

Care for God's Creation

Catholic Social Teaching:

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

From Tradition:

"When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of 'might is right' has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus." (Pope Francis, *The Joy of Love [Laudato Si]*, no. 82)

"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. ... Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society." (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home [Laudato Si]*, nos. 49, 91)

"The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development

apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us." (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home [Laudato Si]*, no. 159)

"We human beings are not only the beneficiaries but also the stewards of other creatures. Thanks to our bodies, God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement. Let us not leave in our wake a swath of destruction and death which will affect our own lives and those of future generations." (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel [Evangelii Gaudium]*, no. 215)



What can we do?

Care for God's Creation Prayer

God of all creation,
How splendid and majestic is the world you
created!
It reveals your glory; it teaches us about you.
When you made us in your image,
you gave us this command:
care for the world and for all the creatures in it,
for this is our common home.
Yet your holy creation cries out,
for our home is "burdened and laid waste,"
scorched and scarred.
Come among us
that we might remember our interdependence.
Let us see the face of your Son in those who suffer
from the destruction of our common home.
Help us to be stewards
who honor you in the world you have made
for the good of all creation
and for future generations.
May your justice reign forever!
Amen.



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Secretariat of
Justice and Peace

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This prayer can be said as part of your daily prayer practice, with your family perhaps at meal time, or with any group you meet with during April.

Laudato Si Encyclical:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html



Laudato Si Action Platform:

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

April 22



Discussion Guide

A Discussion Guide is available from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. It Includes:

- Opening Prayer
- YouTube Video
- Scripture Passage for Reflection
- Sharing on Scripture
- Passages from Catholic Tradition for Reflection
- Discussion of Passages
- Call to Action
- Sending Forth

Discussion Guide can be found at: https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/17us264_cst_101_care_for_creation_final.pdf

Video on Care for God's Creation

<https://youtu.be/wSnXuCxiHXE?si=IMo2Z896jpu8Werp>

Local Opportunities

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Residents of Marion County can properly dispose of household hazardous waste, free of charge, on **Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 a.m. to noon**. Accepted items should be dropped off at the Public Works Complex (100 Truman Road) during that time. For a list of accepted and non-accepted items, visit <https://sciswa.org/hazardous-materials/mobile-events/>. For more details, contact the South Central Iowa Solid Waste Agency at 641.828.8545 or visit their website at www.sciswa.org.

At the Library

- Free Seed Program-Tomato April 8 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Digital Garden Technology Club April 14 and 28 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Artist Reception for Upcycle Challenge April 21 at 7:00 p.m.
- Rain Barrel Workshop April 22 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- EARTH DAY UPCYCLE CHALLENGE Throughout April, the library will display upcycle creations by local artists. Kits are available while supplies last. Creations can also be added to the display at any time.