

Our Common Home

SESSION 3: Responding in Faith

Spiritual Reflection

No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us. (205)

Ethical reflection

Since everything is closely interrelated, and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an integral ecology, one which clearly respects its human and social dimensions. (137)

Call to Action

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation that includes everyone, since the environment challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. (14)

Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us... All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity. (211)

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

~ POPE FRANCIS



Franciscan Action Network
Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare



Resources and Reading Materials

- **Active Hope** by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone
- **Just Water** by Christiana Peppard
- **Integrating Christian Witness: Reflections on Advocacy and Justice**, by Tim Dearborn, World Vision International
- **JustFaith Ministries** offers several small group studies with reading materials and discussion guides to further journey on the path to justice, including “J-Walkers” for young people seeking to walk the path of justice
- **Creation Justice Ministries** offers several reflective writings on their Resources page, highlighting many different environmental challenges throughout the US

Living Witness

Positive changes in your daily living that will serve as a living witness to those around you

- **Vote:** make creation care a top priority in every election. Check out the League of Conservation Voters’ Scorecard
- **New Environmental Justice legislation** will be coming up in the Maryland state legislature. Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake will be following it closely and updating the Advocacy page on our website. Follow along with us to stay informed.
- **Find your legislator’s contact information** and regularly communicate with them. Google “find my Maryland legislator” for the link.

Community Engagement

Working together will speed up positive change

The National Environmental Justice Council is seeking volunteers aged 18-29 to participate in a Young Adult Climate Action Workgroup. Applications are due Nov. 30, 2015.

The Board of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake seeks volunteers for its Advocacy Committee, which steers and supports the organization’s advocacy on state legislation. Meetings are held via conference call. Email Jodi Rose at jodi@interfaithchesapeake.org.

Live in Maryland? Join with faith communities to speak out for cleaner power and stronger climate policy in Annapolis. Email isabel@gwipl.org at Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) to get involved.

Live in DC? Join with faith communities to speak out against the proposed merger between Pepco and Exelon, which would compromise our communities’ work to shift to cleaner energy. Email elana@gwipl.org to get involved.

The National Environmental Justice Council is seeking volunteers aged 18-29 to participate in a Young Adult Climate Action Workgroup. Applications are due Nov. 30th.

Join Catholic Advocacy Network (open to all faiths) and receive training and information on legislative priorities and an opportunity to participate in Lobby Night at the Maryland Statehouse.

Volunteer for the advocacy group of your denomination; they are often small organizations with limited capacity to influence change and need support. Some examples include the Baltimore Presbytery Congregational Advocacy, Green Muslims, and Maryland Catholic Conference.