



THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER “LAUDATO SI”’: FROM THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO THE OBLIGATION IN PROTECTING COMMON GOOD

Though not novel in the Social Doctrine of the Church, the protection of the environment forms, for the first time, the main theme of Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si’”, written by Pope Francis. Inspired by an anthropological but not anthropocentric view, the document underlines the human component inherent in the current ecological crisis, confirming the approach traditionally followed by the Holy See, according to which the environment must not be considered in isolation but in its relationship with mankind. In the text a prominent place is assigned to the role of the international community and, in particular, to the necessity of developing treaty-based obligations aimed at the protection of shared resources. The legal perspective is deeply intertwined with the economic one, developed through the use of concepts such as “environmental debt” or “circular economy” and showing support for the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developing countries and developed countries. Finally, the Letter highlights the function played by science and innovation, while at the same time warning against the “technocratic paradigm”, in the light of the impossibility for science to fully grasp the complexity of the relationships among the different elements of the ecosystem.