

Mercy for Our Common Home

http://looktohimandberadiant.blogspot.com/2014/04/



“The Christian life involves the practice of the traditional seven corporal and seven spiritual works of mercy. We usually think of the works of mercy individually and in relation to a specific initiative: hospitals for the sick, soup kitchens for the hungry, shelters for the homeless, schools for those to be educated, the confessional and spiritual direction for those needing counsel and forgiveness...



But if we look at the works of mercy as a whole, we see that the object of mercy is human life itself and everything it embraces. Obviously “human life itself and everything it embraces” includes care for our common home. So let me propose a complement to the two traditional sets of seven:

may the works of mercy also include care for our common home.”

***-Message Of His Holiness Pope Francis
for the Celebration of the World Day Of Prayer
for the Care of Creation, September 1, 2016***

As we meditate on Divine Mercy during this Easter Season, let’s show mercy to our Common Home, the Earth. Our Diocesan Public Policy Committee has pulled together many resources for parishes to use to educate and activate parishioners to study and live out the Church’s teaching on creation care. You can find them on the Diocese of Rochester web site (www.dor.org) under [Catholic Charities-Public Policy-Laudato Si On Care for Our Common Home](#).

Along with prayers and bulletin announcements, you’ll find ideas for greening your parish. You could eliminate bottled water and disposable plates and silverware from parish events, promote the sales of Community Supported Agriculture shares, insulate your parish buildings, and switch to LED light bulbs.

To keep up a sustained effort of living out Pope Francis’ message, start a parish Creation Care team. The Catholic Climate Covenant provides good advice on how to proceed: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/cct

We also need to advocate for public policies to protect the planet. Go to www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/Advocacy to show your support for the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. This group in the U.S. House of Representatives is exploring policies that address the impacts and causes of climate change. Membership will be kept even between Democrats and Republicans to encourage effective collaboration.

If you’re from the Southern Tier, this is an opportunity to thank your congressman, Rep. Tom Reed, for joining the caucus. If you are represented by Rep. Chris Collins, Rep. Louise Slaughter, or Rep. John Katko, this is an opportunity to encourage their participation.

And please join in your local Earth Day and Climate March efforts on April 22 and/or April 29!
Voice your mercy for the earth!

**News release from the USCCB: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Chairman
Calls for Arkansas to Abandon Scheduled Death Row Executions**

Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development issued a statement [Good Friday] morning in response to the scheduled executions of seven men in 11 days in Arkansas. The state is planning to begin the executions on Easter Monday. [The first of these were stayed by the Courts.] Bishop Dewane joins the Catholic community of Arkansas, and people of good will across the country and around the world, in urging Governor Hutchinson to reconsider this plan.

"This Easter, let us ask the Lord for the grace to infuse our justice with mercy. May those in Arkansas who hold the lives of these individuals on death row in their hands be moved by God's love, which is stronger than death, and abandon the current plans for execution," Bishop Dewane wrote in asking for commutation of the sentences of those scheduled to be executed to life imprisonment.

In his statement, Bishop Dewane noted that Pope Francis called for "the global abolition of the death penalty," in his 2015 address to the U.S. Congress, where the Holy Father said, "I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes. . . . [A] just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation."

2017 Diocesan Social Ministry Conference: Poverty Simulation

GET A TASTE OF POVERTY
Role-play the lives of low-income families interacting with services, employers and others to provide for their basic needs over four 15-minute "weeks."
Discussions and workshops will follow the simulation.

**WARNING
POVERTY
IS NOT
A GAME**

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday May 20
Registration at 9 am
Program at 9:30 am
St. Mary's School
16 West Gibson
Canandaigua
\$15 with lunch included

Everyone is invited:
pastors, parish staff, teachers, business owners, elected officials, youth group & faith formation leaders, social ministry volunteers, etc.

RSVP required by May 15 ! Contact you County Justice & Peace Ministry staffer to register.

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