

# Climate Change in the Church



# Issues of Climate Change: The Global perspective

Extreme weather events

Temperature fluctuations

Degradation of habitat

Loss of species/biodiversity

Exploitation of resources

Economic imbalances

Democratic Deficit

# Responses to Climate Change:

- International Agreements - Paris Agreement 2015
- National legislation and oversight
- Pope Francis - Laudato Si': Integral Ecology
- Climate Strikes and Extinction Rebellion





Do issues of Climate Change have parallels in Church?

Is it reasonable to suggest that the issues which underpin climate breakdown also apply to the Church?

Are they transferrable?



# Are there climate change parallels in the Church?



- Extreme weather events
- Temperature fluctuations
- Degradation of habitat
- Loss of species/biodiversity
- Exploitation of resources
- Economic imbalances
- Democratic Deficit

- Tornados, landslides,
- Drought, arctic blasts
- Environmental challenges
- Inhibiting evolution and growth
- Resistance to new forms of energy
- Responding to the needs of weaker species
- Power/authority/decision-making vested in small minority

# Issues for the Church – Issues for Us

- Hurricanes, landslides : repeated scandals & negative media coverage
- Arctic blasts, drought: limited relational engagement at pastoral level, lack of effective spiritual nourishment
- Environmental challenges: choosing maintenance over mission, preferring the comfort zone of doctrine & dogma to dialogue, language and communication
- Loss of Species/biodiversity : promoting uniformity over unity; rules & regulations over





# Issues for the Church – Issues for Us

- Exploitation of resources: over reliance on volunteers, limited respect for time & labour, reluctance to invest in personnel
- Economic Imbalances: lack of meaningful engagement in Social Justice issues: homelessness, poverty, addiction, racism
- Democratic Deficit: Power/authority/decision making vested in small male minority



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How can we make a difference?  
**What can we do?**





PEANUTS

I HEAR  
YOU'RE  
WRITING  
A BOOK ON  
THEOLOGY



I HOPE YOU HAVE  
A GOOD TITLE



I HAVE THE  
PERFECT  
TITLE...



"Has It Ever Occurred  
to You That You  
Might Be Wrong?"



Change

NEXT EXIT





A photograph of Pope Francis speaking into a microphone. He is wearing his white papal attire, including a zucchetto and a pectoral cross. The background is a soft-focus green landscape. Overlaid on the image is text in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in several lines, with some lines being longer than others. A decorative horizontal line with a central diamond shape separates the title from the main text. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'Tweeting with GOD' which includes a small bird icon.

POPE FRANCIS RELEASES ENCYCLICAL LETTER

# LAUDATO SI

—♦—

ALL CREATURES  
ARE CONNECTED,  
EACH MUST BE  
CHERISHED WITH  
LOVE AND  
RESPECT,  
FOR ALL OF US  
AS LIVING  
CREATURES ARE  
DEPENDENT ON  
ONE ANOTHER





**EVERYTHING  
IS INTERCONNECTED  
AND  
INTERDEPENDENT**

**Integral  
Ecology**

# We Need to Change



- “We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart” LS 218
- “The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion” LS 219
- “Living our vocation to be protector’s of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience” LS 217

# The Way Forward ?

- Laudato Si' - a tool of transformation
- Gerry O'Hanlon - call for synod in Ireland
- Sense of the Faithful - *senses fidei fidelium*



# Laudato Si' (2015)

- *All of this shows the urgent need for us to move forward in a bold cultural revolution. n114*
- *Religions must enter into “dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. n 201*





- No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. n205
- Viable scenarios will have to be generated between ...extremes, since there is no one path to a solution. This makes a variety of solutions possible... n60
- On many concrete questions, the Church has no reason to offer a definitive opinion; she knows that honest debate must be encouraged, while respecting divergent



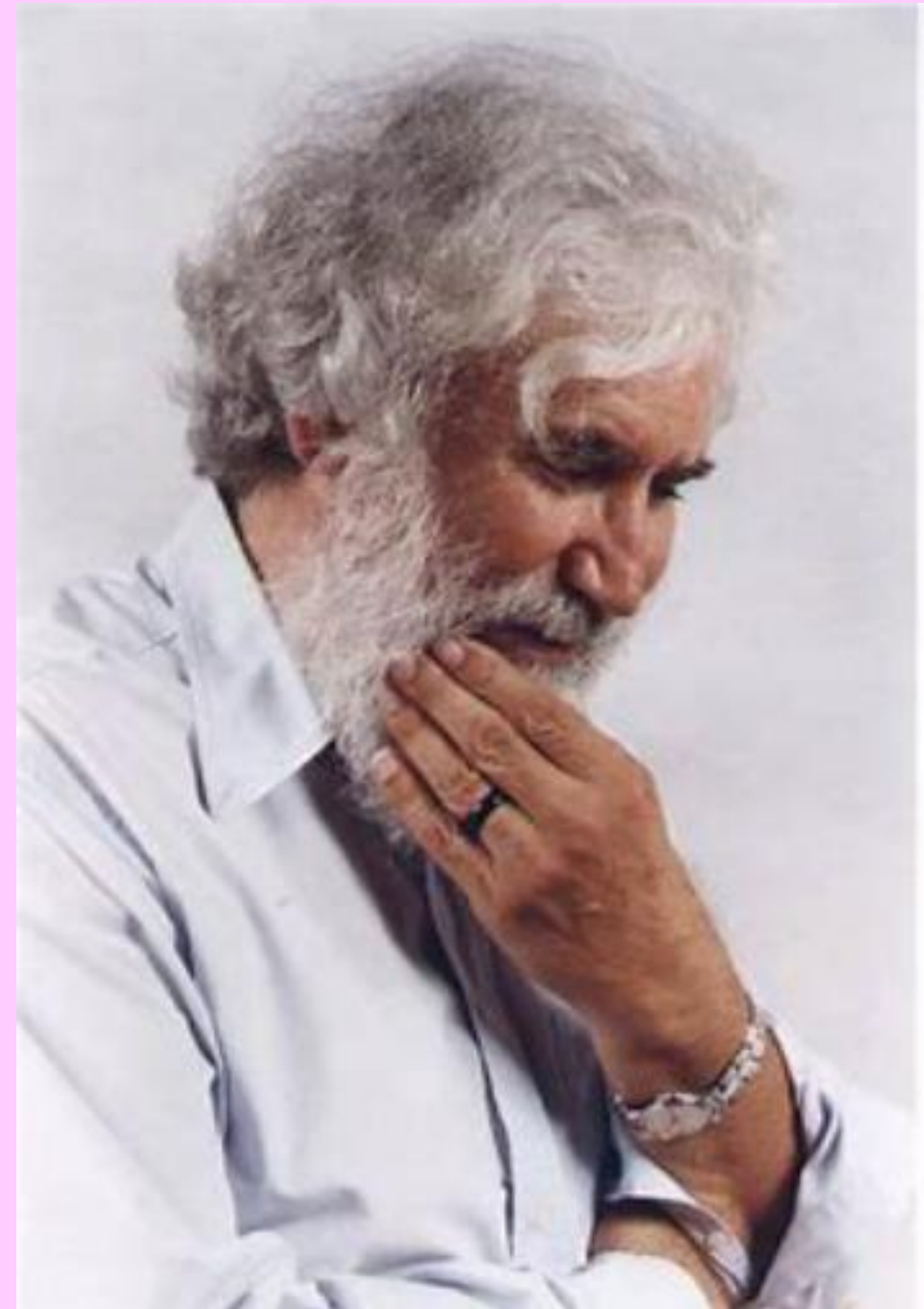
# Bold Cultural Revolution (2018)

- the contemplation of the mystery
- wide open dialogue
- plurality of knowledge
- networking.

# Another perspective

## - Leonardo Boff

- 5 things which would change how we experience Church:
  - Participation
  - Solidarity
  - Equality
  - Diversity
  - Communion





# Solidarity





# Participation





EQUALITY



# Diversity





# Communion

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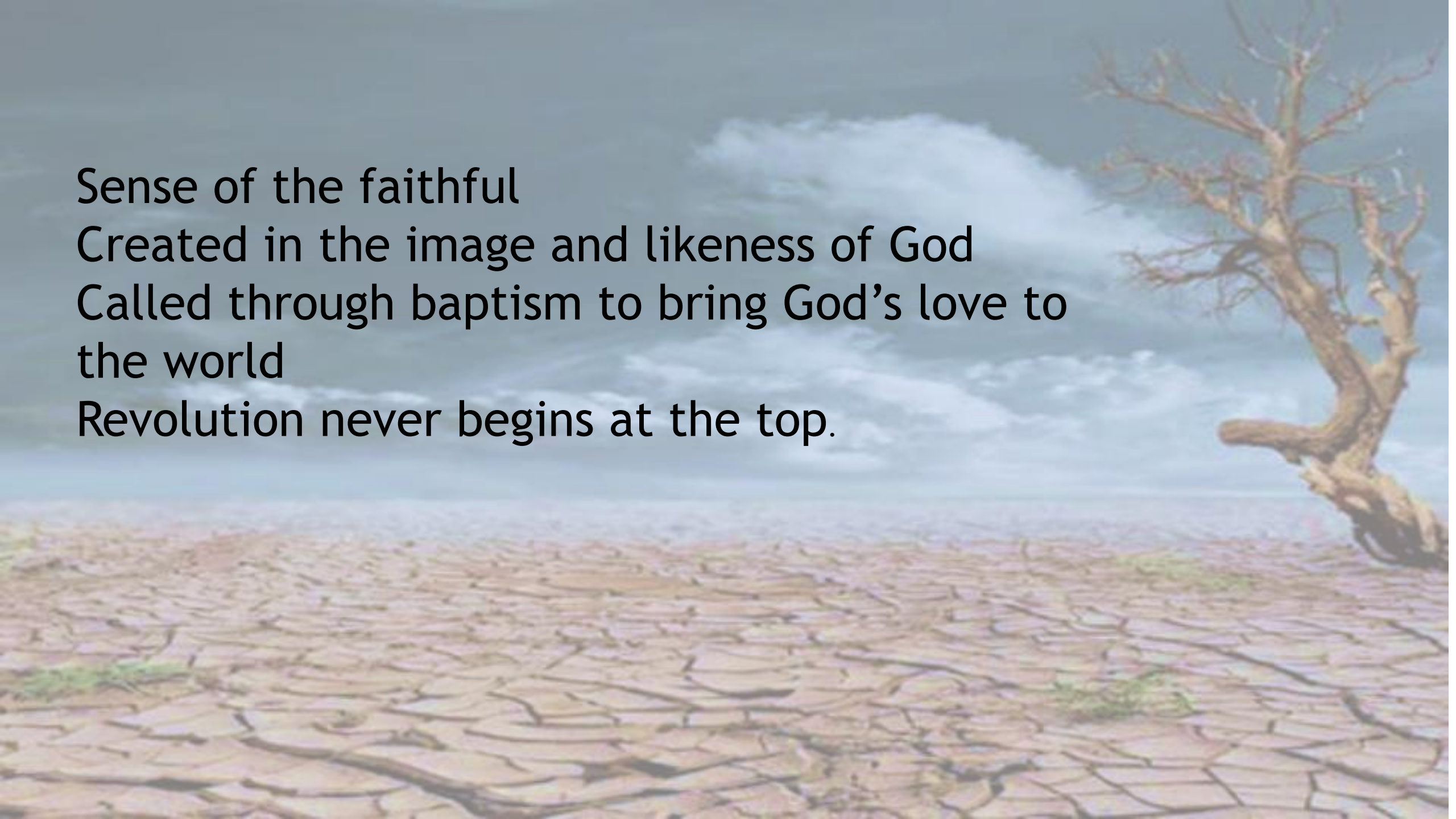
“Every person is a love  
story that God writes  
on this earth.”

*-Pope Francis*  
May 17, 2017

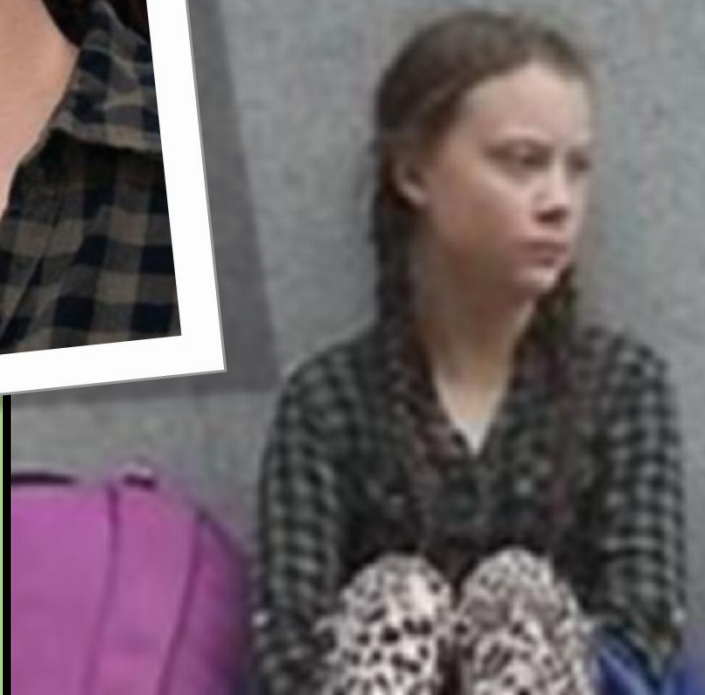
Movement from  
passive to active  
roles

Empowerment

Sense of the faithful  
Created in the image and likeness of God  
Called through baptism to bring God's love to  
the world  
Revolution never begins at the top.







SKOLSTREJK  
FÖR





“The times are changing, and we are changing with them. We are always in the process of becoming”

Edith Eger

A scenic landscape featuring a large body of water, a town, and mountains under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

**THE BIGGEST  
HUMAN TEMPTATION  
IS TO SETTLE FOR  
TOO LITTLE**

Thomas Merton