

Global Vision – Caring for our Earthly Home



Take the Climate Change Quiz (Discuss the possible answers)

EXPLORE

1. According to the World Health Organization, how many deaths is climate change estimated to cause annually?
 - a. 150
 - b. 1,500
 - c. 15,000
 - d. 150,000.
2. "Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith" is a statement from:
 - a. Cesar Chavez
 - b. The Irish Bishops
 - c. An Earth Day reflection
 - d. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.
3. Catholic Faith based NGOs help respond to the effects of climate change on the poor around the world by:
 - a. Helping farmers adapt by growing different types of crops
 - b. Finding ways to prevent runoff from natural water sources so that people have water during dry periods
 - c. Preparing for disasters on an unexpected and unprecedented scale
 - d. All of the above.
4. When various Popes have spoken about human ecology, they are referring to:
 - a. A branch of science that observes humans in their natural habitat
 - b. The recognition of the interrelatedness between humans and the environment
 - c. A method of urban gardening
 - d. The study of trees.
5. Who said that "experience shows that disregard for the environment always harms human coexistence, and vice versa?"
 - a. Pope Francis
 - b. Pope Benedict XVI
 - c. Pope Paul VI
 - d. Pope John Paul II.
6. When did God make humanity stewards of creation?
 - a. In the parable of the sower in the Gospel of Matthew
 - b. When the Israelites were delivered into Canaan in Exodus
 - c. In the book of Genesis
 - d. All of the above.
7. How can you care for creation in your daily life?
 - a. Compost kitchen scraps
 - b. Buy fair trade products
 - c. Make sure your car's tyres are properly inflated
 - d. All of the above care for God's creation.
8. Who is the Patron Saint for Climate Change?
 - a. St. Patrick
 - b. St. Francis of Assisi
 - c. St. Bernadette
 - d. St. Thérèse.

*God Saw
all tht he
had
made,
and it
was very
good.*

**Genesis
1.31**



Pollution from Cars

REFLECTION

POPE FRANCIS ON THE CARE OF CREATION

In May 2015 Pope Francis published a papal encyclical called *Laudato Si'*: on care for our common home. The focus of this letter is to ask all people to protect our earthly home.

The Problem

"The earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor". (Paragraph 2)

"But we need only take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair ... If we scan the regions of our planet, we immediately see that humanity has disappointed God's expectations." (Paragraph 61)

"Climate change is a global problem with serious implications: environmental, social, economic, political, and for the distribution of goods; it represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." (Paragraph 25)

We are all interconnected "All of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect." (Paragraph 89)

"Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth." (Paragraph 92)

Integral ecology

"We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the

other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged, and at the same time protecting nature." (Paragraph 139)

The need for education

"Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices." (Paragraph 211)

The need for dialogue and action

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

Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning." (Paragraph 205)

Pope Francis on Earth Day 2015

"Today we celebrate Earth Day. I exhort everyone to see the world through the eyes of God the

Creator: the earth is an environment to be safeguarded, a garden to be cultivated. The relationship of mankind with nature must not be conducted with greed, manipulation and exploitation, but it must conserve the divine harmony that exists between creatures and Creation within the logic of respect and care, so it can be put to the service of our brothers and sisters, also of future generations."

Discussion questions

- How do you react to these quotes? Agree or disagree?
- What do you think "we are all interconnected" means in relation to the care of the earth?
- How is caring for our earthly home a witness to our Christian faith?





BIBLICAL REFLECTION

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained;

What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You care for him?

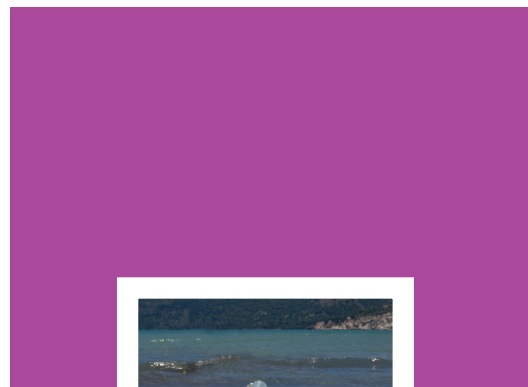
Yet You have made him a little lower than God,
And You crown him with glory and majesty!

You make him to rule over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,
All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field,

The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea,
Whatever passes through the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord,

How majestic is Your name in all the earth! (Psalm 8: 3-9)

- What is the Psalmist's message for us?
- What responsibilities does the Psalm intend for us?
- What does it mean to be human and *to rule over the works of Your hands*?
- How is this psalm calling us to act?



Prayer for Climate Change

We pray for the waters of the world, that they may be restored to health and filled with bountiful life.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for Earth's soil, that its richness be protected to assure abundant harvests for all.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for all creatures who share Earth with us, that their beauty and diversity will be preserved.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who have been and will be directly impacted by the effects of climate change.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for future generations, may they learn from our environmental irresponsibility, and be good stewards living simply and in harmony with all your creation.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for wisdom for decision makers in Ireland and around the world, that wealthy nations may make amendments for the harm they have done to the environment and find creative and just solutions to protect all of creation and ensure climate justice.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

For all of the intentions we hold silently in our hearts.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

Adapted from Earth Day Prayer Service www.educationforjustice.org

Deciding our Action

Reflect – our own experience within the group.

Voicing our opinions –

Share informed information in your peer group.

Solidarity – Advocate for a better care of the earth and call for others to join you in action.



Things we (I) can do...	When we (I) have seen others do this...	How could we (or I) do this for ourselves (myself)...
 See for ourselves (myself)– <i>Gain experience of the effect of climate change (at home or abroad).</i> <i>e.g. Internet research / Request Agencies for information / What's happening in your school, neighbourhood ...</i>		
 Ask why? – <i>Analyse the causes that continue to damage the earth. Develop a group discussion with informed input.</i>		
 Go against the tide... <i>Distancing yourself from actions that cause damage to the earth and commit to pro-activity to protect our earthly home.</i>		
 Ask why not? – Show solidarity. <i>Propose alternative ways to help promote climate justice to your peer group.</i>		