

# Fifth Installment

In his June encyclical on creation care, "*Laudato Si*", Pope Francis proclaims that the poor are those most harmed by environmental destruction and climate change, and that developed countries like ours owe the poor an "environmental debt". With Pope Francis we pray, "O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, ...that we may protect the world and not prey on it." In the encyclical, we are urged to do what we can to support global agreements on sustainable development, on protecting ecosystems globally, and on limiting greenhouse gases to a greater extent in developed countries than in poor countries, and to not support the "ploy" of trading carbon credits since it does not reduce total global emissions. Rather, we are encouraged to reduce our consumption.