

The Science Behind ***Laudate Deum***

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The Certainty of the Climate Crisis

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Dr. Katharine Hayhoe:

“Climate change is real, it's human-caused, its impacts are serious ... and there are solutions if we act now.”

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Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2023):

“Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming”

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“In an attempt to simplify reality, there are those who would place responsibility on the poor, since they have many children ... As usual, it would seem that everything is the fault of the poor. Yet the reality is that ... per capita emissions of the richer countries are much greater than those of the poorer ones.”

The Problem of Climate Denial

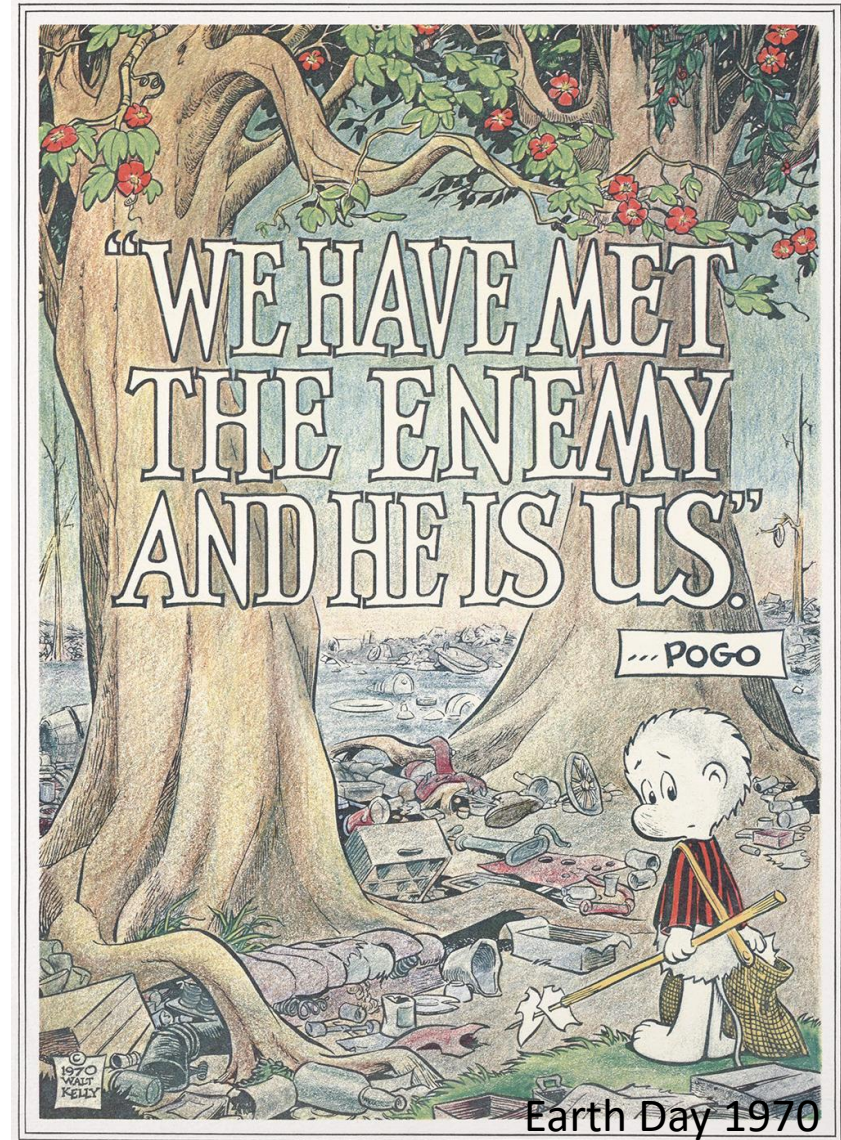
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***Laudate Deum* on Climate Change**

The cause:

“The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which causes global warming, was stable until the nineteenth century, below 300 parts per million in volume ... they hit a historic high ... arriving at 423 parts per million in June 2023”.

The consequence:

“At the same time, we have confirmed that in the last fifty years the temperature has risen at an unprecedented speed, greater than any time over the past two thousand years.”

“It is not possible to conceal the correlation of these global climate phenomena and the accelerated increase in greenhouse gas emissions, particularly since the mid-twentieth century.”

***Laudate Deum* on Climate Change**

The impacts:

“we know that every time the global temperature increases by 0.5° C, the intensity and frequency of great rains and floods increase in some areas and severe droughts in others, extreme heat waves in some places and heavy snowfall in others”

“If it should rise above 2 degrees, the icecaps of Greenland and a large part of Antarctica will melt completely, with immensely grave consequences for everyone.”

***Laudate Deum* on Climate Change**

The impacts:

“Some effects of the climate crisis are already irreversible, at least for several hundred years, such as the increase in the global temperature of the oceans, their acidification and the decrease of oxygen.”

“The same can be said about the decrease in the continental ice sheets. The melting of the poles will not be able to be reversed for hundreds of years.”

***Laudate Deum* on The Technocratic Paradigm**

“Yet we can no longer doubt that the reason for the unusual rapidity of these dangerous changes is a fact that cannot be concealed: the enormous novelties that have to do with unchecked human intervention on nature in the past two centuries. Events of natural origin that usually cause warming, such as volcanic eruptions and others, are insufficient to explain the proportion and speed of the changes of recent decades.”

“Not every increase in power represents progress for humanity. We need only think of the “admirable” technologies that were employed to decimate populations, drop atomic bombs and annihilate ethnic groups.”

***Laudate Deum* on The Technocratic Paradigm**

from *Laudato Si*: “We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.”

“We need to rethink among other things the question of human power, its meaning and its limits” and “a healthy ecology is also the result of interaction between human beings and the environment, as occurs in the indigenous cultures and has occurred for centuries in different regions of the earth”

***Laudate Deum* on Solutions and Global Inequality**

Personal actions are needed:

“Efforts by households to reduce pollution and waste, and to consume with prudence, are creating a new culture.”

“there are no lasting changes without cultural changes, without a maturing of lifestyles and convictions within societies, and there are no cultural changes without personal changes.”

***Laudate Deum* on Solutions and Global Inequality**

We must address inequality:

“If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries, we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact. As a result, along with indispensable political decisions, we would be making progress along the way to genuine care for one another.”

***Laudate Deum* on Solutions and Global Inequality**

Institutional actions are needed:

“At the same time, I cannot deny that it is necessary to be honest and recognize that the most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international level.”

Laudate Deum

“Praise God” is the title of this letter. For when human beings claim to take God’s place, they become their own worst enemies.”

Laudate Deum builds on solid science and takes us to the solutions.