

[EarthBeat](#)

[Justice](#)

[Politics](#)

[Faith](#)



Pope Francis walks in a procession at the start of the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon at the Vatican in this Oct. 7, 2019, file photo. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



by Bill Mitchell

[View Author Profile](#)

bmitchell@ncronline.org

Follow on Twitter at [@bmitch](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

May 22, 2020

[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Email to a friend](#)[Print](#)

Some weeks, there's so much news that we just need to get to it. With [Laudato Si' Week](#) officially beginning May 16, this is one of those weeks.

We kicked things off Sunday with staff writer Brian Roewe's report about the Vatican's [office of justice and peace inviting the global church to pursue "total sustainability" in the next decade](#), a path that would include carbon neutrality, simpler lifestyles and divestment from fossil fuels.

Also on Sunday, Vatican correspondent Joshua J. McElwee advanced the divestment story with [information from a former official of the Vatican Bank that the institution had no fossil fuel investments when he worked there 2013-2015](#). He also provided reasons why he doubted the bank had any now. Before the week was out, Josh [had confirmed with the bank's director general that it has no investments in the sector](#).

I hope you're enjoying the [Digging Into Laudato Si' series](#) that Samantha Panchèvre is writing for us. Today's edition: [A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach](#).

Sunday is the actual anniversary of Pope Francis signing *Laudato Si'* in 2015. We'll mark the day with [a special in-depth report on what's happened since by Brian Roewe](#). Brian knows what he's talking about. He's been on this beat since 2011.

Here's what else is new on EarthBeat this week:

- Brian reports on [42 faith groups in 14 countries announcing divestment plans](#).
- Leading off a special collection of commentary pegged to *Laudato Si'*'s fifth anniversary, [writer and activist Bill McKibben suggests a tweet for @Pontifex](#).
- Gina McCarthy, who headed the Environmental Protection Agency under President Obama, says the anniversary is a chance to "[speak up, stand up, act up](#)."
- Allen Ottaro, a Nairobi-based member of the [EarthBeat advisory panel](#), reports that [Laudato Si' is taking root in Africa but that much urgent work remains](#).

- In an editorial, NCR applauds what's been achieved since Pope Francis issued his encyclical, but concludes that it [fails to measure up to his "urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis."](#)
-

Multimedia can be an especially useful tool in telling the climate story. Here are three examples from this week:

- A graphic story by Beatrice Jin of Politico: [How the pandemic has changed the natural world, illustrated.](#)
 - Thanks to the aforementioned Bill McKibben for the tip in his [Climate Crisis newsletter](#) to [this video](#). It explains an interactive tool that equips you to pull the levers required to reduce global warming to safe levels.
 - [And here's the tool itself](#). You can save your results, for better or worse, via social media or email.
-

Upcoming event:

A week from tomorrow, on May 30, Stillpoint at Beckside Spirituality Center and the Multifaith Center for Climate Justice will present a 90-minute webinar exploring spiritual energy and resilience. You can register [here](#).

For more events, check out [Earth Beat's Event Calendar](#). One advantage of so many events moving online is their accessibility to a wider audience. If you'd like to expand the audience of your next virtual climate event, [please post it here](#).

Closing beat:

If you're looking for up to the minute news in the nexus of faith and climate, please check out our [Interfaith Climate Tracker](#). If you follow an account we don't but should, [please alert me](#). You can view the accounts we follow [here](#).

We hope you'll forward this week's newsletter to anyone you believe might want to subscribe. [They can do so here](#). And if you'd like to support EarthBeat, [please join NCR Forward](#) for as little as five bucks a month.

Thanks for reading!

Bill Mitchell

NCR Climate Editor

bmitchell@ncronline.org

Advertisement

This story appears in the **Laudato Si' at Five** feature series. [View the full series.](#)