

Laudate Deum

"Never has humanity had so much power over itself and nothing guarantees that it will use it well, especially when you consider the way it is serving it. In what hands is it and in what power can it come? It is terribly risky that it resides in a small part of humanity"

As announced on 4 October, the anniversary of St. Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, born Pope Francis, 266th pope of the Catholic Church, and bishop of Rome, issued his apostolic exhortation entitled *Laudate Deum*, defined by himself as an update of his previous Encyclical *Laudato Si'* of May 2015.

The text (which you can download from the link at the bottom of this article, along with that of the previous encyclical) has not found in the media the space that deserved an intervention of a Pontiff, interlocutor of all the rulers of the world, invested with his powers directly from God (according to the theocratic conception), supreme authority, not only spiritual but also political, on over 2.3 billion believers in the world (also in Italy Christianity, especially the Catholic one, is the most practiced religion ever, by about 80% of the population) Will it be because, again, Francis says uncomfortable things? In fact, this time, unlike eight years ago, it has been much more direct and incisive, expanding and completing the message of the encyclical *Laudato si'* on the care of the common home and integral ecology.

We give you a small taste of it because the apostolic recommendation must be read in full by politicians, entrepreneurs, government leaders, believers and non-believers citizens, and must be translated into daily practice, each by reason of the role it plays in the world.

Francis left little room for comfortable interpretations, going mercilessly straight in his statements. And it starts with a simple observation of everyday life: "With the passage of time, I realize that we do not react enough, since the world that welcomes us is crumbling and perhaps is approaching a breaking point. Beyond this possibility, there is no doubt that the impact of climate change will increasingly damage the lives of many people and families. We will feel the effects in terms of health, work, access to resources, housing, forced migration and other areas." The rulers of the whole world, but also every single citizen, should definitely become aware that, beyond any more optimistic prediction, this will be, if we do not intervene immediately, the fate of our and future generations, because "As much as we try to deny, hide, conceal or relativize them, the signs of climate change are there, more and more evident."

The causes of this situation are identified and clearly indicated: "The human origin - "anthropic" - of climate change can no longer be put in doubt".

And to those who deny the evidence, two paragraphs are dedicated: "In recent years there have been people who have tried to minimize this observation. They

cite supposedly scientific data, such as the fact that the planet has always had and will always have periods of cooling and warming. They neglect to mention another relevant fact: what we are witnessing now is an unusual acceleration of warming, with such a speed that it takes just one generation - not centuries or millennia - to notice it. Rising sea levels and melting glaciers can easily be felt by a person during his or her lifetime, and in a few years' time many people will probably have to move their homes because of these events.

To make a mockery of those who talk about global warming, they resort to the fact that extreme cold also occurs frequently. It is forgotten that these and other extraordinary symptoms are only alternative expressions of the same cause: the global imbalance caused by the warming of the planet. Droughts and floods, drying up of lakes and populations swept away by tsunamis or floods have basically the same origin. On the other hand, if we talk about a global phenomenon, we cannot confuse it with transient and changing events, which are largely explained by local factors."

And Francis does not even fail to reply to the recurrent fake of those who argue that the ecological transition, slows economic development: "It is also often said that efforts to mitigate climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels and developing cleaner forms of energy will lead to a reduction in jobs. What is happening is that millions of people are losing their jobs because of the various consequences of climate change: rising sea levels, drought and many other phenomena affecting the planet have left many people adrift. On the other hand, the transition to renewable, well-managed forms of energy, as well as all efforts to adapt to the damage of climate change, are capable of generating countless jobs in different sectors."

The other chapters are devoted, without any doubt narrative, to the panorama of the damage and risks related to climate change; the distorted use of economic power, technocracies, finance; the roles of science, of technology but also of international politics; to the defense of the poor; to the different world contexts; to the role of the global Conference, with a lot of indications for the next Cop 28 of Dubai; to the spiritual motivations.

Enjoy reading, because "We are just in time to avoid even more dramatic damage".

THE ENCYCLICAL LAUDATO SI':

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

THE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION LAUDATE DEUM:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html