

CARE FOR CREATION QUOTES & BULLETIN INSERTS EARTH DAY, APRIL 22, 2021

Care for Our Common Home, Earth Day 2021



“From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine.” Pope Francis

Earth Day is Thursday, April 22. In 2019, the Bishops of California, released a pastoral statement – *God Calls Us All to Care for Our Common Home* - with a two-fold vision: to animate and energize the implementation of what we are called to do as we face the current environmental crises in the world and to offer a teaching tool that energizes our Catholic faith community and beyond to respond.

The bishops invite us all to reflect on ways we can more faithfully and effectively care for creation in thanksgiving to God for this great gift. Visit www.cacatholic.org/protect-our-common-home for ways you can care for creation as an individual and as a parish.

Earth Day is April 22, 2021

“It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So, what they all need is an ‘ecological conversion’, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” Pope Francis - *Laudato sí*



To inspire everyone in California to care for our common home, the California bishops issued a pastoral statement in 2019, on the fourth anniversary of *Laudato sí* to invite us to action and reflection in the hope that every Californian can find themselves touched by at least one.

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Profound Respect for the Whole of Creation



“Fighting poverty, both material and spiritual, building peace and constructing bridges: these, as it were, are the reference points for a journey that I want to invite each of the countries here represented to take up. But it is a difficult journey, if we do not learn to grow in love for this world of ours. Here too, it helps me to think of the name of Francis, who teaches us profound respect for the whole of creation

and the protection of our environment, which all too often, instead of using for the good, we exploit greedily, to one another’s detriment.” Pope Francis, Audience with the Diplomatic Corps

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Earth Day 2021



“Fraternity helps preserve and cultivate nature. The human family has received from the Creator a gift: nature. The Christian view of creation includes a positive judgement about the legitimacy of interventions on nature if these are meant to be beneficial and are performed responsibly that is to say, by acknowledging the “grammar” inscribed in nature and by wisely using resources for the benefit of all, with respect for the beauty, finality and usefulness of every living being and its place in the ecosystem. Nature, in a word, is at our disposition and we are called to exercise a responsible stewardship over it. Yet so often we are driven by greed and by the arrogance of dominion, possession, manipulation, and exploitation; we do not preserve nature; nor do we respect it or consider it as a gracious gift which we must care for and set at the services of our brothers and sisters, including future generations.” Pope Francis, Celebration of World Day of Peace, 2014

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God Calls Us All to Care for Our Common Home

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To inspire care for our common home, the bishops invited Californians to contemplate what we each can do through our various ‘ecological vocations’:

- **Pastoral leaders and Catholic institutions.** Encourage the faithful to take the St. Francis Pledge to pray, act, and advocate for solutions to climate disruption. Integrate the messages of *Laudato si’* in our worship, and share practical tools of teaching that proclaim the encyclical’s themes. Examine opportunities to adopt practices that promote renewable energy, divestment from fossil fuels, water conservation, and environmental health and social initiatives with special attention to the needs of the poor and excluded.
- **Youth and young adults.** Seek opportunities to pray in natural surroundings; initiate conversations with older adults about environmental protection and a more inclusive society. Consider how one’s career can be balanced with the call to care for our common home and to engage others in ways to help heal the earth.
- **Parents, teachers, and catechists.** Help create an environmental consciousness and environmental literacy that promotes the principles of *Laudato si’* in every family’s lifestyle—including protecting nature, combatting poverty, and restoring dignity to the excluded. Ensure that environmental education in our learning institutions is based on both authentic scientific and ethical principles (LS 209-215). Expand opportunities for outdoor environmental education. Integrate themes from *Laudato si’* throughout all Catholic educational ministries and programs.
- **Public officials.** Address environmental issues with an integral approach that cares for all of creation’s ecological, social, cultural, and economic dimensions. Enact policies that improve air quality, reduce polluting gases, strengthen water systems, protect precious ecosystems, and support the health of our citizens. Ensure that transition from a fossil-based economy does not burden the poor.
- **Leaders in business.** Reflect thoughtfully on your vocation in the light of *Laudato si’*’s message regarding economics, finance, and business practices. Evaluate your business’ support of a transition toward sustainability, authentic human development, as well as the impact of commerce on the poor. Consider to what extent your business enterprise, its products, and its marketing meet genuine human needs and promotes the common good.
- **Those who work the land and care for it.** Reflect on how your work can best balance economic production and environmental protection with attention to greater sustainability. With others, foster agricultural economies that are socially inclusive and address the needs of the hungry. Protect and educate the public about the value of ecosystems and how we can best live in a harmonious relationship with nature in the light of climate disruption, fires, and droughts.
- **Artists and innovators.** Discover new ways to highlight the beauty of creation and inspire a culture of ecological and human care in the light of the moral applications of the Pope’s encyclical. Evaluate how your art, design and innovation shape human culture.

Invite entrepreneurship in technological development that renews human culture and the common good.

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Stewardship of God's Creation - Earth Day is April 22, 2021. Visit www.cacatholic.org/protect-our-common-home to read more of what recent popes have said about the environment, learn the challenges the bishops or California have laid out for us to consider and to learn ways you can care for creation as an individual and as a parish.

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Other quotes that can be used with the above announcements or used in bulletins in the weeks surrounding Earth Day 2021.

- “If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation.” - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
- “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?” Reflect and pray for those who seek to gain profit at the expense of Creation.”
Luke 9: 23-25
- “If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part. Christians in their turn realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith.” Pope Francis

- “The Catholic Church approaches the care and protection of the environment from the point of view of the human person. It is our conviction, therefore, that all ecological programs must respect the full dignity and freedom of whoever might be affected by such programs. Environment problems should be seen in relation to the needs of actual men and women, their families, their values, their unique social and cultural heritage. For the ultimate purpose of environment programs is to enhance the quality of human life, to place creation in the fullest way possible at the service of the human family.” Pope John Paul II
- “I cannot be silent when my brothers and sisters are threatened. I become here the voice of those who have no voice, the voice of the innocent, who died because they lacked water and bread; the voice of fathers and mothers who saw their children die without understanding, or who will always see in their children the after-effects of the hunger they have suffered; the voice of the generations to come, who must no longer live with this terrible threat weighing upon their lives. I launch an appeal to everyone! Let us not wait until the drought returns, terrible and devastating! Let us not wait for the sand to bring death again! Let us not allow the future of these peoples to remain jeopardized forever!” Pope John Paul II
- “The Church’s commitment to the conservation and improvement of our environment is linked to a command of God. In the very first pages of the Bible, we read how God created all things and then entrusted them to the care of human beings who were themselves create in his image. God said to Adam and Eve, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” (Gen, 1, 28) Pope John Paul II
- Reflect and pray on “The Gaze of Jesus.” Pope Francis, *Laudato Sí*