

Papal Encyclical on Environment

Fifteenth Installment

This week, New York, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia will be graced by the visit of Pope Francis. Many activities are planned to celebrate his papacy and show support for the ideas expressed in *Laudato Si'*. The encyclical calls for immediate and difficult changes in each of us, our country and the nations of the world, including changes in our personal lifestyles, in business practices and national policies. It is a message we don't always want to hear or heed. Pope Francis asks each of us and all of us to make some sacrifice for a better, more compassionate world. As we begin this week, let us be thankful for his leadership and courage, and pray for a "conversion of heart" in ourselves and in our national and world leaders whom he will address, that we and they will be open to his message and willing to take the needed steps to protect our common home.