jane Alexander of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, on the theme "Reimagining the World: Loving our Neighbours as Ourselves." The mission begins with a potluck supper and opening service at Sherwood Park United Church, at 6 p.m. on Sunday, October 25, and wraps up with an evening service at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Parish. All are welcome.

Truth & Reconciliation Exhibit
The Anglican Diocese of Edmonton presents a special exhibit on the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools, taking viewers through 262 years of the Anglican Church's sometimes troubled relations with Canada's indigenous peoples. The exhibit is open daily, from Thanksgiving weekend through to Remembrance Day, at All Saints Cathedral, 10035 - 103 Street, Edmonton. For more information, contact Barb at 780-439-7344.

The Voice from Assisi
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park is pleased to present an evening of music and song featuring the internationally acclaimed Friar Alessandro along with the Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School Choir. Join us at the church, 13 Brower Drive, on Thursday, November 19, for Mass at 6:15 p.m., followed by the concert at 7. Tickets are $15 in advance through the parish office, or $20 at the door. For more information, call 780-467-5470.

A Catholic Response to Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide
The federal government is currently conducting public consultations and is receiving online submissions before preparing and submitting legislative options later this fall for Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) and Euthanasia. The concluding date for all online consultation has been extended to November 1, 2015. Archbishop Smith invites all of you to submit your views as faithful Catholics by completing the "Issues Book" and answering the survey questionnaire at ep-ce.ca/en/consultation.

Appointment of President and Academic Dean
This note is to advise you that Fr. Terry Kersch’s appointment as President and Dr. Brian Maraj’s appointment as Academic Dean of St. Joseph’s College will be concluding in June, 2016. Both Fr. Terry and Dr. Maraj have chosen to stand for renewal for their respective positions. In accordance with section 5.2.6 of the SJC Policies and Procedures, an Advisory Review Committee for each position will be established. I have been asked by the Chair of the Board, the Archbishop, to Chair both of these Committees. I have also asked that Sara McKeon assist me with the administrative components of these processes. Members of the St. Joe’s community are invited to provide input in confidence to each Committee. All input must either be signed and in writing or sent by e-mail to me via Sara McKeon (sara.mckeon@ualberta.ca) no later than Monday, November 16, 2015. Members of the community may ask the Chair to have their input provided to the committee anonymously.
A College Assembly meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 3:15pm in the St. Joseph’s College Newman Centre to advise the community of these important processes; all are welcome and encouraged to attend. - Kevin Feehan, QC

Questions of Life and Death: Wednesday, November 4
Are you caring for an aging parent or a disabled person? Or do you suffer from a chronic illness or disability and worry about your own care as you age? Are you a health professional concerned about efforts to legalize assisted suicide or euthanasia? What is the Catholic understanding of life and death? Sooner or later, we all confront some of these issues. You are invited to join Archbishop Smith for a special seminar on Questions of Life and Death, on Wednesday, November 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 - 119 Street, Edmonton. Guest speakers are Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Dr. Moira McQueen of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. The session is free, and all are welcome. Please register online at http://caedm.ca/life or by phone to Suzanne Brothier at 780-469-1010.

Online Faith Formation
Registration is now open for the next cycle of classes in the the Certificate in Catholic Studies (CCS), offered by the Benedict XVI Institute for New Evangelization through Newman Theological College. The following courses will begin on November 9: Jesus; On Good Soil; The New Testament; Church History I; Youth Ministry-Human Development and Growth; The Practice of Social Justice; The Practice of Pastoral Care; Liturgy; Catholic Philosophy; and Baptism. All are offered online, so you can study from the comfort of home and work around your personal schedule. Each course runs five weeks and costs just $70. Take an individual course for interest, or work toward one or all of the six specialized Certificates in Catholic Studies. This program is open to adults and youth of all backgrounds and education levels.Register online at www.newman.edu/CCS. For more information, contact Michelle Maxwell at 780-392-2455 or michelle.maxwell@newman.edu.

Plenary Meeting
The Capital Region Interfaith Initiative on Homelessness and Affordable Housing holds its Plenary Meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 29, at the Pastoral & Administration Offices. Come and hear about new and exciting developments in our work towards ending homelessness and supporting affordable housing. You will hear reports about our search for a full-time Housing Ambassador, new workshops for community groups, the great success of this year’s Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build, and more.
To confirm your attendance, please register at https://interfaith-housing.eventbrite.ca.