



By: Laidato S' Movement

EVENT AGENDA

A broken system has made us suffer a planetary crisis. But a better future is coming. And as the host of a community event, you bring together a powerful community of people who can usher in the future together.

This short guide provides a suggested agenda for a 2-hour event. If you have any questions about your screening event, please contact us at movie@laudatosimovement.org.

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BEFORE THE SCREENING: 10 MINUTES

A quick 10-minute introduction will help set up the screening

Ask attendees to sign in

Collecting names and contact information lets you follow up with attendees after the event, which will be important for taking action.

For an in-person event, you might simply set out a piece of paper and ask attendees to sign in. For an online event, asking attendees to send you their names by text message or email may be easiest. You may wish to create a WhatsApp group for attendees.

Introduce the film

A few brief comments at the start of your event will help set the tone. Share how this event connects to your spiritual values. Explain how you hope it will strengthen your community.

You may want to refer to talking points from this [brief introduction to Laudato Si'](#) and from [this overview of why action on the ecological crisis is needed](#). If your community's leader is attending, invite him or her to say a few words.

Take a moment for reflection

A moment for reflection or prayer will help participants feel grounded. Read Scripture or a quotation from Laudato Si' aloud, and then ask attendees to reflect silently for one minute.

You may want to consider readings such as "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth" [Isaiah 40:28] or "We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth [cf. Gen 2:7]; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters." [Laudato Si', 2]

Ensure everyone feels engaged

The attendees at your event are key to creating a better world. It's helpful for people to feel engaged and active, rather than passive.

You might ask each participant to either share one word that represents what brought him or her to the event, or turn to a neighbor and chat for one or two minutes about why they've come.

Cover logistics

Finally, share any logistical notes, such as when a break will occur. For virtual events, you may wish to remind your audience to remain muted throughout the screening. For in-person events, you could share key information such as pointing out emergency exits, facilities, and COVID-19 safety measures.

SCREENING THE FILM: 80 MINUTES

Screening the film will take approximately 80 minutes.

You may want to review the guide to tech equipment, available [here](#).

AFTER THE SCREENING: 5 MINUTES

A 5-minute pause for reflection and action is a crucial way to bridge to the next steps.

Reflect

When the film is finished, ask audience members to sit quietly for one minute, reflecting on what they have seen and how they feel called to contribute to the better future we are building together. You may consider offering the following quotation as a prompt for reflection: “Whether believers or not, we agree today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone.” [Laudato Si’, 93]

Take a short break

Provide the opportunity for a short break.

DISCUSSION: 20 MINUTES

A 20-minute discussion will help clarify thoughts and build relationships

Organize the group

Depending on the size of your event, you may wish to divide the audience into smaller groups so that everyone has the opportunity to share their thoughts. Some groups prefer to write their thoughts; if so, provide pen and paper, large sheets of paper on walls or tables, or access to a shared page on a platform such as Jamboard or Miro.

Ask questions that prompt deep thinking

- How did the film make you feel? What is your key takeaway from the film?
- The film presents the planetary crisis as a human crisis. What do you think the people in the film shared in common? How does that connect with our values?
- The film encourages us to take action. Why is taking action important?
- What actions can we as a community take to protect our common home?

TAKING ACTION: 15 MINUTES

15 minutes to plan how the group will take action ensures your event makes a big impact

Share why action is important

movement for a better future. Each attendee of your event has special skills and abilities. All are needed.

Be sure your group is aware that taking action is a way to bring their unique gifts to our shared movement for a better future. Each attendee of your event has special skills and abilities. All are needed.

Present a few options to the group

Any actions that make sense for your community and that achieve real impact are good choices. To get started, you might consider offering these options to your community:

- Create a *Laudato Si' Plan* via the Laudato Si' Action Platform: The [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) is a Vatican programme that empowers institutions, communities, and families to achieve full sustainability in the spirit of Laudato Si'. Communities that enroll are equipped with tailored tools to help them create their own plans, and the platform helps communities take really impactful and meaningful actions. The Vatican warmly invites your Catholic group or family to participate.
- *Form a Laudato Si' Circle*: [Laudato Si' Circles](#) are small groups that gather regularly to deepen their relationship with God and all members of creation. These circles are a powerful opportunity for communities to come together to study the letter, Laudato Si'.
- Contact your elected officials to ask for policy change: Asking elected officials to take bold action to protect our common home can be very effective. Create a plan to ask for change in a coordinated way. This could take many different forms, such as creating a petition, writing a letter to the editor, sending a letter directly to your elected official, or asking officials to meet with you in person. If you have registered your screening, you have received an email with a toolkit to help you engage elected officials. If you have not registered your event, please do so [here](#) to receive the full suite of resources.
- Become a one-time donor or monthly donor to Laudato Si' Movement: Laudato Si' Movement, the NGO that co-produced The Letter, is privately funded. It relies on generous individuals for support to keep all of its programs free of charge. Your commitment of a one-time gift– or a recurring monthly gift–will help LSM offer more screenings like yours, and will cover the cost of materials used in the event, such as the planning guides and toolkits, as well as translations of these materials to ensure the film is seen worldwide. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and make a difference! Please consider encouraging your network for support, especially those who cannot volunteer or give in other ways. Donations can be made at LaudatoSiMovement.org/donate/.

Plan what will happen next

Whatever actions you choose, be sure to take five to 10 minutes at the close of the event to identify concrete next steps.

- Who will be the key person responsible for ensuring that this action happens?
- Who will support that person?
- What buy-in, if any, is needed from leaders?
- What is the time and date of the next meeting to follow up on these ideas?

Remember that in order to follow up with your audience about taking action, you will need their contact information. If you haven't already done so, invite your audience to share their details at the end of the event.

After you agree with the group on the actions you will take, close your event by inviting each person to say one word of gratitude for this moment, then thank everyone for taking this first step on the journey toward care for our common home.