

PILGRIMAGE PAUSE #6:

Scrubland | Nesting Habitat

(Laudato Si' sections 32–34, 38–39)

Laudato Si' laments the destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats caused by human activities. Scrublands are sometimes seen as wastelands, but they are as valuable as any other habitat for the integrity of creation. If not managed sustainably, can easily be encroached upon or fragmented, harming species that rely on them for nesting and other critical life functions.

Laudato Si' asserts that "the entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us." This underscores the importance of protecting all creatures and their habitats, including those in scrublands, for their own sake and for the glory of God. The encyclical presents an "urgent challenge" to protect our common home and calls for a "new dialogue" on how we are shaping the future of our planet.

Reflection: *Catholic teaching calls on us to show particular care for those society marginalizes or sees as less important. What might God be calling to do as you take the lessons of today with you out into the world?*