

Care for God's  
Creation

*Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live.*  
**Pope Francis**

## Facts

5 years ago, Pope Francis composed a letter to the world, calling all of us to look at how we treat our "Common Home". Today we must recognize that the gift God entrusted to us is not meant for selfish use, but everything was created for all of us to share. The pandemic we are experiencing right now should open our eyes to the plight of all others in our shared home.

Here are some facts from the Social Justice Resource Center:

- **17%** of the world's population consumes **80%** of the world's resources,
- **25%** of children under the age of **5** die each year because of preventable environmental hazards
- By **2100** Climate Change will cost an estimated **\$1,873** trillion dollars due to natural disaster damage, real estate losses, water and energy costs

"We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of difference. . . Yet we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace beauty and fullness." Pope Francis (LS 52-53)

## Teaching

We demonstrate respect for the Creator by our stewardship of God's creation. We should strive for simple living in order to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Faithful Citizenship)

[Pollution and Climate Change] are closely linked to a throw away culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish. (LS 22)

We must be mindful of our common home and all its inhabitants. We must use our resources more diligently and understand that our actions create a ripple effect globally.



## Personal Actions

### Use reusable items whenever you can-consider:

1 reusable water bottle  
= **167** plastic water bottles

1 reusable bag  
= **170** plastic bags

1 reusable cup  
= **500** coffee cups

1 metal straw  
= **540** plastic straws

1 cloth towel  
= **7,300** paper towels

**Unplug your cell phone as soon as it is charged.**

**Take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor:**

<http://catholic-climatecovenant.org>