

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

CREATION CARE THREADS IN OFFICIAL CHURCH DOCUMENTS



70S THEOLOGICAL WISDOM

Connecting creation Doctrine & Incarnation

Connection of groaning Earth (Rom 8) and human exploitation

Connection of Image of God and right relationship with creation



80S THEOLOGICAL WISDOM

Cosmic Christ

Solidarity rooted in Christology

Genesis connects humanity with creation

Creation's divine likeness

Human existence relational

Tarnishing Image of God if not in right relationship with creation

90S THEOLOGICAL WISDOM

Responsible and fair use of Earth

Beauty and goodness of creation glorifies God

Dignity of human person extends to creation

Nature is caught up in redemption

Creation gift from God; foundation for common good

West consumes resources in disordered way

Till and look after the garden is human purpose

Theological Wisdom in the 21st Century

Right relationship God includes creation

Clear relationship between peace, poverty, and environment

Connection between gratuitousness and fraternity

Creation is a wondrous work of Creator

Imposition of limits to human activities and recognition of the destructive nature of a technocratic mindset

Creation possesses its own particular goodness and perfection. All of creation reflects in its own way a "ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness"

Human life and dignity is derived from Imago Dei but is "incomprehensible and unsustainable" without other creatures

Urgency to address climate crisis and eradicate racism, slavery, and the marginalization of women, children, the sick, and people with disabilities

1971

Apostolic Letter Pope Paul VI - **Octogesima Adveniens** World Synod of Catholic Bishops - **Justitia in Mundo**

1979

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II - **Redemptor Hominis**

1980

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II - **Dives in Misericordia**

1981

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II - **Labrem Excerens**

1987

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II - **Sollicitudo Rei Socialis**

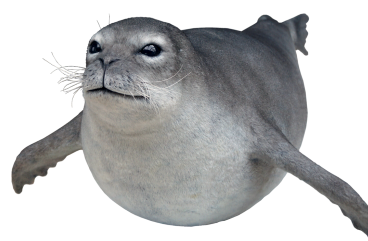


1990 & 1991

World Day of Peace Message: Pope John Paul II - **Peace with All Creation**
Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II - **Centesimus Annus**

1995

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II - **Evangelium Vitae**



2007

World Day of Peace Message: Pope Benedict - **If you want Peace, Protect Creation**

2009

Apostolic Letter Pope Benedict - **Caritas in Veritate**

2015

Apostolic Letter Pope Francis - **Laudato Si'**



2023

Apostolic Exhortation Pope Francis - **Laudate Deum**

2024

Papal Declaration Pope Francis - **Dignitas Infinita**