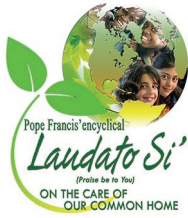


EARTH DAY--March 27, 2021



Restore Our Common Home

Earth Day is one day each year where millions of people across the world together seek to raise awareness of the issues facing our planet and its environs. Consistent with Pope Francis teachings in "Laudato Si", this year's theme for Earth Day is "Restore

Our Common Home," a theme that will address how as people of faith we must urgently act to not only protect but restore God's beautiful gift of creation.

That theme is based on the emerging concept that we have options to save the planet in addition to mitigating the impacts of climate change and other environmental damage. Scientists, non-governmental organizations, business, and governments worldwide now are looking at natural system processes and emerging green technologies to restore the world's ecosystems and forests, conserve and rebuild soils, improve farming practices, restore wildlife populations and rid the world's oceans of plastics.

While the world waits for global political and business leaders to take decisive action to reduce carbon emissions, natural processes including reforestation and soil conservation can store massive amounts of carbon while restoring biodiversity, clean water and air and rebalancing ecological systems. Restoration is pragmatic and necessary to reduce climate change.

Restoration also brings hope, itself an important ingredient in the age of COVID-19. The impacts of the

pandemic have illustrated with painful clarity that the planet faces two crises and they are connected: global environmental degradation and its connection to our health. Deforestation, wildlife trade, air and water pollution, human diets, climate change and other issues have all fed into a degradation of our natural systems, leading to new and fatal diseases, such as the current pandemic, and a weakening of the global economy.

Hundreds of millions around the globe took part in activations for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, inspired by Earth Day 2020's theme of Climate Action. Earth Day now turns that progress, enthusiasm, and resilience toward the 2021 theme of Restore Our Earth.

For our families of OLPH, we can participate in a Catholic Climate Covenant sponsored 1-hour prayer and educational program on Earth Day. It is a perfect way to prepare for the Vatican's launch of the "Laudato Si" Action Platform in May, 2021. The program will contain prayers, readings, a short video, and activities for your family. Register by going to the following website to receive the program in your inbox by mid-March:

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/earth-day>

In addition, as you may have noticed in the recent Village of Glenview Report, one more action you can take is to turn off your lights at 8:30 PM on Earth Day, March 27, 2021, for 1-hour in solidarity with the world in recognizing Earth Day!

We can do this OLPH! God Bless you and God's Creation.
The Creation Care Ministry

