

Justice Jottings – May/June 2011

For: Bulletin inserts, Beginning a meeting, Small Faith Group Reflections, Faith Development, Seeds for sowing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Topic: *Care of Creation*

“My dear friends, God’s creation is one and it is good. The concerns for non-violence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity.”

World Youth Day, Pope Benedict XVI, June 2008

“Let the earth bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.
Mountains and hills, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.
Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.
You springs, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.
Seas and rivers, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.
You dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you birds of the air, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.”

Deuteronomy 3:74-81

“Sad to say, it is all too evident that large numbers of people in different countries and areas of our planet are experiencing increased hardship because of the negligence or refusal of many others to exercise responsible stewardship over the environment. The Second Vatican Ecumenical Council reminded us that “God has destined the earth and everything it contains for all peoples and nations.”

World Day of Peace Message, Pope Benedict XVI, January 2010

“Seeing creation as God’s gift to humanity helps us understand our vocation and worth as human beings. With the Psalmist, we can exclaim with wonder: “When I look at your heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars which you have established; what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?” (Ps 8:4-5). Contemplating the beauty of creation inspires us to recognize the love of the Creator, that Love which “moves the sun and the other stars.”

World Day of Peace Message, Pope Benedict XVI, January 2010

“There exists a certain reciprocity: as we care for creation, we realize that God, through creation, cares for us.”

World Day of Peace Message, Pope Benedict XVI, January 2010

"Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person also extends to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God."

World Day of Peace Message, John Paul II, January 1990

"Our mistreatment of the natural world diminishes our own dignity and sacredness, not only because we are destroying resources that future generations of humans need, but because we are engaging in actions that contradict what it means to be human. Our tradition calls us to protect the life and dignity of the human person, and it is increasingly clear that this task cannot be separated from the care and defense of all of creation."

US Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth*, 1991

"Because of the blessings God has bestowed on our nation and the power it possesses, the United States bears a special responsibility in its stewardship of God's creation to shape responses that serve the entire human family. As pastors, teachers, and citizens, we bishops seek to contribute to our national dialogue by examining the ethical implications of climate change. We offer some themes from catholic social teachings that could help to shape this dialogue, and we suggest some directions for the debate and public policy decisions that face us. We do so with great respect for the work of the scientists, diplomats, business and union representatives, developers of new technologies, environmental leaders, and policy makers who have been struggling with the difficult questions of climate change for many years."

US Catholic Bishops, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*, 2001

"Man's dominion over inanimate and other living beings granted by the Creator is not absolute; it is limited by concern for the quality of life of his neighbor, including generations to come; it requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2415

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole."

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 2009