FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Bishop Bradley welcomes Pope Francis’ new encyclical as helpful moral teaching**

Kalamazoo, Mich., (June 18, 2015): Bishop Paul J. Bradley has issued the following statement on the release of Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’ (Praise Be to You); on care for our common home*:

“It is with both gratitude and joy that we welcome the latest encyclical just issued to the world’s more than one billion Catholics by Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’: On Care for our Common Home*. In this most authoritative teaching, Pope Francis addresses one of the most critically important moral issues of our day, namely ecology and global warming. As Pope Francis writes in the introduction: ‘In this encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home.’ As a good pastor, Pope Francis reminds us that our care for others and our care for the environment are integrally connected. The Pope also warns that if we do not come together for action, our environment will deteriorate, which will have very serious implications for all humanity, most especially the poor and the vulnerable.

“It is my great hope and prayer that all people will carefully read and prayerfully respond to Pope Francis’ call for more responsible stewardship of the earth which has been entrusted into the care of the human family, and that we will work together to find solutions to protect and safeguard the environment and the beauty of our natural world for our children, grandchildren and generations still to come.”

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