

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today we received from the Holy Father the Encyclical *Laudato Si* ("Praise be to you, my Lord"). Pope Francis comes to us in his capacity as pastor of our Universal Church to address the important subject of our care for the planet and, by extension, each other. He calls our attention to the impacts of human behavior on God's creation; he draws connections between environmental degradation and modern sins like consumerism and individualism; and he invites us to reflect on how we might change our lifestyles to bring about a more healthy planet for future generations.

It is important that we, as Catholics, take the time to read, reflect and pray about all that Pope Francis presents to us in *Laudato Si*. It is not a scientific document and it is not a political document; it is a moral document rooted in central Catholic teaching. Please join me in spending some quality time with this challenging Encyclical. I pray that it will inform our shared journey of faith and our call to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes