

# Papal Encyclical on Care for Our Common Home

## Thirteenth Installment

To some people, Pope Francis's recent encyclical on caring for the earth and the poor seemed like a bolt out of the blue. But it's actually part of a long tradition of papal social encyclicals, dating back at least to Pope Leo XIII's 1891 letter, "On the Condition of Labor." And like Pope Leo, Pope Francis criticizes out-of-control capitalism for the harm it does to ordinary people, as well as to the earth on which all God's creatures depend. To learn more about the Catholic social encyclical tradition, Google: USCCB social encyclical primer.