ORIGINS AND MEANING

KEY WORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creation ex nihilo</th>
<th>creation out of nothing. Before God created the universe, nothing existed. Only God can create out of nothing.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evolution</td>
<td>the process of mutation and natural selection which leads to changes in species over time to suit particular environments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imago Dei</td>
<td>in the image of God. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God’s personhood. Unlike the other animals, human beings are rational, free and moral.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspiration</td>
<td>“God breathed”. The belief that the Spirit of God guides an individual to act or write what is good or true,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omnipotence</td>
<td>the belief that God is all powerful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelation</td>
<td>the word used to describe all the ways in which God makes himself known to human beings. God does this finally and fully in the person of Jesus Christ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>the duty to care for creation responsibly as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcendence</td>
<td>existing outside of space and time; God exists in a way that makes him nothing like anything else that exists, above and beyond creation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imminent</td>
<td>God’s presence in the world today. God is with us here and now</td>
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The Bible

**Structure**

The Bible is split into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament contains the Law (including the Ten Commandments), the history books (designed to show people the mistakes of the past so they could be avoided), the wisdom books (including psalms and prayers) and the prophets (people who challenged people to live in the way God wanted.)

The New Testament is based on the life of Jesus and his apostles. It contains the gospels which record Jesus life and teachings. The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of Luke’s Gospel and tells of how the early Church developed. There are letters from apostles such as Peter, Paul and James which offer advice on how to live as a Christian. Finally the Book of Revelation which was written by John which some Christians believe describe the end of the world.

**Inspiration**

“All Scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people’s lives and teaching them to be holy.” (2 Timothy)

Catholics believe that the Bible emerged from certain events, which were passed on orally before being written down by human authors in different literary forms. The Holy Spirit influenced the writers, helping them to understand certain things about God and human beings.

Catholics believe that the members of the Church who gathered, selected and edited the books of the Bible were inspired by God in this task.

**Different views**

Catholics believe that the Bible needs to read it in the context in which it was written - the literary style of the writing and the beliefs of the author and his generation need to be taken into account.

Other Christians would read the Bible as a straightforward, literal description of what happened. They do not take into account different literary forms as they believe that the writers wrote what God instructed them to write.
Judaism’s Sources of Authority

Jewish views

The Torah

The Torah is the first five books of the Tanakh (Torah, Nevi’im and Ketuvim) and is believed to be the holiest and most authoritative scripture for Jews. Moses is believed to have received the Torah from God on Mount Sinai.

The many different views amongst Jews derive from their consideration of the Torah as an authoritative text.

- For some they believe it was given by God to Moses and as such must be taken literally and not changed. Many Orthodox Jews will seek to obey the mitzvot as duties in life. Society may change but Jewish teachings don’t. One of Maimonides’ (a Jewish teacher) principles was that the Torah was given in its entirety to Moses and can never be changed.

- For many Reform and Liberal Jews, it is not necessary to take the scriptures literally and they believe that sometimes they have to be adapted for modern life.

The Oral Torah

For many Orthodox Jews, the Oral Torah is also considered as source of authority. Believed to be God’s words revealed to Moses and passed down to successors to form the Mishnah and Talmuds.

Many Reform Jews may refer to the Oral Torah but not see it as a source of divine authority.
Genesis 1 & 2

**KEY CONCEPTS**

**Genesis** – The first book of the Bible, pondering creation, human beings, sin and covenant

**Eternal** – lasting or existing forever; without end

**Omnibenevolent** – All-loving

**Omnipotent** – All-powerful

**Ineffable** – Beyond adequate description, expression or representation

**KEY TEACHINGS**

**Genesis 1**
- God is eternal
- God is omnipotent
- Creation happens at God’s word
- God is transcendent
- God is ineffable
- God is omnibenevolent
- God is portrayed as looking at creation and existing outside of time and space

“Then God commanded ‘And now we will make human beings. So God made human beings making them to be like himself… God looked at everything he had made and it was good” (Genesis 1:26-31)

**Genesis 2**
- God is creator
- God is omnipotent
- God is transcendent AND immanent
- God is omnibenevolent
- God is portrayed as being part of the work and with humanity

“God breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live… You must not eat the fruit of that tree, the tree which gives knowledge of what is good and bad” (Genesis 2:7-17)

**Genesis 1 & 2 together**
- Creation is a sign of God’s love
- Humans are made in the image of God
- All human life belongs to God
- Humans are stewards of the earth
- Humans have been given free will
- Relationships help complete human beings
KEY CONCEPTS

Genesis - The first book of the Bible, pondering creation, human beings, sin and covenant
Eternal - lasting or existing forever; without end
Omnibenevolent - All-loving
Omnipotent - All-powerful

KEY TEACHINGS

The Nature of God
- God is omnipotent - he can create from nothing. “In the beginning God created…” (Genesis 1:1)
- “God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:10) emphasises His omnipotence as he created everything exactly as He wanted it.
- God is transcendent. He says “Let there be…” and it appears. He needs nothing beyond His own words to create.

The Nature of Humans
- Humans were created imago dei - “Let us make mankind in our image” (Genesis 1:26), “I will make a helpmate for man” (Genesis 2:18)
- All human life belongs to God. “God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became alive.” (Genesis 2:7)
- God gave humans free will. “You are free to eat from any tree... but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:16-17)
- God gives humans responsibility - stewardship - of his creation. “they may rule over the fish... birds... livestock” (Genesis 1:26)
- Genesis 2 has God presenting the animals for Adam to name. this shows that humans have both authority and responsibility for them.
- Humans are also divided into two complimentary parts: male and female. “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)
Catholic Beliefs About the Origins of the Universe.

KEY CONCEPTS

Eternal – lasting or existing forever; without end
Omnibenevolent – All-loving
Omnipotent – All-powerful

KEY TEACHINGS

Catholics believe that God created ex nihilo (creation out of nothing). They believe:
- God is transcendent (existing outside of space and time). That is how he is able to create from nothing.
- God is omnipotent (all powerful), which is another reason he can create from nothing.
- “God alone created the universe, freely, directly and without any help.” (CCC 317)

St Augustine was an early Catholic thinker who grappled with the origins of the universe. In his Confession he explained that:
- God is eternal. In the beginning, before the creation of the universe, before time exists, only God exists. “You were, and besides you nothing was.”
- God is transcendent. God is beyond time and space. “in the Beginning, ...created this thing out of nothing.”
- God is creator. “You created heaven and earth..”
- God is omnipotent. He was able to create something out of nothing. “there is nothing that you cannot do.”
- God is omnibenevolent. God loves creation into being. “You are good and all that you make must be good.”

G.K. Chesterton teaches us that:
- God made everything
- Everything that God made was good.
- Humans are the high point of God’s creation. As such, we have a special responsibility to care for creation.
Catholic and Fundamentalist Understanding of Genesis Creation Account

KEY CONCEPTS

**Genesis** - Contains a description of the Catholic teachings on the creation of the universe

**Creation** - the creating of the universe, especially when regarded as an act of God.

**Fundamentalist Christian** - A denomination of Christianity who interpret the bible as the literal word of God

KEY TEACHINGS

**Genesis 1:1-31** describes God's creation of the universe over a period of six days. Some Christians believe the story to be literal; that it tells us exactly how creation happened. Others believe that Genesis is a myth - a story intended to convey a deep truth or message (not in a literal way)

**Catholic Understanding**

Catholics accept the *Genesis* creation stories as myths (a story that conveys a deep or complex truth). It is not meant to be taken literally. The message that the story conveys is what is important. Messages such as reveals different aspects of God - “all powerful, transcendent, benevolent”.

Catholics would say the “days” in Genesis can mean 'a period of time’. Psalm 90:4 says that for the Lord “a thousand years are a single day.” Maybe God raised the level of development of the world at regular intervals over a long period of time (like evolution). Catholics would also say that to read *Genesis* as science is a mistake. They accept the Big Bang and evolution.

**Evangelical or Literal Christian Understanding**

Fundamentalist Christians believe that *Genesis* is literally true. *Genesis* can be taken as literally true because God is all-powerful (omnipotent) and all-knowing (omniscient), so God is capable of creating the world in just seven days, as described. Also because God loves all humans He would not mislead people by giving them incorrect information.

They do not accept the notion of the Big Bang and the theory of evolution. Where questions are raised about fossil evidence, this is seen as a test from God.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Similarity</strong></th>
<th><strong>Difference</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Believe in God</td>
<td>Catholics use it to HELP and GUIDE them in their everyday life therefore we should use the word of God in context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believe the authors of the bible are inspired by God</td>
<td>Fundamentalists believe that we should take the word of God LITERALLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The bible is Gods revelation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The living word of God to help is today</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jewish Interpretations of Genesis

Jewish views

In Jewish belief, God is the source of all life and referred to throughout the Torah as the sole creator. Prayers are said in Orthodox synagogues expressing this belief ‘Blessed be He who spoke and the world existed.’ The modeh ani prayer said by many Jews each morning and thanks God for allowing life for another day.

Genesis (the first book of the Torah) tells two creation stories:

Heaven and earth, animals and humans are created in six days with the seventh day being a day of rest. Each week observant Jews celebrate Shabbat and keep it as a day of rest.

The second creation story in Genesis describes how Adam and Eve were created and placed in the Garden of Eden. In both, humans are created on the sixth day. Adam, the first human being, was made in the image of God, from dust from the earth. Adam and Eve had power over all things.

Traditionally Rosh Hashanah is the celebration of the day when God created the world and marks the beginning of the New Year.

Some Orthodox Jews believe these stories are true accounts. Other, perhaps more Reform Jews, believe that the creation accounts are stories which shouldn’t be considered as historical facts. Some may believe that God started the universe through the Big Bang and has guided the creation of life through evolution.
Genesis and the Big Bang

KEY CONCEPTS

**Big Bang Theory** - A theory that the universe may have been created in a huge explosion at least 12 billion years ago.

**Genesis** - Contains a description of the Catholic teachings on the creation of the universe.

**Creation** - The creating of the universe, especially when regarded as an act of God.

KEY TEACHINGS

The **Big Bang** is a description of how scientists believe the universe began. They believe that the universe was caused by a huge explosion about 20 billion years ago. Evidence includes:

- Scientists know that the universe is expanding and that movement can be tracked back to a single point.
- Background microwave radiation can be detected in space.

**Stephen Hawking** (one of the most famous cosmologists living today) says that when we look closely at the number of galaxies and their development the universe can be aged at roughly 14 billion years old. He claims that the universe did not need a Creator saying: "Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing."

**Problems with accepting the Big Bang Theory**

The **Big Bang Theory** replaced the Steady State Theory as the accepted view of the origins of the universe. Therefore, there might be other theories waiting in the wings for that extra bit of persuasive evidence - like the Pulsation Hypothesis Theory.

Science is open to change, development and revision - so can it be relied upon?

**Catholic Responses**

Catholics accept the Big Bang Theory and it was a Catholic priest, Georges Lemaitre, who first put forward the Theory. However, they would argue that everything in the universe depends on something else. There must be something that is not dependant on anything - a First Cause - to start the Big Bang off. Catholics would point to this First Cause as God.

KEY COMPARISON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Similarity</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accept the Big Bang Theory as the origin of the universe</td>
<td>Catholics believe God caused the Big Bang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catholics the universe depends on something else</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY CONCEPTS

Big Bang Theory - A theory that the universe may have been created in a huge explosion at least 12 billion years ago.

Evolution - the process by which different kinds of living develop from early existence.

Genesis - Contains a description of the Catholic teachings on the creation of the universe.

Creation - the creating of the universe, especially when regarded as an act of God.

KEY TEACHINGS

Charles Darwin suggested the theory of evolution in 1859 following a number of years of research. He suggested that the huge variety of creatures and species is the result of thousands of years of change and adaption (evolution).

This theory suggests that nothing was designed to look like it does today, or to work in the way it does. Things have changed so that they can survive - they were not made by God thousands of years ago.

Richard Dawkins continues Darwin’s argument suggesting that sometimes evolution happens by chance. He is a committed atheist who argues that “design cannot precede evolution and therefore cannot underlie the universe.” He believes humanity was created by a genetic chance who is attempting to survive.

Catholic Response

Several Popes, starting with Pope Pius XII in 1950, have taught that there is no conflict between Darwin’s theory and the Catholic understanding of God’s deliberate, purposeful creation of human beings. The Church teaches that there had to be an ‘intelligent mind’ behind evolution or there would have been total chaos. This ‘intelligent mind’ was God. God created the original lifeforms with the ability to adapt and change.

Saint John Paul II wrote an encyclical in which he emphasised that the Bible has to be read carefully and that science contributes to the Church’s wisdom and understanding. He claimed that evolution is a theory of great merit which advances our understanding. Evolution has occurred under the direction of God. Catholics believe that the human body has evolved, however, the human soul is and was created by God which remains the same.
Forms of Expression

Michelangelo’s Creation of Adam painting
✓ Adam is shown as a perfect man. This reflects what is taught in Genesis: that God made everything “very good” (Genesis 1:31).
✓ God is powerful yet ancient. This evokes the idea that man is made in the image of God.
✓ Adam and God lie in similar positions - reinforces the idea that humanity is made in the image of God.
✓ The hands of Adam and God reaching out to each other reflect the longing for a close relationship between God and man.
✓ God is carried through the air by a group of angels, reflecting his transcendence. In contrast Adam is firmly on the ground conveying the greatness and majesty of God.

Tree of Life Mosaic
• Black cross in the centre - Christ died to redeem sinful human beings on the wood of the Cross, which is therefore the tree of life.
• Hand of God above the cross - symbolic of the transcendent God reaching down to earth from heaven.
• Green vine that winds round the mosaic - symbol of Jesus who said, “I am the Vine.” (John 15:5).
• Inscription "We will compare the Church of Christ to this vine.” - means that the Church only has life through Christ.
• The greenness also represents the Garden of Eden.
• Serpent - a symbol of the temptation that led to Original Sin. Also a symbol of how sin tries to ruin our life with God.
• Chi-Rho symbol is early Church symbol for Jesus.
• Alpha and Omega - Jesus is symbolically depicted as the first and the last. It is another way of speaking about Jesus as sharing the eternity of God.
Sanctity of Life

KEY CONCEPTS

Imago Dei - Humans are made in the image of God.
Free Will - Humans can decide on their own actions
Dignity - Humans are worthy of respect
Sanctity of life - Human life is a gift from God and belongs to God alone

Catholics believe humans are made in the likeness and image of God (Imago Dei). St Catherine of Siena teaches us that:

- Our life belongs to God
- We have a conscience that tells us when we have done right or wrong
- God will protect us because he loves us
- Life is sacred

“The soul's dignity is that of her creation, seeing that she is the image of God, and this has been given her by grace, and not as her due.” (St Catherine of Siena 4.13)

Jewish views on Sanctity of Life

What does sanctity of life mean?

- Jews believe that all life is holy because it was created and loved by God. This means human life should not be misused or abused.

Sources of wisdom and authority (evidence):

- Jews believe in the sanctity of life because God breathed life into Adam and into the whole of creation in Genesis 2.
- In Genesis 1 it says that God made humans in his image.
- In the Talmud it says that anyone who saves a life, saves the whole world.

Influence of belief: (how does this affect Jewish beliefs, attitude, behaviour, actions?)

- Jews believe that any action that ends a life is wrong. This means that murder, euthanasia (helping a terminally ill person end their life), abortion and the death penalty are wrong.
- Jews believe they should help to preserve human life not end it.
- Orthodox Jews would believe that this means people should be kept alive whatever the cost. Eg. Life support machines should never be turned off.
- Progressive Jews would think that it is ok to remove life support if the person is being kept alive artificially. This is because the person should be allowed to die naturally.
Pikuach Nefesh (Saving a Life)

What does it mean?

- In the Torah there are 613 mitzvot (commandments) that Jews are expected to follow.
- However, Jews are allowed to break a mitzvah (commandment) if it means saving a life.
- Jews believe this because they believe that all humans were made in the image of God.

Sources of wisdom and authority (evidence):

- In the Talmud it says that anyone who saves a life, saves the whole world.

Influence of belief: (how does this affect Jewish beliefs, attitude, behaviour, actions?)

- For example, the Torah says Jews should not do any work on the Sabbath, but Jews are allowed to work if it means saving a life. A doctor can answer emergency calls.
- Another example is in the Torah it says that when Jews die their body needs to be complete.
- This could mean Jews should not donate organs.
- Some Jews, however, would think it is an honour, to donate organs even though they break the laws about
The Liberal Protestant Attitude
Abortion is wrong, but it must be permitted in certain circumstances.

- Jesus told Christians to love their neighbour and abortion may be the most loving thing to do.
- Christians should remove suffering and abortion may be needed in order to do this.
- Life does not begin at conception but at some point during the pregnancy.
- Christianity is concerned with justice. If abortions were banned an unjust situation could arise. Rich women would pay for abortions in another country, but the poor would use back-street abortionists.

The Catholic Attitude
The Catholic Church teaches that all direct abortion is wrong whatever the circumstances and so can never be permitted.

- Life is holy and belongs to God; therefore only God has the right to end a pregnancy.
- Life begins at conception, abortion is therefore taking life.
- The Ten Commandments say that it is wrong to take life. (Thou shalt not kill)
- A foetus is a human being and abortion destroys its right to life, so it follows that abortion is wrong.
- They believe that adoption is always a better solution to unwanted pregnancy than abortion as it preserves life and brings joy to a new family.

KEY CONCEPTS

Abortion - the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy
10 Commandments - The laws or rules handed down to Moses by God on Mount Sinai.
Pro-life - Attitudes that are anti-abortion
Pro-choice - Attitudes that are pro-abortion

KEY TEACHINGS

United Kingdom law on abortion.
The 1967 Act states that an abortion can be carried out if two doctors agree that:
- The mother's life is at risk.
- There is a risk of injury to the mother's physical or mental health.
- There is a risk that another child would put at risk the mental or physical health of existing children.
- There is a substantial risk that the baby might be born seriously handicapped.
The 1990 Act states that abortions cannot take place after 24 weeks of pregnancy, unless the mother's life is gravely at risk or the foetus is likely to be born with severe mental or physical abnormalities, because advances in medical techniques mean such foetuses have a chance of survival.
Key Concepts

**Humanism** - An approach which excludes notions of God and eternity from moral decisions

**Speciesism** - According more importance to one species than to other life forms

**Utilitarianism** - A measure of morality based on levels of happiness

Key Teachings

The Humanist Viewpoint

- Abortion is often a morally acceptable choice to make. This choice is personal.
- Humanists do not think all life is "sacred".
- They do not think that human life begins at conception. Usually more concerned with quality of life rather than the right to life.
- Would put the interests of the woman first as it’s her happiness that matters. She exists already unlike those of the unborn foetus which is not a person, with its own feelings and consciousness.
- All possible options should be explored – adoption might be the best solution in some cases, or on reflection a woman might decide that she could look after a sick or disabled child.

Peter Singer on the value of Human Life and Abortion

Peter Singer, a philosopher, argues that we should try to eliminate as much suffering as possible, opting for a quality of life over sanctity of life.

Singer agrees with Catholics that embryos are human beings from the moment of conception. But he disagrees that they are ‘persons’. Humans being have to think for themselves, to be classed as a person - this means unborn babies, new born babies and elderly. People who are not ‘persons’ can be killed to stop suffering.

Catholic responses to Peter Singer

Catholics would respond to Singer by arguing that:

- Pain and suffering cannot be worked out in numbers
- All humans are persons because they have a soul
- Humans cannot be split in rational/irrational intelligent beings
- Humans should be treated with the upmost respect
- Humans cannot be compared to animals
Jewish views on Abortion

Jewish views

For many Jews, God is believed to be the sole creator, giver and taker of life. Genesis (the first book of the Torah) teaches that humans are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and life is precious. In the Tenakh there are references to a relationship with God even before birth (Psalm 139) and Jeremiah (1).

The Ten Commandments, believed to have been given to Moses, forbids the taking of a life. The Talmud discusses a number of cases in which mitzvoth in the Torah can be disregarded in order to save a human life. This includes working on Shabbat and breaking the fast on Yom Kippur.

There are many different Jewish views concerning abortion. These are often formed by interpretation of religious texts and teachings.

- Some Jews believe as God is creator only He can take life. An important belief in Judaism is pikuach nefesh—the saving of a life. It is taught that ‘Anyone who destroys a human life is considered as if he had destroyed an entire world.’ In the Ten Commandments it is forbidden to kill and some Jews believe this can refer to the unborn.

- However, most Jews believe that the unborn foetus is not a person until it is born.

- Many Reform Jews believe that abortion can be permitted but only for serious reasons such as the mother’s life is at risk.
Caring for the Environment

Catholics believe they have a duty to care for and protect the environment. They believe this because:

- They believe God created the earth as a gift to mankind. Therefore we must respect and preserve this gift for future generations.
- In Genesis 1 God gives humans power over nature and responsibility to look after it. In Genesis 2:15 God commands Catholics to ‘take care’ of the environment.
- The Church teaches that all life is sacred therefore we must protect all life and the environment in which we live.
- The Parable of the Talents teaches Christians to pass on “more” to the next generation.
- Loving your neighbour means caring for future generations and the world they will live in.

Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems society.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si: On Care For Our Common Home

Humanists believe in stewardship because:

- Humanists believe in happiness so they need to support others to have fulfilling lives both today and in the future.
- Empathy is also an important Humanist principle. Many humanists feel they must extend empathy to future generations.
- Humans are born with intelligence – we have a duty to help improve the environment to make the world a better place for other humans.
- It makes logical sense – if we don’t care for the environment, humans will become extinct, to ensure our survival we must protect the environment.
Jewish Teachings on the Environment

Jewish views

God is the source of all life and referred to throughout the Torah as the sole creator. Prayers are said in Orthodox synagogues expressing this belief, ‘Blessed be He who spoke and the world existed.’ For many Jews the universe is too wonderful and complex to have happened by chance.

In the first book of the Torah, God gave humans a duty to take control over nature (Genesis 1. 26-28). Many Jews believe it is their responsibility to continue the work of creation by making the world a better place to live in. This is referred to as Tikkun Olam (healing the world). This includes not wasting or destroying the environment (bal tashchit), not causing stress to living creatures and not causing pollution or harm to trees. This can be seen in the Torah when soldiers are told not to destroy trees in war.

Many Jewish festivals celebrate God’s creation, such as Sukkot which is a harvest festival. The keeping of Sukkot is a mitzvah (duty or obligation). Living in the Sukkah (a temporary shelter often made of leaves and plants) during the festival is a reminder of human connection with nature and the environment.

Jewish people also have a festival where they plant trees (Tu BiShvat - New Year of the Trees/Ecological Awareness Day). Trees are vital to the well-being of our environment and the damage caused by having too few trees can be seen in the rainforests of South America which have suffered significant deforestation.
KEY CONCEPTS

Catholic Social Teachings - Church guidelines on how society should foster human dignity. Laudato Si’ - The 2015 letter by Pope Francis on care of the environment.

KEY TEACHINGS

Catholics believe that creation belongs to everyone and it is everyone’s responsibility to protect and care for the world. Pope Francis says “peace, justice and preservation of creation cannot be separated; every attempt to preserve ecology must also take account the rights of the poors and most vulnerable people” (Laudato Si’ 92-93)

As a result all humans should respect the dignity of each person through the service of others.
Catholic Social Teaching

Catholics believe that:
- Everyone is made in God’s image.
- Everyone is equal.
- Everyone should be looked after – Catholics have a duty to help the poor.
- Help should be practical.

For these reasons they support charities like SVP and CAFOD.

CAFOD is a world-wide organization that offers both long term and short terms aid to communities in LEDCs. CAFOD “recognises the intimate relationship between protecting and sustaining the environment and promoting the human development”.

Long term aid includes teaching people new skills that will help them to work their way out of poverty. They also provide resources such as animals and health care that help people on a long term basis.

Short term aid is given after an emergency such as a flood or a drought. It includes things like tents, clean water, medicines and food.

They also raise awareness of causes of poverty and petition governments to assist these countries. As well as providing Education for those in LEDC’s and awareness through Education in schools.

CAFORD believe that it is only through caring for all aspects of creation, that people are fulfilling their duty as stewards of creation. In doing this Catholics are helping to tackle injustice in the world and promoting the love of God AND neighbour. Pope Francis says there is a need in the world for people to listen to each, we are made in the image of God.
The SVP work in local areas in practical ways to help those in need. Examples of who they help include:
- The sick, both at home and in hospital
- The lonely
- The addicted
- Those suffering from various disabilities
- People in prison
- The homeless

They run activities including:
- Organize Children's Camp
- Run furniture stores
- Drop in centers
- Holiday schemes
- Hostel accommodation
- Community Shops

Most of their work involves visiting people.

**COMMAND WORDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is meant by...</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Describe...</strong></td>
<td>Show knowledge and understanding by describing a belief, teaching, practice, event etc. You would need a few sentences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explain...</strong></td>
<td>Show knowledge and understanding of a topic, supporting the statements made with reasoning and/or evidence. You will need at least to paragraphs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discuss...</strong></td>
<td>Give reasons for and against a statement using religious and non-religious ideas. Evaluation of the reasons given. Personal responses per se will not be credited.</td>
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