



# Laudato Si

On Care for our Common Home

***"Francis, repair My house  
which, as you can see, has  
fallen into ruin."***

[illegible]



# Chapter 1: Our Common Home



# Our Common Home

“Change is something desirable, yet it becomes a source of anxiety when it causes harm to the world and to the quality of life of much of humanity....humanity has disappointed God’s expectations (&61)” (Pope Francis....Laudato Si)

# The Reality on the Ground:



Villagers in Sebeya, northern Ethiopia begin work on a community water conservation tank. This region has seen a drastic reduction in rainfall in recent years due to Climate Change

## Questions for reflection:

1. What is the biggest challenge facing “our Common Home” ....(Eg: Pollution, Climate Change, Migration, Water Shortages, Loss of Biodiversity, Deterioration of the quality of Human life or Weak Governance)
2. What is meant by “Our Common Home”?







# The Gospel of Creation

“It is good for humanity and the world at large when we believers better recognise the ecological commitments which stem from our convictions” (64)

# The Gospel of Creation

“Faith allows us to interpret the meaning and the mysterious of what is unfolding” (79)

“The biblical accounts of creation invite us to see each human being as a subject who can never be reduced to the status of an object” (81)

“When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them” (87)

# The Reality on the Ground:

“We continue to tolerate that some consider themselves more human than others, as if they had been born with greater rights” (90)

**Palestinian children stand in the ruins of a demolished house.**

Israel is constructing a 700-kilometre wall that cuts through Palestinian communities.





## Questions for Reflection:

1. Do you believe it is our 'right' to dominate over the earth & God's creation?
2. When do we choose to 'dominate' rather than 'respect' creation?

# Chapter 3: The Human Roots of the Ecological Crises



# The Human Roots of the Ecological Crises

“Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely, particularly when we consider how it is currently being used” (104)



# The Reality on the Ground



Gurubari Madhi, 45 from Mauliguda village, Odisha, India.

Gurubari is one of the 'Seed Mothers' who work with Trócaire's partner 'Seed Mothers' in the state of Odisha, India. The Seed Mothers encourage natural & sustainable agricultural practices in their communities, spreading knowledge about local seeds and natural pesticides & help to protect farmers from purchasing fertilisers from pushy salespersons and thus falling into a poverty trap of debt.

Photo: Alan Whelan/Trócaire.

## Questions for reflection?

1. Do you think that economic policies are set up to serve the Common Good?
2. Looking at the world through a purely technological lens can distort how we view nature and how we see ourselves...do you agree?



# Chapter 4: Integral Ecology



# Integral Ecology

“Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it” (139)

## Questions for reflection?

1. What is nature?
2. Do you consider yourself part of nature?

# The Reality on the Ground

Alice Wanjeru Njue holding a butternut plant. The butternut plant is growing on sprinkler irrigated land, on her farm in Ishiara, Kenya. Increasingly erratic rainfall is making life increasingly difficult for farmers in this region. However, Alice has benefited from a Trócaire irrigation project that has brought water directly to 8,000 people in the region.

Photo: Clare McEvoy/Trocaire.





# Chapter 5: Lines of Approach and Action

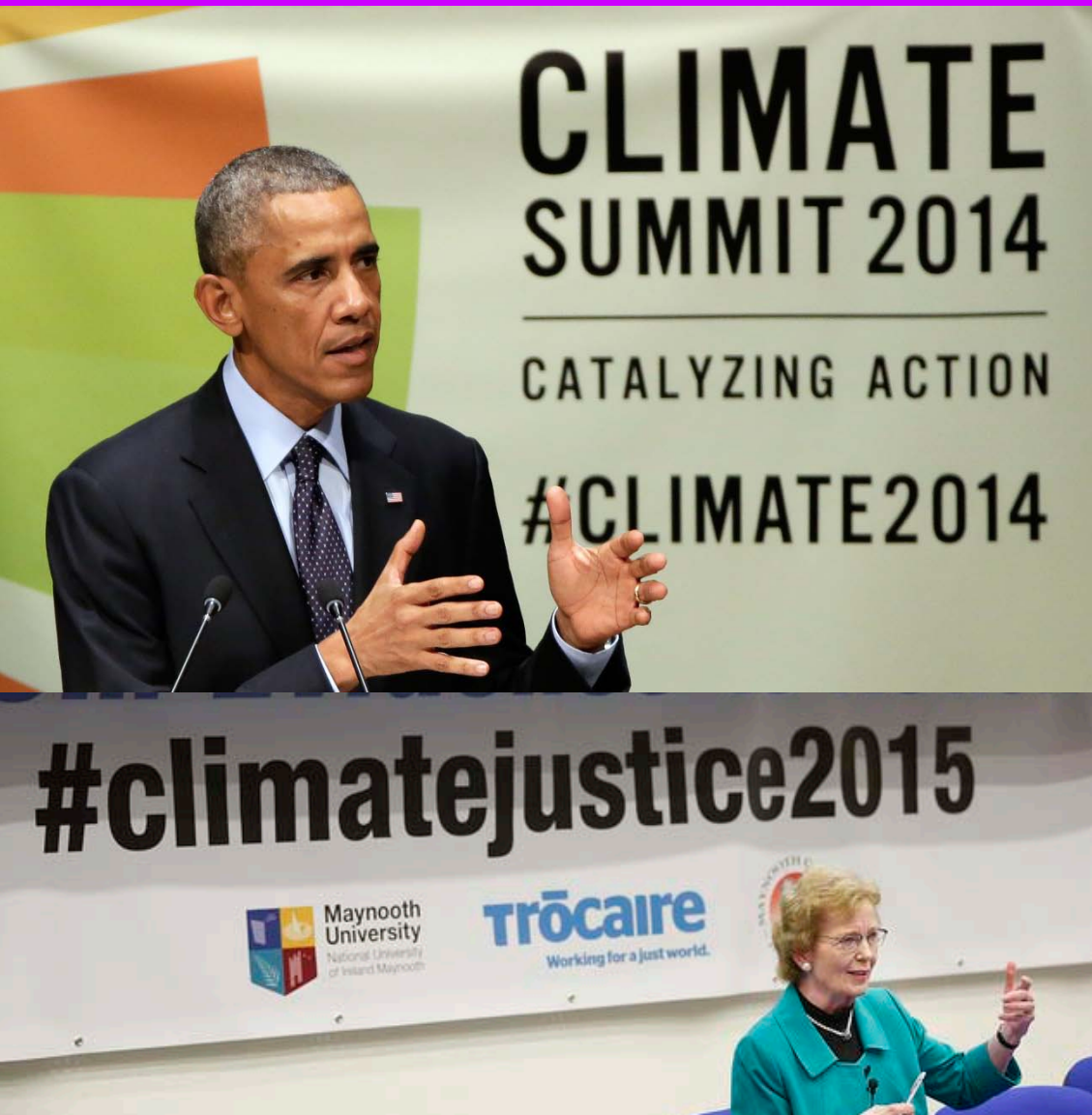


# Approach and Action

“Interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan” (164)

“The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty”(175)

# The Reality on the Ground



“A healthy politics is sorely needed, capable of reforming and coordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia”



## Questions for reflection:

1. In chapter 5 Pope Francis gives many practical solutions to combatting the worlds ecological problems...but it seems aimed at politicians and decision makers...How too can we influence this avenue for change?
1. What does it mean to be interdependent?





# Chapter 6:

## Ecological Education and Spirituality

# Ecological Education and Spirituality

“It is human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone” (202)

“A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal” (202)

# The Reality on the Ground




“Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not succumb to sadness for what we lack.” (222)



## Questions for reflection:

1. Do you think a new Christian lifestyle is achievable?
2. What would this path of renewal look like?
3. What challenges might we face on this path?



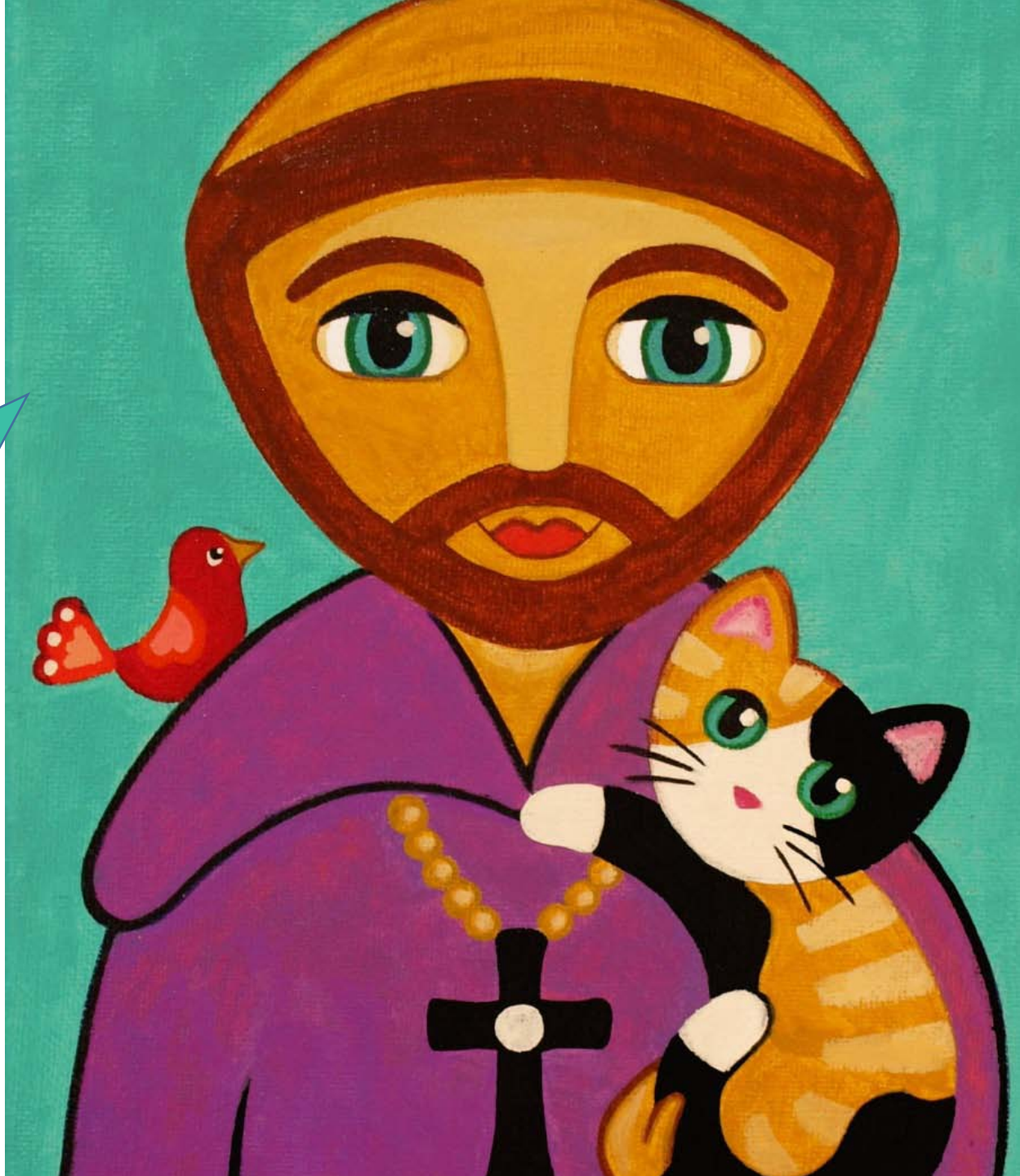
A photograph of Pope Francis sitting on an ornate golden throne with a red upholstered seat. He is wearing his white papal attire, including a zucchetto and a pectoral cross. He has a contemplative expression, with his right hand resting near his chin. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees.

“I do not wish to write this Encyclical without turning to that attractive and compelling figure, whose name I took as my guide and inspiration when I was elected Bishop of Rome. I believe that St. Francis is the example *par excellence* of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically” (10)



# St Francis of Assisi

- ✓ Concern for Nature
- ✓ Justice for the Poor
- ✓ Commitment to Society
- ✓ Interior Peace



“I urgently appeal for a new dialogue about how we are sharing the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and it’s human roots, concern and affect us all” (14)





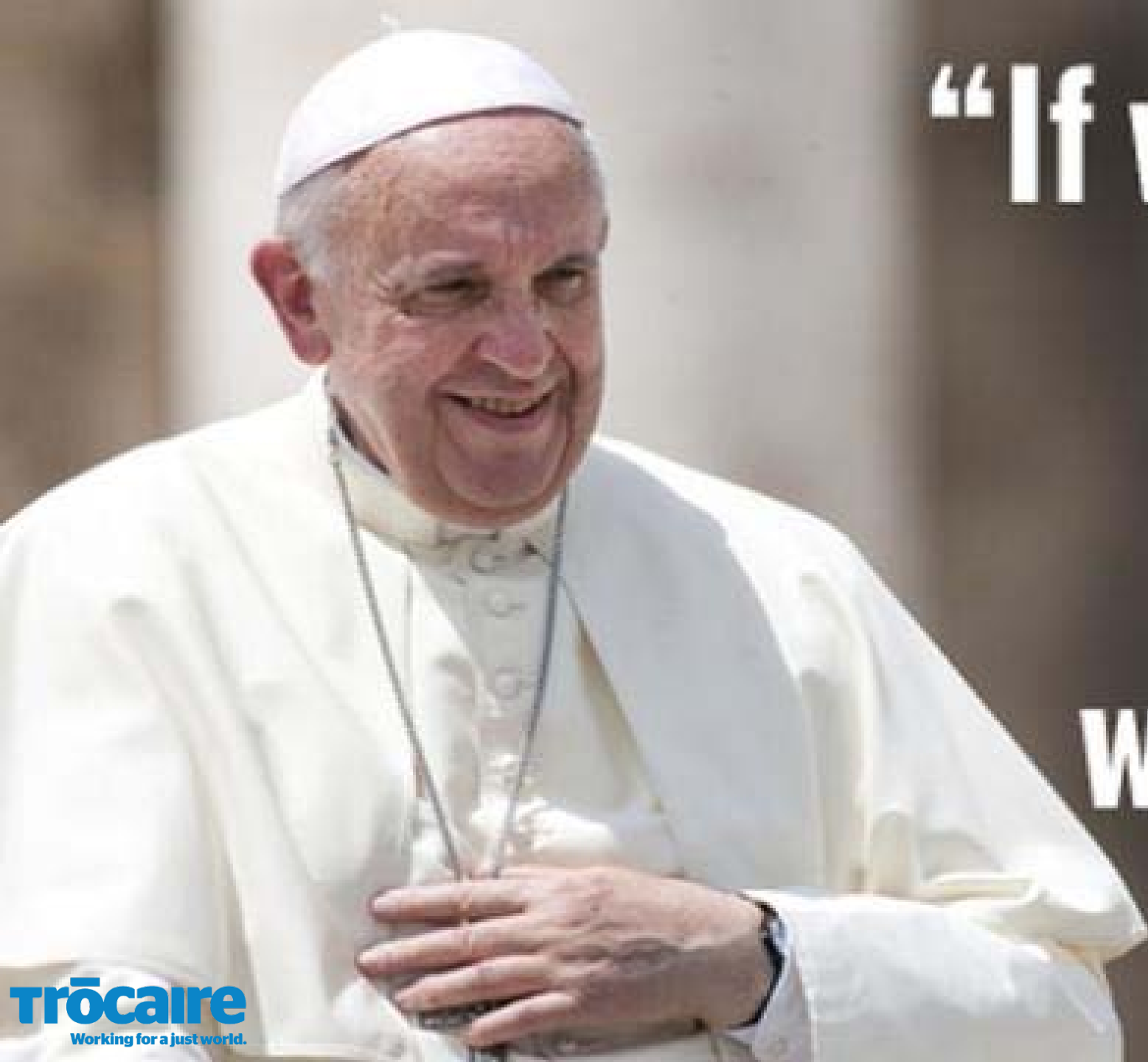
Solar Powered  
light project in  
Uganda  
funded by  
Trócaire



**World's Greenest Nation? Vatican City Has  
Most Solar Power Installed Per Capita**







**“If we destroy  
Creation,  
Creation  
will destroy  
us.”**