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Book Review: Care for the World: Laudato Si' and Catholic Social Thought in an Era of Climate Crisis, by Frank Pasquale

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Care for the World: Laudato Si' and Catholic Social Thought in an Era of Climate Crisis, Frank Pasquale. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019. Pp. vii +196. \$110.

To complement reflections by many theologians and philosophers on Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, Frank Pasquale, Professor of Law at the University of Maryland, has assembled this impressive collective of ten essays by lawyers in academia and government, an anthropologist, a social scientist, an interdisciplinary humanities scholar, and a communication specialist. They explore perceptively the ethical, legal, and/or political significance of this first major document by a pope that is dedicated to the ecological crisis with its inevitable social ramifications—especially for poor and vulnerable people today and anticipated in the future. What prevails throughout the essays is a justifiable sense of urgency to reflect on and act to mitigate the effects of fossil fuel emissions that are forcing the warming of Earth.

Care for the World is divided into three parts: one each on the policy implications of *Laudato Si'*, its philosophy and methodology, and practical applications of Catholic social thought. In the essays on the encyclical's policy implications, the four authors carefully examine the pope's vision in comparison with secular approaches to addressing ecological-social problems (e.g., the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Ecomodernist Manifesto, the global market, and political systems) and find in *Laudato Si'* a heightened moral imperative for acting thoughtfully and responsibly at all levels of governance. The second set of essays provide starting points for mining the encyclical for its spiritual value when addressing environmental policy within the current economic and cultural context. Especially insightful is the essay that demonstrates Pope Francis's extension of the consistent ethic of life proffered by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin and others as "the seamless garment" to include the human interconnection with other species and systems that constitute our planet. In the three essays of the third part, the authors identify helpful ways in which ideas contained in *Laudato Si'* can be put into practice in cooperatives, places of employment, and technologies that are compatible with the sustainability of our common home.

Recommended for use in upper-division undergraduate and graduate environmental policy, science, law, philosophy, and theology courses, *Care for the World* would be an important addition to college and university libraries.

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