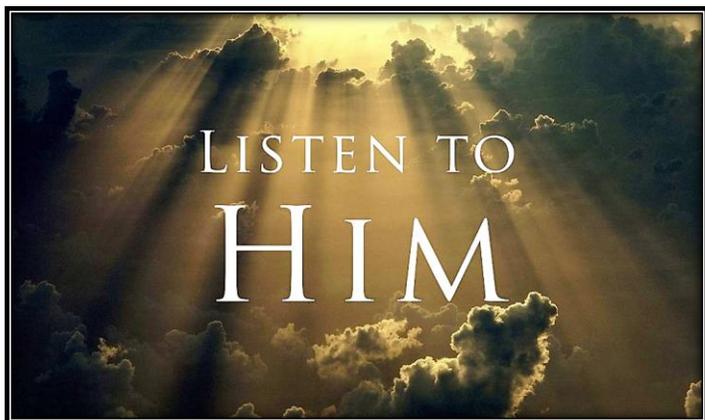




YES HE SPEAKS: LISTEN TO *HIM*



While the Father in last Sunday’s Mass-Gospel (Saint Mark IX) commanded us: “Listen to Him (Jesus)”, Jesus Himself would later say to those He sent into the world: “whoever listens to you listens to Me” (Saint Luke X:16a). Amongst those authorized to speak in His Name, we readily remember Saint Peter (to whom the keys of the Kingdom were entrusted on Easter morning) and his successors. And so, we turn to Pope Francis.

In his Encyclical *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis addresses issues that are common to many of us in Freeport, New York. Yes he speaks (in the words of Saint Francis of Assisi)

about “our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs” (*Laudato Si*, 1). Yes he speaks about “the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and all forms of life” (ibid. 2). Yes he speaks (in the words of Pope Saint John XXIII) “to all men and women of good will” (ibid. 3) about (in the words of Pope Paul VI) “the urgent need for a radical change in the conduct of humanity” (ibid. 4). Yes he speaks and warns that human beings frequently seem (in the words of Pope Saint John Paul II) “to see no other meaning in their natural environment than what serves for immediate use and consumption” (ibid. 5). And yes he speaks (in the words of Pope Benedict XVI) about “eliminating the structural causes of the dysfunctions of the world economy and correcting models of growth which have proved incapable of ensuring respect for the environment” (ibid. 6).

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis speaks **in his own words** about “the throwaway culture” “the urgent challenge to protect our common home”, and the family where “we first learn to show love and respect for life (and) are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures” (ibid. 213).

And while over one hundred of Our Holy Redeemer’s children in Freeport are coming home this Lent to make their first confession about how they failed to properly use “common” things (faith, parents, siblings, friends, water, food, climate, freedom) let us *come home* and confess our sins, our failure to teach them (by word and example) how to properly use these things. After all, we all share responsibility for our “common home”.

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The Third Station: Jesus Falls The First Time. [#LetusPray](#) for Catholics confessing their sins in the Sacrament of Confession/Penance/Reconciliation (CPR) for the first time. We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee; because by Thy [#HolyCross](#) Thou hast redeemed the world.

