

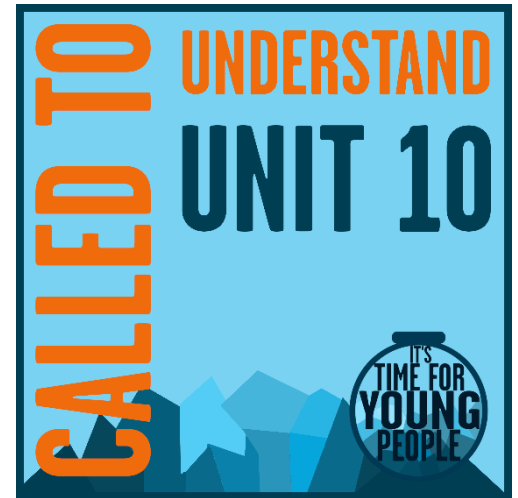
CALLED TO UNDERSTAND

— understanding the interconnectedness of our world —



Many things are beyond our understanding. However, through our faith, we begin to see that there is an interconnectedness in our world. This is made clear in *Laudato Si'*, where Pope Francis points out the connections, the cause and effects, between the crises of greed, consumption and exploitation. When we look beyond ourselves and our lives to what is happening around the world we begin to sit uncomfortably with the realisation of the role we play in this.

It's time to reflect on ourselves and explore our own world views, our attitude towards humanity and nature. What can we do to promote and encourage care, protection, and love and stop exploitation and injustice?



Reflection Points

Do you see this connection between our relationship with nature and relationship/ attitude towards humanity, and towards one another? Can you explain it?

“The pandemic has highlighted how vulnerable and interconnected we are all. If we do not take care of each other, starting with the least, those who are most affected, including creation, we cannot heal the world. Creation is a harmony in which we are called to live... The harmony created by God asks us to look at others, the needs of others, the problems of others, to be in communion. We want to recognize human dignity in every person, whatever their race, language or condition.”

- Pope Francis, The General Audience, 12.08.2020.

What are the key words, the words that move you from Pope Francis's words here?
How might we be able to build a more harmonious society?

Activity

On the middle of a piece of paper write the words 'I find God in...'. Around the outside draw symbols representing where you find God. Some examples may be: in prayer; in other people; in nature; in Church; in scripture; in the Holy Communion... Think of your own and draw an image for each.

Now, play 'SNAP'! Get into pairs, one person is person A and the other is B. Person A chooses one thing from their sheet, does person B also have the same thing? If you both do, then that is a SNAP!

In 30 seconds explain to each other why you decided to write this thing - has there been a particular experience of when God was present in your life through this?

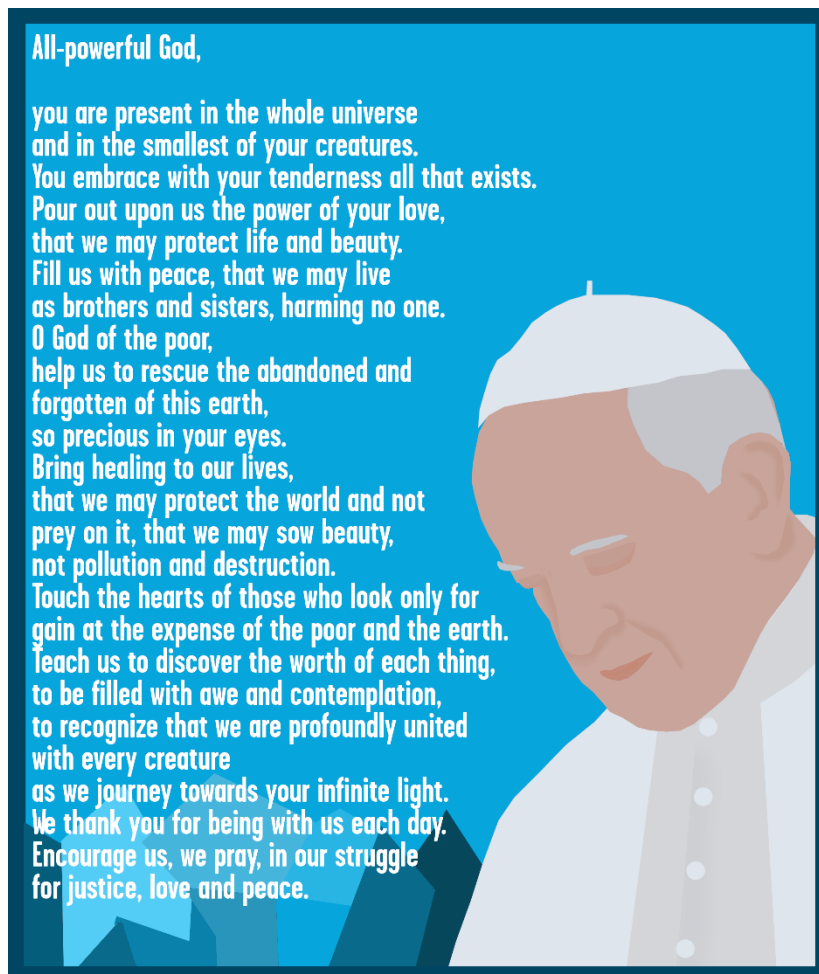
Find another person and repeat the game. Pairs who did not find a match continue until you find something in common, or, if you don't after three attempts, then share one with each other, explaining in 30 seconds why you wrote that one down.

Then can continue to go around the room and create a new pair.

Prayer

A Prayer for Our Earth

Encyclical: *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis



All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and
forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not
prey on it, that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for
gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.