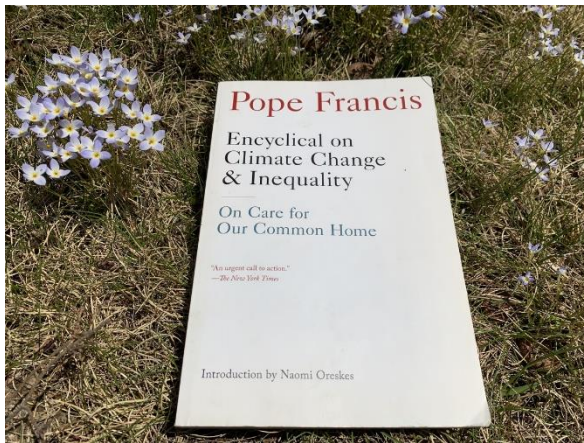




Vermont Interfaith Power & Light  
A faith-based response to global warming

## Laudato Si Week & Environmental Justice

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This week celebrates the 5th anniversary of the release of the Papal *Encyclical on Climate Change and Inequality* known as *Laudato Si*. Several activities and readings provide an opportunity to explore ideas of integral ecology where *The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor* are seen as unified.

Pope Francis invites us to celebrate Laudato Si Week [in this video](#).

Last Thursday, the Vatican declared a “special day of prayer, fasting and charitable work to implore God to help humanity overcome the Coronavirus pandemic”. Father Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam from the Vatican, Coordinator of the Sector on Ecology and Creation at the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, joined GreenFaith's community call for care and resilience. During the call, Fr. Josh reminded us that Care is at the core of most faiths and that when we care, we become more God-like. He said we are called to be keepers of the land and of our brothers and sisters, and a “touchstone” of how we are in the COVID moment is to consider, “Am I caring for the weakest?” Fr. Josh also spoke of how we should not seek to go back to the old world which was “ravaging the planet”. Instead, we need to create a new world, and that the “stuff out of which it should be created is love and care.” Sharing his hopes for humanity, he said we should come out of this as more caring people, families, and communities.

## Laudato Si Resources & Upcoming Events

**On May 19 at 9 a.m.** Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology's Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker offers a Zoom presentation, *Eco-spirituality: Deepening our Communion with Creation*. This registration link also includes opportunities to participate in related webinars during Laudato Si Week. [Register here.](#)

VTIPL Board Member Pastor Nancy Wright wrote a beautiful essay connecting Laudato Si, Pope Francis and her late mentor Thomas Berry, *Knowing Who and Where We Are Among the White Lilies: The Vision of Thomas Berry and Pope Francis*. The paper can be [accessed here](#). The essay was written for a special event at Georgetown University last fall, *Thomas Berry and "The Great Work" - A Vision Takes Shape: Laudato Si and The Dream of the Earth*. The event including Pr. Nancy's presentation can viewed in [this video](#).



### May 18-22 Festival of Homiletics

*Preaching a New Earth: Climate and Creation* is the theme of this streaming experience of preaching and spiritual renewal by some of the nation's finest ministers and teachers. [Click here for more information.](#)

### May 19, 3 p.m. The Intersection of the Climate Crisis & Social Justice

As the global pandemic continues to expose the existing injustices of our society, The Climate Reality Project and Poor People's Campaign partner on this webinar to help ensure that every voice is heard. Speakers include Poor People's Campaign Co-Chairs Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Dr. Liz Theoharis, along with Dr. Robert Bullard Texas Southern University

distinguished professor of urban planning and environmental policy. The webinar helps prepare for the upcoming virtual mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington on June 20, 2020. [Register here.](#)

### **VT Sierra Club Calls for a Just & Sustainable Recovery**

by VTIPL Board Member Richard Butz

A recent Sierra Club Zoom meeting focused on ensuring that a recovery from the COVID crisis addresses long-standing problems of social justice and inequity while building a sustainable economy. Larry Williams Jr., Sierra's Labor & Coal Coordinator, and David Van Deusen, Pres. of VT AFL-CIO, spoke of how the crisis has made people aware that workers at the "low end" of the economic spectrum play critical roles in keeping this country going. It's not only doctors and nurses whose jobs are essential, but also cleaners, grocery store workers, truck drivers, and postal workers. This awareness can be a catalyst for restructuring our economy around the principles of the Green New Deal including a bill proposed by VT Senator Anthony Pollina emphasizing social justice. There was discussion of how people of faith are looking for ways to contribute. Both presenters passionately encouraged us to speak to the moral imperative, something that has often been missing from the conversation. We are strongly urged to be voices for working people and the poor, advocating for their inclusion in the recovery through training and employment in fairly compensated jobs as part of a just transition from the destructive, fossil fuel economy to one providing sustainability for all.

### **May 20 Electric Car Webinar**

Are you interested in learning more about electric vehicles? Drive Electric Vermont and Waterbury LEAP are hosting a free webinar about electric vehicles (EVs) on Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. [Pre-register here.](#)

### **Guide to Best Practice for Virtual Engagement**

During this time when so many of us are staying connected with colleagues and friends virtually, the Local Government Commission has created a new Best Practices for Virtual Engagement Guide which is now available on our website. [Access the Guide here.](#)



*Ending on a Positive Note...*

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Barre, VT, has used the pandemic as a chance to further commit to helping the homeless in their community. Read about this inspiring example of caring for one's neighbor in the [article here](#).

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