



## SOCIAL JUSTICE SPRING SERIES

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLE: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

#### WE HOLD THE HEALTH OF OUR EARTH IN OUR HANDS!

*"There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions. -(211) Pope Francis's encyclical letter on ecology.*

**Divine Savior Friends...Please consider these earth friendly actions that we can take as individuals:**

#### Around Town:

- ◆ Consolidate trips when running errands
- ◆ If you can, plan your errands when there is less traffic to save car idling
- ◆ Remember to bring your own grocery and produce bags when shopping



#### More Around the House:

- ◆ Turn off lights and the TV when leaving a room (Lighting accounts for around 15% of an average home's electricity use)
- ◆ Change to LED light bulbs (they use 75% less energy)
- ◆ Unplug electronic devices, including televisions, microwaves, scanners, and printers, when you go on vacation. These devices use standby power to save warm-up time. (About a quarter of all residential energy consumption is used on devices in idle power mode, according to a study of Northern California by the Natural Resources Defense Council). Use power strips for these devices to simplify plugging and unplugging.
- ◆ Give away useable household items/clothing instead of throwing them away
- ◆ Purchase used household items and furniture



#### Around the House:

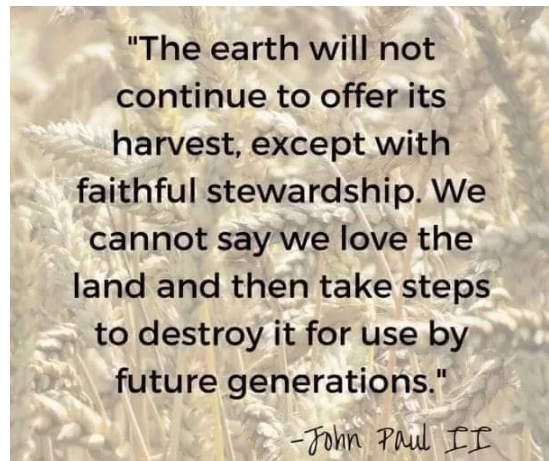
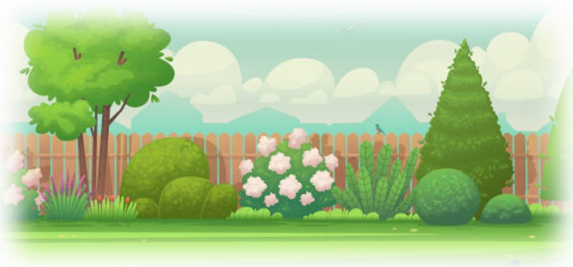
- ◆ Fix all water leaks ASAP
- ◆ Turn off the water while brushing your teeth
- ◆ Remember, most dishwashers don't require extensive pre-washing
- ◆ Eat more vegetables (growing plants takes less water than producing meat)
- ◆ If you use the bathroom during the night consider the old phrase "If it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown, flush it down!"
- ◆ While waiting for water to get hot from the faucet/shower, keep a bucket or pitcher nearby to capture the water and use it for other things
- ◆ Consider installing a recirculating pump on your water heater to save water waiting for it to get hot.
- ◆ Wash clothes in cold water and don't wash them unless it's truly needed
- ◆ Use biodegradable soap and cleaning supplies
- ◆ Wool balls in the dryer cuts down on drying time



*"If the simple fact of being 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 toward nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith" (#64)*

-Encyclical by Pope Francis "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home."





### In Our Yards:

- ◆ Consider removing lawns and planting drought tolerant plants that attract pollinators
- ◆ Plant native plants and more trees for shade and to clean the air
- ◆ Use drip irrigation and mulch to hold moisture
- ◆ Compost or consider a worm bin for creating natural fertilizer
- ◆ Limit use of pesticides. Bugs have important jobs to do in nature!
- ◆ Leave an area of leaf litter in your garden where bugs/pollinators can over-winter (you can clean it up in late Spring or leave it as mulch)
- ◆ Plant food producing plants in your yard for you, your neighbors and God's creatures
- ◆ Capture roof run-off for non-edible plant watering

### Animal Life:

- ◆ Use live traps to relocate undesirable creatures
- ◆ Remember: Poisons that kill creatures can have a secondary effect when another creature eats the dead one
- ◆ Install "bat houses" to control mosquitoes
- ◆ In the hottest months put out fresh water for creatures and insects
- ◆ Remember antifreeze dripping from a car can kill creatures
- ◆ Protect/support precious animal habitat



### Overall:

Support renewable energy sources  
Support local farmers and sustainable food systems  
Support products with less packaging  
Recycle, Reduce and Reuse at every opportunity!

**To learn more visit: <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>**