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
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?"
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 views.
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
EQUALLY
Diversity
Communion
“Every person is a love story that God writes on this earth.”

-Pope Francis
May 17, 2017
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.
Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

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

Edith Eger
The biggest human temptation is to settle for too little

Thomas Merton