

Respect Life Week: Resources for Youth Nights

Topic: Environment

Opening Prayer: Open with a song such as “[Indescribable](#)” by Chris Tomlin. You may also want to draw from these [prayer resources](#) for the environment to conclude your session.

Introduction: The leader introduces Laudato Si’ to the group. This [brief summary](#) may be helpful.

Suggested Videos:

- [Animated Introduction to Laudato Si’](#) 4 minute video that summarizes the main points of Laudato Si’ with an emphasis on the role that young people have in caring for creation.

Activities:

- Any of these activities from the [Catholic Agency for Overseas Development](#) would be a fitting way to engage youth with Laudato Si’ and help them to understand the way that our faith is calling us to care for creation. Four activities that can be conducted separately or collectively take an hour and a half.
- Brainstorm ways that youth can become better stewards of the Earth in their own lives. Have each student make a commitment to at least one action that will help the Earth and plan on future check-ins for them to report back on how their steps are going.

Closing Prayer: [A prayer for our Earth](#) from Laudato Si’

All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with your peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle, for justice, love and peace. Amen.