

PILGRIMAGE PAUSE #4:

Wetlands | Water Storage

(Laudato Si' sections 27–31, 235)

Wetlands provide natural water storage, support habitat, and enable rainwater to infiltrate into the ground water system. In *Laudato Si'*, *Pope Francis* addresses environmental issues with a holistic perspective, viewing the destruction of natural ecosystems as a grave sin against creation. This includes specific mentions of wetlands and their importance.

Laudato Si' condemns the destruction of wetlands as an assault on Earth's biodiversity and a contributing factor to climate change. It emphasizes the importance of preserving these natural habitats to maintain ecological balance and mitigate the effects of environmental degradation.

Reflection: *By storing water, wetlands help to sustain life during droughts and reduce flooding when it rains. How can we be a source of abundance for others in their times of drought? How can we let others be a source of abundance to us?*