

# LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

“Love One Another”

## Catholic Social Teaching: Care for God’s Creation



*“We are earthly beings, who belong to Mother Earth, and we cannot simply live at her expense; our relationship with her is reciprocal...The goods and resources of the earth are meant for all. Fresh air, clean water, and a balanced diet are vital for the health and wellbeing of our peoples. Let us put the regeneration of the earth and universal access to its goods at the heart of our post-Covid future.”* -Pope Francis; “Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future” (p. 128-129).

Care for the Earth is a requirement of our faith. Catholic social teaching calls us to be stewards and trustees. We are called to show respect for our Creator by caring for His creation. We are called to honor and protect our planet and its people—to live in relationship with all of God’s creation.

The U.S. Bishops acknowledge that the Church has begun only recently to develop an emphasis on ecology and the integrity of creation in its social teaching. This evolution of a teaching is an example of the growth of the “living tradition” of the Church’s teaching in response to developments in society. We personally witness that environmental disasters fall with greatest consequences on the disadvantaged. As the impact of humans on the ecology of our planet has become clearer, the Church has sought to shine the light of faith on the emerging issue.

A society that finds the earth disposable, too often finds people disposable as well. This is why the Church is so concerned about how the poor are affected by the environment. In this sense, “care for God’s creation” circles us back to the first theme of Catholic social teaching, the ‘life and dignity of the human person.’ One reinforces the other.

Let us ask ourselves:

1. How am I living out my responsibility to care for God’s creations?
2. In what ways am I proactive in my home, school, workplace, and community to better conserve the earth’s resources for future generations?
3. Where do I see my care for creation connected to my concern for the poor and disadvantaged who are most at risk from environmental problems?



Image Courtesy of Turelio

### Wisdom from Pope Francis

“Human Life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships with God, with our neighbor and with earth itself.”

-Laudato Si -May 2015



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## WATCH



We received earth as a garden to provide food, water, and air.

How are we leaving it? This short video on **Care for God's Creation** calls us to treat God's gracious gift with stewardship and reverence.

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## PRAY



We hear frequent reports about the risk to our environment.

Let us join with

Pope Francis in the "**Prayer for our Earth.**"

[Pray now...](#)

## WATCH



Pope Francis addresses us in his second encyclical,

**Laudato Si** about

our current environmental crisis. This video tells us the "**Top ten things we need to know**" about Care for God's Creation.

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