

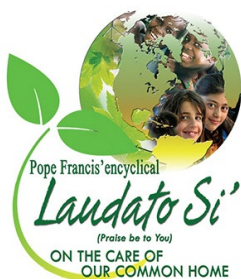
seek, share, rejoice - creation care...

## Creation Care Ministry

### OLPH Let's Continue Greening Up This Holiday Season!

Like all of you, the Creation Care Ministry has been on a bit of a hiatus since the pandemic came upon us earlier this year. You may have noticed that we have not shared with you any thoughts in the Sunday Bulletin on what we all can do to further the teachings of Laudato Si'. But it is time for us to get back at it, particularly with the Holiday Season coming fast upon us.

With that in mind, there was an article recently in the Environmental Defense Fund's Fall 2020 issue that you might find easy to follow and help avoid the needless waste that can occur this time of year. The article entitled "How to make online shopping a safer option for the planet", by Joanna Foster, provided the following 6 tips for greener online shopping. We hope you will all think about these tips in the coming weeks!



◇ **Don't rush it.** Next-day delivery options free us from the chore of planning ahead. But when you select the "I need it now" shipping option, you are contributing to the likelihood that partially full diesel delivery trucks will be patrolling your neighborhood.

When you pick a slower shipping option, companies can consolidate loads and routes and make the most energy efficient delivery. Fewer trucks also lighten the pollution for the neighborhoods surrounding depots and warehouses, which are often low income and communities of color.

◇ **Think it through.** When ordering, be mindful. Remember, there's no such thing as a free return. Your credit card might be unaffected when you change your mind about a purchase, but returns essentially double the environmental impact of an order. "The impact is real," says EDF's Aileen Nowlan, who helps cities and companies manage and mitigate local air pollution. "You're actually increasing air pollution in your own neighborhood."

◇ **Consumers, unite!** Purchasing power can drive positive change. Tell companies that you want to hear a plan for them to clean up their act. According to Nowlan, the trucks that are responsible for the final leg of the delivery process are perfectly poised to switch to full electrification. These trucks typically drive less than 100 miles a day and are parked all night in a central location. "The technology is there and it's cost-effective," says Nowlan. "But these companies need to be motivated by customers demanding cleaner alternatives."



◇ **Give back.** Once you've unpacked your treasures, it's time to recycle or repurpose all that packaging. You can help the environment and your neighbors by using old cardboard boxes to ship donations through the Give Back Box program ([givebackbox.com/works](http://givebackbox.com/works)). Fill an old box with gently used clothing or household items, print the prepaid label and ship as usual. Your box will be donated to your nearest participating charity organization.

◇ **Grow greener.** Did you know you can use an old cardboard box to make an indoor composting bin with minimal fuss? All you need is a large cardboard box and some coco peat and rice husk ash or hardwood ash from a gardening store. Composting household food scraps is more than just a crunchy hobby. It prevents organic matter from ending up in landfills where it decomposes to release methane, a potent greenhouse gas. You can use the compost to enrich the soil for houseplants or to grow vegetables and flowers. A layer of used cardboard in your flowerbeds or kitchen garden is also a safe and effective weapon against weeds.

◇ **Get crafty.** Rather than buying more and more toys to keep your stir-crazy kids quiet while you work, challenge them to get creative with all that cardboard you already have lying around.



Build a dollhouse, a spaceship or a fort. You'll be giving a second life to what would otherwise end up on the curb. You'll also be raising imaginative environmentalists.

OLPH, let's all do our part this Holiday Season. Thank you.