



***Climate Changed* Podcast Discussion Guide** **Season 3, Episode 5**

Guest: Jose Aguto

Title: Climate Change, American Catholics, and Laudato Si

Welcoming Activity

Reflect on an experience where you visited or participated in a faith community different from your own. What stood out to you about their traditions, practices, or beliefs? What memories do you have of how your senses were engaged during the visit? Consider sight, sound, smell, taste, touch. How did this encounter shape your understanding of faith and community? Share your story with the group and discuss how these experiences can inspire dialogue and action in addressing climate change.

Introduction to Episode

In this episode, Jose Aguto, a seasoned climate advocate and Catholic, shares his journey of integrating faith and action to address the climate crisis. Ben Yosua-Davis and Nicole Diroff join Jose in exploring how *Laudato Si* and *Laudate Deum* provide a moral framework for ecological conversion, offering practical insights for engaging faith communities in climate action.

Discussion Topics

1. The Moral Dimension of Climate Action

Summary: Jose emphasizes the importance of the moral and spiritual call to address climate change, particularly through Pope Francis' teachings in *Laudato Si* and *Laudate Deum*. He highlights the need for ecological conversion and systemic change rooted in faith.

Discussion Questions:

- How does the concept of a moral obligation to care for creation resonate with your faith or values?
- Pope Francis urges a “radical change” in human behavior. What changes could your community make to align with this vision?
- How can emphasizing the moral dimension of climate action help bridge political and cultural divides?

Listen and Reflect Activity: Start and End Time: [16:10 - 18:26]

Listen to Jose Aguto explain the concept of ecological conversion and the moral imperative for action. Afterward, discuss:

- What aspects of Jose's explanation resonate most with you?
- How can your community begin fostering ecological conversion?

2. Encountering Creation as an Act of Faith

Summary: Jose connects the love for God with love for creation, emphasizing that care for the environment is integral to faith, not an addition. He invites us to reflect on how encountering the natural world deepens our spiritual lives.

Discussion Questions:

- Jose encourages spending time in nature as a spiritual practice. How might this practice transform your relationship with the environment?
- What role does your faith community play in fostering a connection between spirituality and creation care?
- How can reflecting on the interconnectedness of humanity and nature inspire collective action?

3. Engaging with *Laudato Si*

Summary: Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* provides a profound call to care for our common home, emphasizing the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and spiritual well-being.

Activity: Visit the Vatican's official page for *Laudato Si* ([link](#)). Choose a quote from the document that speaks directly to you. Reflect on why this quote resonates and write a brief reflection. Share your quote and reflection with the group.

Next Step: Share your chosen quote and reflection publicly through social media, a newsletter, or with fellow congregants. Encourage others to engage with *Laudato Si* and discuss its implications for their own lives.

4. Challenges and Opportunities in the Catholic Church

Summary: Jose shares stories of Catholic dioceses committing to net-zero goals and navigating the challenges of ecological conversion in politically and economically complex contexts.

Discussion Questions:

- Jose highlights the tension between economic realities and ecological responsibility. How can faith communities navigate these tensions?
- What lessons can other faith traditions learn from the Catholic Church's approach to climate action?
- How might your community engage stakeholders to implement sustainable practices?

5. Engaging Youth and Building Resilience

Summary: Jose highlights the importance of engaging young people in climate action through faith-based initiatives. He emphasizes the potential for intergenerational collaboration to address environmental and social challenges.

Discussion Questions:

- Youth view climate change as a top priority. How can your community support their leadership?
- How does intergenerational collaboration enhance resilience in faith communities?
- What programs or practices could your faith community implement to engage youth in climate action?

Next Steps

Actionable Ideas:

- **Engage in Lectio Terra:** Reflect on scripture and nature through this spiritual practice. [Learn more.](#)
- **Support the Catholic Climate Covenant:** Explore resources and join initiatives. [Visit their website.](#)
- **Host a Laudato Si Study Group:** Dive into Pope Francis' encyclicals and discuss their implications for your community.
- **Organize a Nature Walk:** Invite community members to reflect on their connection to creation and its care.
- **Collaborate with Youth:** Partner with schools or youth organizations to foster climate action projects.

More Discussion Questions

- How does your personal relationship with nature inform your faith and climate action?

- Pope Francis describes ecological conversion as a spiritual transformation. How can this concept inspire your community?
- What partnerships or initiatives could amplify your faith community's impact on climate issues?
- How might your community integrate care for creation into regular worship or programming?