

The Cry of the Earth

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.

STATEMENT FROM POPE FRANCIS

The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet. . . Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (*Laudato Si'* #48-49)



SCRIPTURE QUOTES

- “God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good” *Genesis 1:31*

REFLECTION

We live in a unique and beautiful ecosystem where all living things thrive together. We do not exist outside the environment. The environment is not separate from us. Together we are part of the one creation God has made. Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si'* that “human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor, and with the earth itself.” Environmental degradation blindly betrays our relationship with one another and rebels against the creator. The human degradation of abortion and racism contribute to a throw-away culture that defies the creator’s design and denies others their place in God’s creation. We must pay attention to the cries of the Earth coming from wildfires, floods, drought, extreme weather patterns, high levels of air and water pollution, as well as the cries the poor, the unborn, the environmental refugees, and those who sickened from the pollution of natural resources. As people of Faith, we have been called to care for what is sacred as “God saw everything that he [has] made” It is our responsibility to listen closely, reflect and act.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pope Francis writes, “Everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others, what evidence do you see of this in your own life, family and community?”
2. The Sacramento Catholic Diocese community is blessed with a beautiful natural environment. What are the ecological threats facing creation in the region? How is public health being impacted by ecological degradation? No example is too small.

TAKE ACTION

- What is your parish community interested in doing to begin to reconnect with God, our neighbor and with the earth itself? List your action steps for your community.
- Take the St. Francis Pledge: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/pledge>
- Form a Parish Creation Care Team: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.worldsecuresystems.com/creation-care-resource-library>
- Catholic Covenant Energies: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/cce>
- Legislative Advocacy Resources: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/advocacy>