



# Laudato Si'

## Reading Laudato Si' Together

Chapter 2: The Gospel of  
Creation

**trócaire**

## Prayer:

As we are called to see ourselves and each other as earthen vessels that hold God's presence and bring God's gifts to the world, so too, this very world and all that is above, around and within it are earthen vessels - just as easily shattered, just as much in need of our loving attentiveness and support.

May our hands align  
with God's in caressing  
and shaping these vessels.



For trees, plants, crops, and forests. **Let us pray.**

For water, oceans, rivers, streams and ponds. **Let us pray.**

For air, wind, climate and weather. **Let us pray.**

For sun, clean energy and prevention of global warming. **Let us pray.**

For animals, especially endangered species. **Let us pray.**

For all humankind. **Let us pray.**

For recycling and moderate personal consumption.

**Let us pray.**

For proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste. **Let us pray.**

For Earth and unity. **Let us pray.**



Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask your forgiveness where we have failed to be just stewards. And we now ask for your guidance in restoring the face of the earth.

May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God.

Peace be to this community.

Peace be to this land.

Peace be to all people. Amen.

From <https://www.sistersofmercy.org/resources/prayer-earth-day/>



# LAUDATO SI'

ON CARE FOR  
OUR COMMON HOME



POPE FRANCIS



ENCYCLICAL LETTER

## Overview of Laudato Si

- Chapter 1: “What is happening to our common home?”
- **Chapter 2: “The Gospel of Creation”**
- Chapter 3: “The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis”
- Chapter 4: “Integral Ecology”
- Chapter 5: “Lines of Approach & Action”
- Chapter 6: “Ecological Education & Spirituality”

**trócaire**

# Chapter 2: The Gospel of Creation

“Science and religion, with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both” (LS, 62).

1. The Light Offered By Faith
2. The Wisdom of the Biblical Accounts
3. The Mystery of the Universe
4. The Message of Each Creature in the Harmony of Creation
5. A Universal Communion
6. The Common Destination of Goods
7. The Gaze of Jesus





The Pale Blue Dot is a photograph of Earth taken Feb. 14, 1990, by NASA's Voyager 1 at a distance of 3.7 billion miles (6 billion kilometers) from the Sun.

*"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us."* Carl Sagan.

"The immense dignity of each person...not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos. The Creator can say to each of us, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you' (Jer 1:5). Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary." (Laudato Si', 65)

**trōcaire**

# DOMINION

*“It is true that we Christians have at times incorrectly interpreted the Scriptures, nowadays we must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God’s image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. (LS, 67)”*



**stewardship**

A small green seedling with three leaves is growing out of a mound of brown soil. The seedling is positioned behind the word 'stewardship', which is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The overall image conveys a message of growth, care, and environmental stewardship.

“CARE for Our Common Home”  
Taps into something deeper, passion, love.

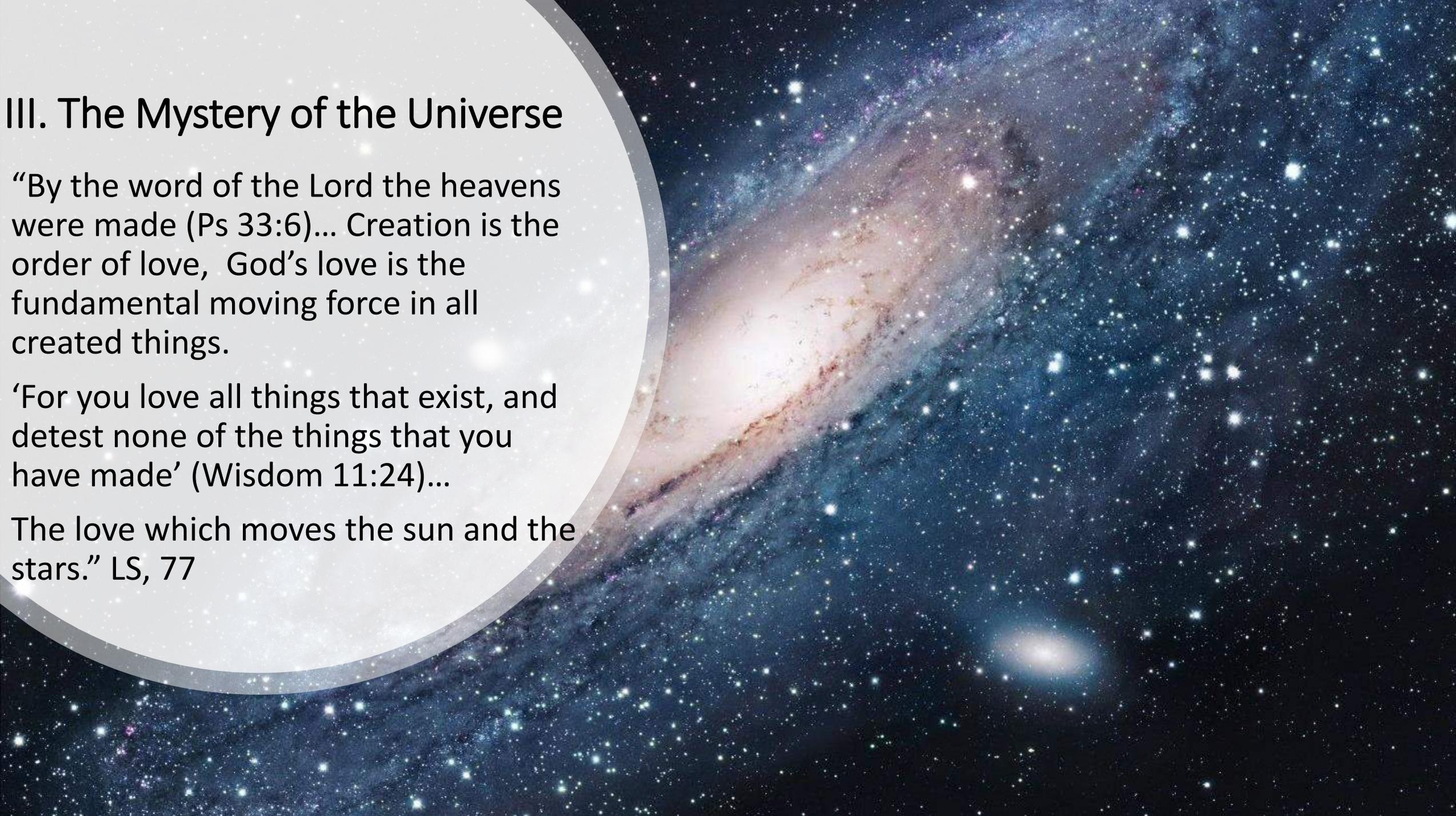
“We cannot save what we do not love”  
Thomas Berry

### III. The Mystery of the Universe

“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made (Ps 33:6)... Creation is the order of love, God’s love is the fundamental moving force in all created things.

‘For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made’ (Wisdom 11:24)...

The love which moves the sun and the stars.” LS, 77





“The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, mountains everything is, as it were, a caress of God” LS, 84.



“We are situated within, not  
over the magnificent circle  
of life.”

(Elizabeth Johnson,  
*Ask the Beasts*, 268.)



“The ultimate purpose  
of other creatures is not to  
Be found in us...all creatures  
are moving forward with us.”  
(LS, 83)

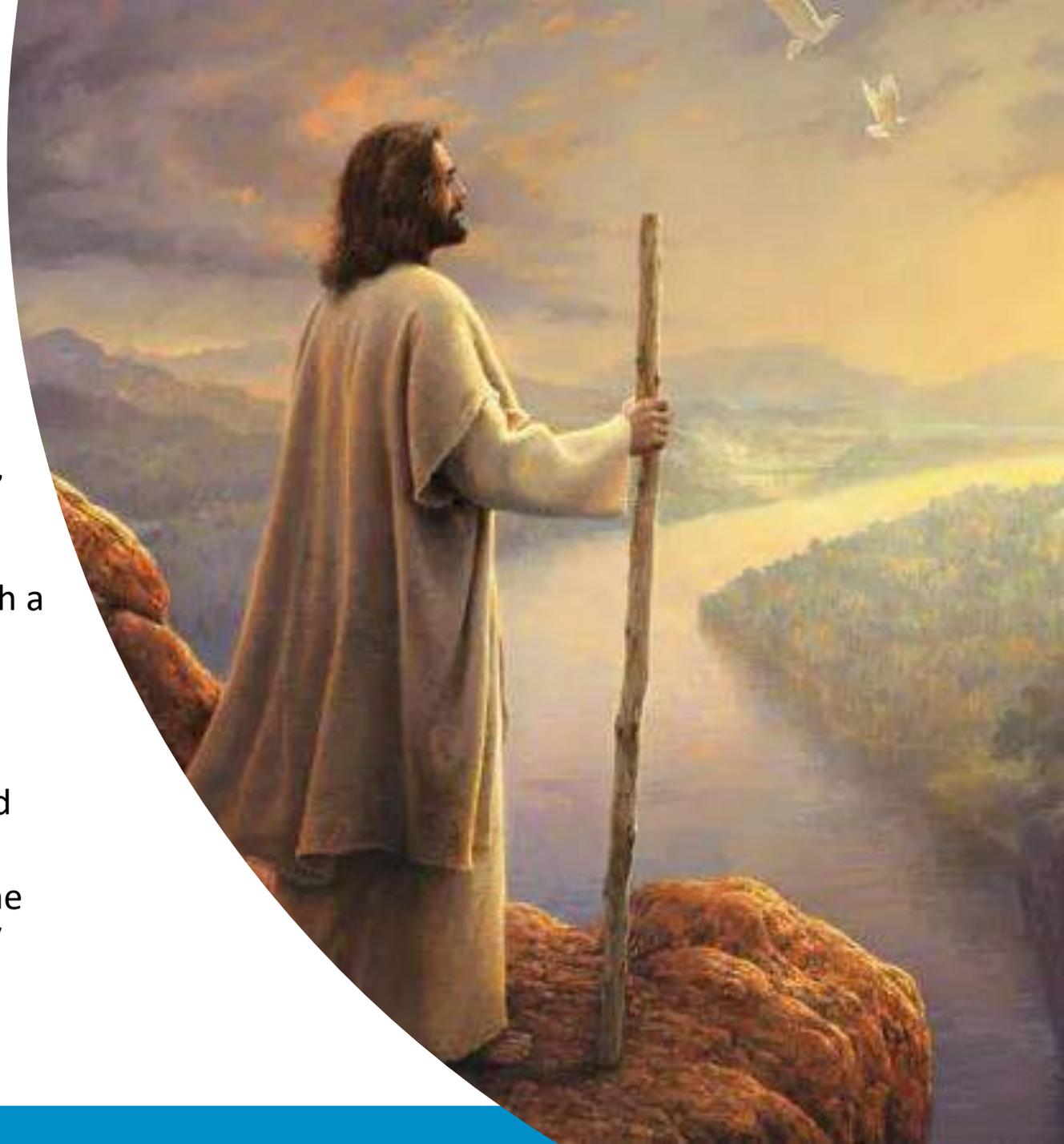


“Every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged.” (LS, 93)



# VII. The Gaze of Jesus

- “[Jesus]...was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder...’Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest’ (Jn 4:35)
- “The kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but once it has grown it is the greatest of plants” (Mt13:31-32)
- Jesus lived in full harmony with creation and others were amazed: “What sort of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mt 8:27)
- He was far removed from philosophies which despised the body, matter and the things of the world. Such unhealthy dualisms, nonetheless left a mark on certain Christian thinkers.” (LS, 98)



- Jesus worked with his hands, in daily contact with the matter created by God, to which he gave form by his craftsmanship. . . Most of his life was dedicated to this task in a simple life which awakened no admiration at all: ‘Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?’ (Mk 6:3). (LS, 99)



- “The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence” (LS, 100)

## For reflection:

- What word or phrase has stayed with you from your reading of Chapter 2?
- What did you find challenging? What did you find helpful?
- Alongside revelation contained in Scripture, “there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night” (LS,85). How have you experienced God in creation?



