# *Justice, Peace and Life*

*Pope Francis greets members of an indigenous group from the Amazon region, at the Coliseum Madre de Dios, in Puerto Maldonado, Peru. REUTERS/Henry Romero*

## Celebrate Laudato Si Week May 18-23

www.laudatosiweek.org

Five years ago this month, Pope Francis published *Laudato Si*: *On Care for Our Common Home*, an encyclical on our moral obligation to care for the environment and address climate change. Even with social distancing we can still live out this calling. Join with Catholics around the world in studying and celebrating the message of Laudato Si.

Read or re-read the encyclical, or even just some parts of it

Read the Holy Father's recent exhortation "Dear Amazonia" on the brutal injustices facing the indigenous peoples and the land of the Amazon Basin, and his vision for a future in which the cultures, biodiversity and water of that region are preserved. Find the study guide here. Here's a quote from the first part:

How you can help protect the Amazon Basin:

Ask JP Morgan Chase to stop financing the destruction of the Amazon

Then end your own support of that destruction.

**Cancel** your Chase Bank credit card and close your Chase Bank account

*"The original peoples often witnessed helplessly the destruction of the natural surroundings that enabled them to be nourished and kept healthy, to survive and to preserve a way of life in a culture which gave them identity and meaning. The imbalance of power is enormous; the weak have no means of defending themselves, while the winners take it all...*

*The businesses, national or international, which harm the Amazon and fail to respect the right of the original peoples to the land and its boundaries, and to self-determination and prior consent, should be called for what they are: injustice and crime.*

*When certain businesses out for quick profit appropriate lands and end up privatizing even potable water, or when local authorities give free access to the timber companies, mining or oil projects, and other businesses that raze the forests and pollute the environment, economic relationships are unduly altered and become an instrument of death. They frequently resort to utterly unethical means such as penalizing protests and even taking the lives of indigenous peoples who oppose projects, intentionally setting forest fires, and suborning politicians and the indigenous people themselves. All this accompanied by grave violations of human rights and new forms of slavery affecting women in particular, the scourge of drug trafficking used as a way of subjecting the indigenous peoples, or human trafficking that exploits those expelled from their cultural context."*

## What Else Can I Do to Address Climate Change?

Climate scientist and devout Christian Katharine Heyhoe says the most important thing is to **talk about climate change** with friends and family. Listen to her short TED talk here.

Reduce your meat consumption. Go meatless at least on Mondays and Fridays. It's cheaper, healthier and better for the planet. The Amazon has been destroyed in part to make way for cattle farms. Take an hour to listen in on this webinar on How Our Food Choices Can Save the Planet from the Catholic Climate Covenant and make some changes to your diet.

### If You Like Food
### Stand Up for Farmworkers

Farmworkers are essential workers who face risks of contracting covid-19 due to a lack of hygienic conditions and protective equipment.

Tell your representatives to resist the federal administration's plan to lower the pay of farmworkers in the guest worker program
Sign the petition here.

Insist that the labor rights of farmworkers in Honduras be respected. Sign the petition here.

Read what the U.S. Catholic Bishops say about these workers during this health crisis:

*Like so many mobile and itinerant populations, undocumented migrant farmworkers are particularly vulnerable to the impact of the coronavirus outbreak.*

*Many migrant farmworkers lack access to health insurance, medical treatment, and sick or paid leave options; farmworker housing conditions are often overcrowded with little opportunity for social distancing, including transportation to and from work, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not always available.*

*Additionally, conditions of their immigration visas can make them unwilling or unable to speak out about a need for protection due to the threat of losing their job.*

**Together, we can ensure that our community receives the resources it needs.**

**United States® Census 2020**

Learn more at **2020census.gov**.

### If you haven't already....
### Fill Out Your Census!
### And Tell Others!

The every-10-year-census count is extremely important. It determines how many state and federal representatives our region will get, and informs the distribution of billions of dollars of federal and state funding.

You can answer the quick census questionnaire at www.my2020census.gov/ or by calling **844-330-2020**

Post this video and these statements to your parish or personal social media:
• The #2020Census counts everyone who lives in the United States. No matter who you are, we all count! Go to 2020Census.gov now to be counted. @USCensusBureau. #shapeyourfuture

• There's still time to shape the future for your community. You can complete the #2020Census now online, by phone, or by mail. Visit 2020Census.gov

• No matter where you call home, the #2020Census is your chance to shape the future of your community. Complete the census today! 2020Census.gov