

Questions Raised by Pope Francis



Have we forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7), that our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters? (2)

What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold on to power only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so? (57)

it must also be recognized that nuclear energy, biotechnology, information technology, knowledge of our DNA, and many other abilities which we have acquired, have given us tremendous power. In whose hands does all this power lie, or will it eventually end up? (104)

In the absence of objective truths or sound principles other than the satisfaction of our own desires and immediate needs, what limits can be placed on human trafficking, organized crime, the drug trade, commerce in blood diamonds and the fur of endangered species? Is it not the same relativistic logic which justifies buying the organs of the poor for resale or use in experimentation, or eliminating children because they are not what their parents wanted? (123)

Can we hope, that laws in our country dealing with the environment will really prove effective? (142)

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? (160)

What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us? (160)



How can our society plan and protect its future amid constantly developing technological innovations? (177)

Is it realistic to hope that those who are obsessed with maximizing profits will stop to reflect on the environmental damage which they will leave behind for future generations? (190)



We read in the Gospel that Jesus says of the birds of the air that “not one of them is forgotten before God” (Lk 12:6). How then can we possibly mistreat them or cause them harm? (221)

Nature is filled with words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise, interminable and nerve-wracking distractions, or the cult of appearances? (225)