

# REFLECTIONS ON THE CARE OF CREATION

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**DAY ONE:**  
**HOTHOUSE EARTH**

**SEE:**

In Athens, Greece, a fire killed 92 people; in Japan, a brutal heat wave claimed 80 lives. This summer, wildfires have been burning in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland and Germany and in the Arctic. High temperature records have been shattered all around the globe. Our world is aflame.

**JUDGE:**

*Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. (par. 25 L. S.) “There is but one creator. As travelers on this globe together, we are dependent upon Earth for our sustenance. We must understand what it means to respect all that God has created and to be our neighbor's keepers. (Isaiah 24, 5-6) we and all creatures are harmed.” (American Baptist Churches USA).*

**ACT:**

- Encourage simplifying our transportation with Hybrid, Electric Vehicles or smaller vehicles.
- Study the mass transit schedules and routes for your area in order to use mass transit.
- Invite a master gardener or study on-line best practices for a vegetable garden.



## DAY TWO: FOSSIL FUEL EFFECT

### SEE:

Population explosion could not have occurred without abundant cheap energy, particularly fossil fuels. Because of sometimes super-exponential growth, half of all the fossil energy and many other essential resources ever used have been consumed in just the past 30-35 years. Look no further to explain why human-induced climate change has suddenly become so urgent. (UBC professor emeritus William Rees)

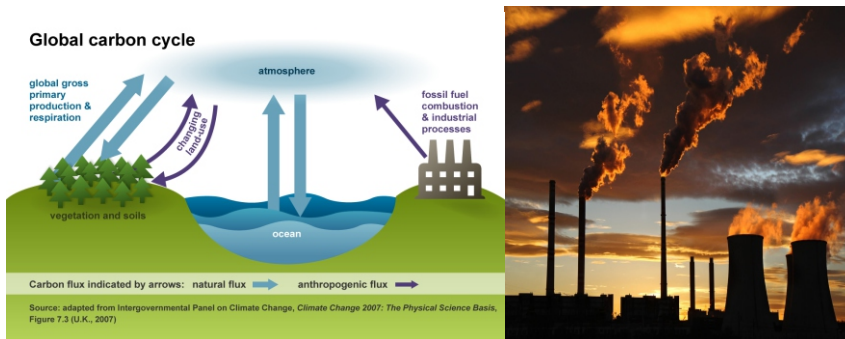
### JUDGE:

"The creation waits in eager expectation in hope that the creation itself will be LIBERATED from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Romans 8:19-21)

"The crisis facing God's earth is clear. We as stewards, have failed to live our responsibility to care for creation and have instead abused it in ways that now threaten life around the planet. A transition to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources will combat global warming, protect human health, create new jobs, and ensure a secure, affordable energy future." (The United Methodist Church).

### ACT:

- Define what a carbon footprint is.
- Ask one or more elected representatives to put a price on carbon emissions.
- Adjust your driving routine or consider going to an Electric Vehicle.



## DAY THREE: FOSSIL FUEL EFFECT EXXON FUNDED CLIMATE DOUBT

### SEE:

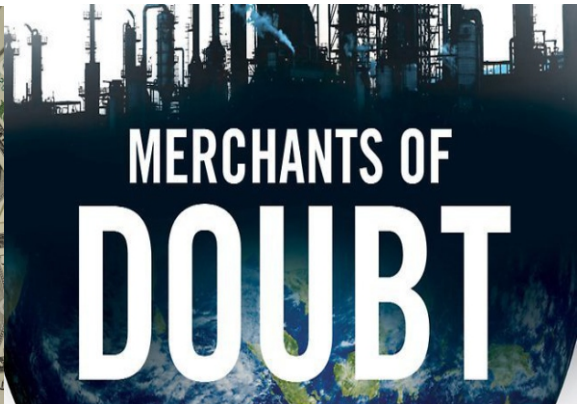
Investigative reports in 2015 revealed that Exxon had its own scientists doing its own climate modeling as far back as the 1970s. Exxon was saying internally about climate change was quantitatively very different from their public statements. At least 80 percent of the internal documents acknowledged that climate change is real and caused by humans, and identifying "reasonable uncertainties" Over 80 percent of Exxon's editorial-style paid advertisements over the same period specifically focused on uncertainty and doubt, the study found. (Posted on 7 September 2017 by Guest Author. Katharine Hayhoe,)

### JUDGE:

A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. Scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity. The problem is aggravated by a model of development based on the intensive use of fossil fuels, which is at the heart of the worldwide energy system (23).

### ACT:

- Compare big oils attempts to sow doubt about fossil fuels with the tobacco industry's history activities.
- Study candidates and vote for those who believe in science's findings.
- Find out how then calculate your carbon footprint.



## DAY FOUR: FACTS ABOUT FRACKING

### SEE:

- 1- Depletes groundwater and drying up streams.
- 2- It creates toxic and radioactive waste causes earthquakes and puts our drinking water at risk.
- 3- May cause cancer, neurological and wide-ranging health and environmental effects.
- 4- Linked to birth defects.
- 5- Has accidents, leaks and spills every year!
- 6- Fracking corporations are exempt from critical statues.
- 7- Methane leaks from drilling and fracking have caused house and water wells to explode.
- 8- Trains carrying shale oil from drilling and fracking are exploding and spilling contaminants.
9. Is expanding including in national parks and densely populated areas.
- 10- It locks in utterly disruptive Climate Change.

### JUDGE:

Christians must care about climate change because we love God the Creator and Jesus our Lord, through whom and for whom the creation was made. "This is God's world, and any damage that we do to God's world is an offense against God Himself" (207). (Gen. 1; Psalm 24; Col.1) We must care about climate change because we are called to love our neighbors, and protect and care for the least of these as Jesus Christ (Mt. 22, 34-40). (Evangelical Climate Initiative)

### ACT:

- Investigate about how fracking is done.
- Make sure your investments and those of your church are divested from fossil fuels.
- Sponsor a film night or photo or poster exhibit on climate change at your church or school.





## DAY FIVE: METHANE GAS BECOMING UNREGULATED

### SEE:

Methane, which is among the most powerful greenhouse gases, routinely leaks from oil and gas wells. The Environmental Protection Agency proposed weakening a rule on carbon dioxide pollution from vehicle tailpipes. and proposed replacing the rule on carbon dioxide pollution from coal-fired power plants with a weaker one. The Interior Department is repealing a restriction on the intentional venting and "flaring," or burning, of methane from drilling operations, the foundation of the United States' effort to rein in global warming. (The New York Times)

### JUDGE:

We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels needs to be progressively replaced without delay, until greater progress is made in developing widely accessible sources of renewable energy. (165). All Presbyterians should immediately make a bold witness by aspiring to live carbon neutral lives. (Presbyterian Church (USA). "Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land. The LORD almighty has declared in my hearing: 'Surely the great houses will become desolate, the fine mansions left without occupants. (Isaiah 24:4-6)

### ACT:

- Look for ways that you can contribute to eliminating methane emissions (like eating less beef).
- Talk to a local elected representative regarding Community Choice Energy (sustainable energy).
- Consider organizing a tree planting day at your church or local park.



## DAY SIX:

### NO DRILLING IN THE ARTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

#### SEE:

Big Oil has been fighting to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling for decades. Now the administration is poised to hand this incredible place over to the fossil fuel industry. This would destroy one of the world's most iconic and vital landscapes, Alaska Native people, and immigratory birds from six continents and the porcupine caribou herd. For the first time in recent history, the United States is a net exporter of oil, it simply makes no sense to drill here. "If the oil companies get their hands on this, it's gone forever." (Sierra Club, 2018)

#### JUDGE:

We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels - especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas - needs to be progressively replaced without delay (165). We need "proposals that "limit exploration and exploitation of new fossil fuel supplies to parts of the nation where this can be done without adverse damage to people and the environment. As the climate in the Artic warms, it is doubtful that the economic benefits of drilling in the Artic National Wildlife Refuge can outweigh the environmental damage that this will do." (Presbyterian Church (USA).

#### ACT:

- Research how drilling for oil is harmful for living creation and why.
- Read and reflect on "A Christian Prayer in Union With Creation", found at the end of the Laudato Si document.
- Inquire about a free workshop on Laudato Si- The care of Our Common Home from the Creation Care Ministry at the Diocesan office.



## **DAY SEVEN: POPE FRANCIS CHALLENGES FOSSIL FUEL EXECES**

### **SEE:**

Challenging world oil executives, Pope Francis called them to take to heart that "civilization requires energy, but energy must not destroy civilization." The pontiff appealed to the energy executives to see the necessary moral interconnectedness of the elimination of poverty and hunger - including providing "energy for all" - with "sustainable development of renewable forms of energy" to replace dirty fossil fuels that are greatly contributing to a dangerous rise in global temperatures and thus leading to harsher environments and, not surprisingly, increased poverty. (Jun 29, 2018 by Tony Magliano, NCR).

### **JUDGE:**

Some strategies for lowering pollutant gas emissions call for the internationalization of environmental costs. (170). Pope Francis states that this contamination is a form of "self idolatry" (a worship of humanity) paraphrasing the Book of Revelations 11, 18. He says: "If we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us; don't ever forget this." Saint John Paul II stated that "God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favoring anyone".

### **ACT:**

- From the brief description, describe the level of consciousness that fossil fuel executives demonstrated.
- Organize the Eco Way of the Cross available from the Creation Care Ministry at the Diocese of San Diego.
- Reduce food waste and choose products with less packaging.





**DAY EIGHT:**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE IN SAN DIEGO**

**SEE:**

The global average temperature has been steadily rising and is now 1.7 degrees hotter than it was in 1985, and is expected to increase 4.8 degrees by 2050. Study shows that by 2050, San Diego County will have approximately seven times as many days of extreme heat than we do now. Our shoreline communities are becoming more vulnerable to beach loss and coastal cliff erosion. Sea level in our region is expected to rise nearly three times faster between now and 2050 than it did. Our coastal challenges will only increase Source Earth / Food / life published by Truthout)

**JUDGE:**

As Christians, we must heed the church's call for "ever new movements of solidarity." Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. (53) "God's creation delivers unsettling news. 90% of the worlds fisheries have been depleted; coastal development and pollution are causing a decline in ocean health; over 95% of U. S. forests have been lost; and almost half of the population in the United States lives in areas that do not meet national air quality standards. We leaders need to speak-out and act with new urgency. (National Council of Churches).

**ACT:**

- Write out evidence of climate change do you see in San Diego or in your area.
- Examine the Climate Action Plan for San Diego or for the city where you live.
- Write, email or call your city council representative to express your support or to suggest how to strengthen the Plan.



## DAY NINE:

### CLIMATE CHANGE IN SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA'S CLIMATE PLAN

#### SEE:

California's signature climate change law is the cap-and-trade program. It places a statewide cap on planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions, and then allows companies to buy and sell pollution credits. It is connected to similar ones in Quebec and Beijing. The Clean Power Plan under the 2015 Paris agreement, commits the nation to cut its emissions about 26 percent from 2005 levels by 2025. It was forged by the U.S. and China in which the world's two largest economies and largest greenhouse polluters agreed to act jointly to reduce their emissions. (NYT, By Coral Davenport and Adam Nagourney, May 23, 2017)

#### JUDGE:

It is the mindset of those who say: Let us allow the invisible forces of the market to regulate the economy, and consider their impact on society and nature as collateral damage. (123) Neither politics nor the economy is concerned about caring for the environment and protecting those who are most vulnerable (198). The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion" (217). One of the most dangerous and daunting challenges we face is global climate change." (The Episcopal Church).

#### ACT:

- Describe what you know or have heard about the Diocesan Climate Action Plan.
- Invite a local elected representative to talk about the California Climate Action Plan and to answer any questions.
- Host a table after church services and ask people to sign the St. Francis Pledge or a petition to an elected representative

ZERO WASTE - 100% SUSTAINABILITY



## DAY TEN: 📅

# GLOBAL WARMING'S TERRIFYING NEW MATH

### SEE:

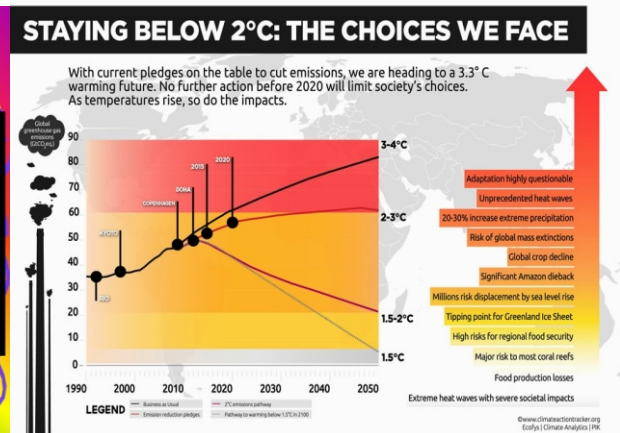
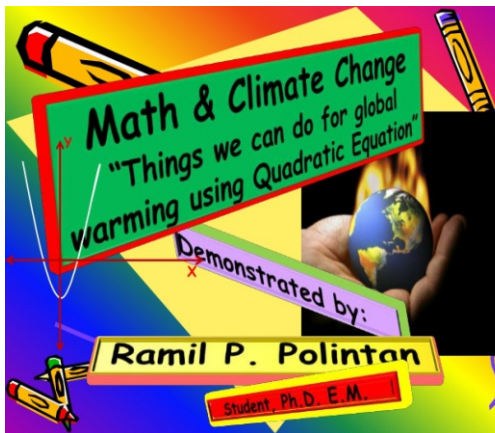
Three simple numbers that add up to global catastrophe. The First Number: 2° Celsius. Copenhagen Accord"- the increase in global temperature should be below two degrees Celsius. The Second Number: 565 Gigatons into the atmosphere to still have some reasonable hope of staying below two degrees. The Third Number: 2,795 Gigatons- oil and gas reserves of the fossil-fuel companies. Effective action would require the fossil fuels be left in the soil. The fossil-fuel industry is the environmentalist's enemy. They should transform themselves into sustainable "energy companies. The fossil-fuel industry is allowed to dump its main waste, carbon dioxide, for free. Putting a price on carbon would reduce their profitability. Moral outrage just might spark a transformative challenge, a real movement. (by Bill McKibben 2012)

### JUDGE:

Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years (53). We see how environmental deterioration and human and ethical degradation are closely linked (56). Climate change is an issue of justice. The industrialized nations, representing less than 20 percent of the world's population, are responsible for 70 to 80 percent of the annual greenhouse gas emissions. Yet those who live in poor and developing countries will be most seriously affected by global warming". (Church of the Brethren)

### ACT:

- Investigate about what causes global warming and how.
- Break the Silence- Talk to others about climate change.
- Sign onto a credible climate change information resource to become better informed (see the appendix for a list of entities).



## **DAY ELEVEN: GLOBAL WARMING AND THE NORTH POLE**

### **SEE:**

For 10 years, Nasa has been flying over the ice caps to chart their retreat. Sea levels have climbed at a rate of roughly 1.7mm a year in the past century; in the past 25 years, that rate has doubled to 3.4mm a year and will rise roughly 0.9 meters (3ft) by the year 2100, which will place hundreds of millions of people in jeopardy. (By Avi Steinberg, 31 July 2017 10.33 EDT) Fantastic 3D maps of the ice sheet created with IceBridge data have also helped researchers locate rare, invaluable Eemian ice, from more than 100,000 years ago. By drilling deep into the ice, glaciologists can excavate ice cores containing specks of materials such as volcanic ash, or frozen bubbles that preserve precious pockets of ancient air that hold chemical samples of long-departed climates. (NASA).

### **JUDGE:**

Oceans not only contain the bulk of our planet's water supply, but also most of the immense variety of living creatures. Marine life in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, which feeds a great part of the world's population, is affected by uncontrolled fishing, leading to a drastic depletion of certain species (40). Christians cannot be indifferent to global warming, which threaten life on the planet. (The Episcopal Church). "The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant." (Isaiah 24, 4-5).

### **ACT:**

- Imagine what would happen to your food and drink if your refrigerator ceases to cool any longer.
- Ask one of your elected representatives about their stance on global warming and about their city's Climate Action Plan.
- Find individuals interested in studying and working on climate change in your parish or community.



## DAY TWELVE:

### ARCTIC ICE

#### SEE:

This year was the Arctic's second-warmest in at least 1,500 years. There was less winter ice in the Arctic Ocean than ever observed. And ocean water in parts of the polar Barents and Chukchi seas was a whopping 7 degrees Fahrenheit higher than just a few decades ago. We can't quite get a handle on what this new state is going to look like. With less snow and ice to reflect the sun's rays, the Arctic isn't so cool anymore. "The heat is not being reflected back into space." "The heat is now being absorbed into the land and into the [polar] ocean. That is going to alter the weather- things like the jet stream and rainstorms and hurricanes. "Whether they be wildfires out in California or hurricanes down in the Gulf. We have to think about the impacts that changes in the Arctic are having on those disruptive climate events. (Nathan Kurtz/NASA).

#### JUDGE:

The growing problem of marine waste and the protection of the open seas represent particular challenges. What is needed, in effect, is an agreement on systems of governance for the whole range of so-called "global commons (174). "We affirm the interconnectedness of all humanity, We all inhabit the same earth...breathe its air and drink its water. The world cannot afford to silence us, and we cannot afford to be...and will not- be silent. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Gen. 2, 15).

#### ACT:

- Reflect on how the melting of arctic sea ice can affect life on our planet as we know it.
- Devise your plan to fly and drive less in order to lower your carbon footprint.
- Reduce the size and type of lawn or start a vegetable garden.



(Melting of glaciers may cause sea level to rise by 4 feet NASA / Reuters 2014)



## **DAY THIRTEEN: GREENLAND- MELTED POLAR ICE AND PERMAFROST**

### **SEE:**

The Greenland ice sheet - a key element for ocean circulation - has lost about 3.6 billion tons of ice since 2002. Disturbingly, permafrost is full of pathogens, and its melting could unleash once-frozen bacteria and viruses. Permafrost-is starting to melt, causing the release of methane, a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. It's said that the permafrost holds 1.8 trillion tons of carbon, more than twice as much as is currently suspended in the Earth's atmosphere, that would have a detectable climate change, maybe 0.6 of a degree. Artic ice has decreased by 9% per decade since 1978. There were 150 glaciers in 1910 and only a few remain. Glaciers store about 70% of the world's fresh water. Only 3% of the earth's water is drinkable. (70% of that is used by industry, 20% by agriculture and only 10% by humans). U.N. experts predict that global temperatures will rise by 3 to 10 degrees Farenheit by the end of the century. Ocean levels have increased one foot over the last century. (Source Earth / Food / Life)

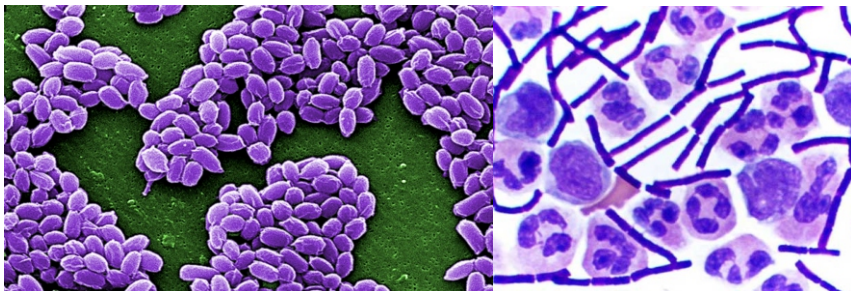
### **JUDGE:**

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters." (Psalm 24:1-2; cf. Psalm 89:11; 1 Corinthians 10:26)

We urge the U. S. Government to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership by supporting mandatory measures that reduce the absolute amount of green-house gas emissions and calls on Church Ministries to address the severe nature of this global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to humankind. (United Church of Christ).

### **ACT:**

- How would you feel if you go to ski and there was no snow or to see a glacier and it no longer exists.
- Ask an engineer or science teacher to explain how artic melting will affect us.
- Refuse to use plastic water bottles and have your own re-usable mug.



## DAY FOURTEEN: DEAD CORALS REEFS

### SEE:

According to Science, "researchers predict that with increasing levels of acidification, most coral reefs will be gradually dissolving away by the end of the century." 1.5 "Very frequent mass mortalities". 2°C Coral reefs "mostly disappear." "Somewhere between a quarter and a third of all marine species everywhere has some part of their life cycle in coral reefs," he says. "So, you take out coral reefs and a third to a quarter of all marine species gets wiped out. Now that is ecological chaos, it is ecological collapse." Since the 19th century, the Earth has warmed by 1 degree Celsius. According to the study, oceans have absorbed 90% of excess heat from our planet, and it's starting to show with water temperatures rising rapidly. This all adds up to one thing: Our oceans are in crisis, and our climate along with them. (John 'Charlie' Veron Rebecca Wright/CNN).

### JUDGE:

Coral reefs are comparable to the great forests on dry land, for they shelter approximately a million species, including fish, crabs, molluscs, sponges and algae. Many are in a state of constant decline. This phenomenon is due largely to pollution which reaches the sea from deforestation, agricultural mono-cultures, industrial waste and destructive fishing methods. (41). Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together in communion (228). "Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds." (Psalm 148:7-10)

### ACT:

- Try to imagine what it would be like if most of the living plants and animals around you begin to die.
- Invite the Creation Care Ministry to give a free workshop to your group or parish.
- Consider working with the Stewardship Ministry or the Creation Care Ministry or other climate change movements at your parish or school.



## DAY FIFTEEN: SEA RISE AND COASTAL SHORELINES

### SEE:

Population exposed to flooding from sea level rise in 2100 (without adaptation): 1.5°C 31 to 69 million people worldwide 2°C 32 to 80 million people worldwide. ((Source Earth / Food / Life)

No matter what, understand that coastal shorelines are going to be on the move for the rest of your life, depending on how much more greenhouse gas emissions get dumped into the atmosphere and just how sensitive Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets turn out to be.

As of today, scientists expect between 1 and 8.4 feet of sea level rise by 2100. And .5 to 2 feet by 2050 (.3 to 2.5 m and .15 to .65 m respectively). (Source NOAA).

### JUDGE:

A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. Most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity (23). The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending... the common good (201). "The human being was placed in the Garden of Eden to till it and to tend it." (Gen. 2, 15).

### ACT:

- Think about what families who live next to an ocean or on an island feel about rising sea levels.
- Consider inviting friends or parishioners to form a Creation Care Team to study and act on climate change.
- Check with your local parish or public school about how they include climate change in their curriculum.



## DAY SIXTEEN: FAREWELL TO CITIES AND ISLAND NATIONS

### SEE:

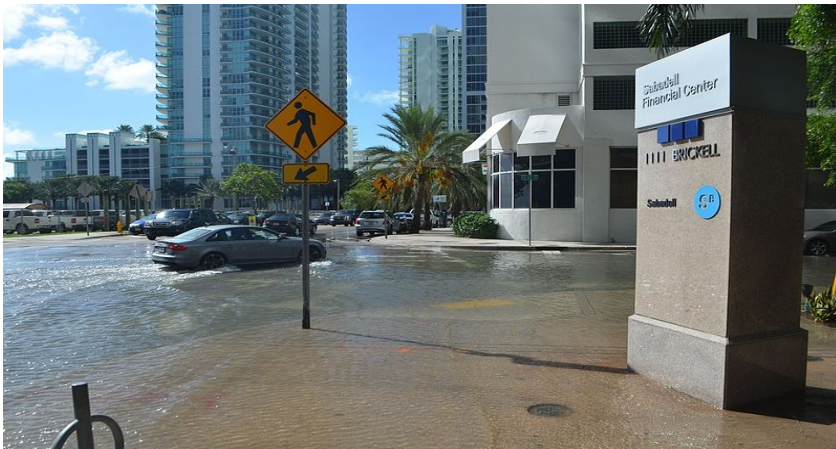
Unless we cut heat-trapping greenhouse gases, scientists predict sea levels could rise up to three feet by 2100. This could bring high tides and surges from strong storms, and be devastating for the millions of people living in coastal areas. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published a report earlier this year that predicted parts of Miami, New York City and San Francisco could flood every day by 2100, under a sea-level rise scenario of three feet. "It is likely that greenhouse warming will cause hurricanes in the coming century to be more intense globally and have higher rainfall rates than present-day hurricanes." (Source Earth / Food / Life). The same issues are relatable to virtually any coastal community in California."

### JUDGE:

A rise in the sea level, for example, can create extremely serious situations, if we consider that a quarter of the world's population lives on the coast or nearby, and that the majority of our megacities are situated in coastal areas (24). "We express our solidarity as Indigenous Peoples. We reaffirm the unbreakable and sacred connection between land, air, water, oceans, forests, sea ice, plants, animals and our human communities as the material and spiritual basis for our existence. Mother Earth is no longer in a period of climate change, but in a climate CRISIS. We therefore insist on an immediate end to the destruction and desecration of the elements of life." (Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Changes).

### ACT:

- Visit a coastline with condos or houses next to an ocean or on an island.
- Find and study some coastal city's plan for their coastline (or invite a resident or climate group like Surfriders).
- Do an energy audit of your home or church.





## **DAY SEVENTEEN: HURRICANES- MORE FREQUENT, MORE INTENSE**

### **SEE:**

It's not currently clear if changes in climate directly led to 2017's major hurricanes, including Harvey, Irma, Maria and Ophelia. What we do know is this: Moist air over warm ocean water is hurricane fuel.

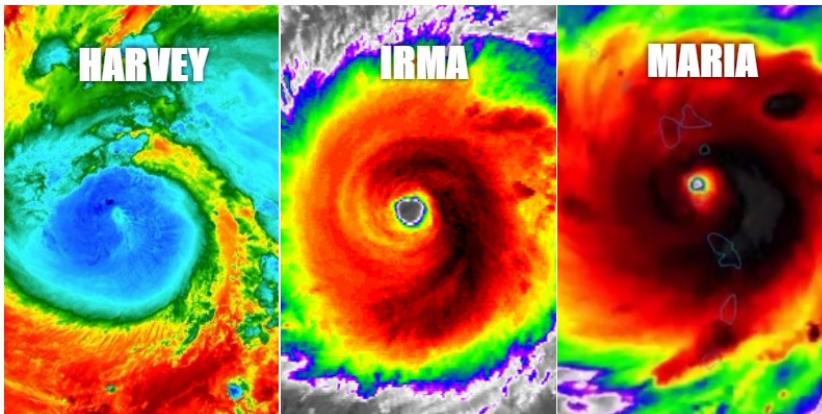
"Everything in the atmosphere now is impacted by the fact that it's warmer than it's ever been," CNN Senior Meteorologist Brandon Miller said. "There's more water vapor in the atmosphere. The ocean is warmer. And all of that really only pushes the impact in one direction, and that is worse: higher surge in storms, higher rainfall in storms." NOAA concluded this June that, "It is likely that greenhouse warming will cause hurricanes in the coming century to be more intense globally and have higher rainfall rates than present-day hurricanes." (Source Earth / Food / Life).

### **JUDGE:**

The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. (201). "Authoritative reports follow in rapid succession, warning of the dire consequences of climate change and global warming caused by human activity. What is now urgently needed is a dramatic change in the way the human race conducts its affairs and Muslims, who constitute one fifth of the world's population, can make a big difference if only they take warnings seriously and heed the teachings of their faith." (Islamic Foundation for Ecology & Environmental Sciences). "Climate change is a far greater threat to the world than international terrorism." (UK Government chief scientific adviser Sir David King.)

### **ACT:**

- Look for a presentation about changing weather patterns.
- Talk about the ecology crisis in terms of our "common home".
- Organize a car-pool for school or church attendance.





## **DAY EIGHTEEN:**

### **WATER SCARCITY AND DIMINISHING AQUA FIRS**

#### **SEE:**

1.5 C Increase in urban population could exposed +350 million people to severe drought worldwide. 2°C +411 million people worldwide. The Mediterranean region is expected to see "particularly strong increases in dryness" in a 2°C world compared to a 1.5°C world. (Source Earth / Food / Life). California farmers are changing crop patterns. About half of our countries fruits and vegetables are produced there. They are sacrificing planting lettuce and edible vegetable crops for almonds, walnuts and pestacios. Farmers are using too much underground water. The Aqua Fir is rapidly diminishing. Drilled wells can pump 5000 gallons of water per minute. There are tens of thousands of well all over California pumping water. More is still being pumped out than is being replenished. This has set off a competition and need to dig constantly deeper wells. Residents well are drying up or losing water. Water is a large political issue. (Heard on KPBS, NPR station).

#### **JUDGE:**

Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights (30). Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term (28). The scriptures affirm that the "earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 24, 1). Humanity is not the master of the earth but the steward to care for the integrity of creation. Mindless production and excessive consumption...have led to continuous desecration of creation, including global warming...(World Council of Churches).

#### **ACT:**

- Imagine a day without any water or having it only several days a week.
- Consider putting a timer on the showers for your family.
- Switch to low energy faucets or toilets.



## DAY NINETEEN: URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### SEE:

Climate Is Still Not Top Priority for Cities. " We need real transportation choices that are affordable, safe, and efficient, and connect people to jobs and affordable homes. We need analysis of the climate change impacts of every city decision as a standard practice, so that meeting state and local climate targets becomes the shared responsibility of all city staff and decision-makers. The County of San Diego's fundamentally flawed CAP based, on sprawl and pay-to-pollute schemes, is threatening all progress in the region, and could set a dangerous precedent for the state. (Source Climate Action Campaign of San Diego). We are approaching a dual tipping point of social and environmental systems that will arguably determine the future of life-support systems on Earth. (Source Earth League 18-09-2019)

### JUDGE:

We are conscious of the disproportionate and unruly growth of many cities, which have become unhealthy to live in, not only because of pollution caused by toxic emissions but also as a result of urban chaos, poor transportation, and visual pollution and noise (44). More precious still is the service we offer to another kind of beauty: people's quality of life. (150). Lack of housing is a grave problem in many parts of the world, both in rural areas and in large cities (152). As Christians, we must heed the church's call for "ever new movements of solidarity "Saving the earth and its peoples from dangerous climate change is an economic, social and environmental issue- and a moral and ethical one too that goes to the core of many if not all of the world's great faiths." (By Christina Figueres, The Guardian, London).

### ACT:

- Study the Climate Action Plan of the Diocese or your city or county.
- Check to see if the plan focuses on affordable housing and cleaner, affordable and more accessible mass travel.
- Make and communicate your suggestions to the existing planners.



The campus of the University of San Diego.

## DAY TWENTY: EXTINCTION OF SPECIES

### SEE:

Up to a million species are at risk of extinction because of human activities, according to a United Nations report. The reasons for the mass extinction include shrinking habitat, illegal hunting, climate change and pollution, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The pace of species loss "is already tens to hundreds of times higher than it has been, on average, over the last 10 million years." Many experts say a "mass extinction event" - only the sixth in the past half-billion years - is already underway. (Doyle Rice, USA Today, April 2019) The Amazon could lose about 70 percent of its plant and amphibian species and more than 60 percent of its birds, mammals and reptile species from unchecked climate change, and nearly 80,000 species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. (By Earth / Food / Life source).

### JUDGE:

"Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever, the great majority due to human activity" (33). "You visit the earth and cause it to overflow; You greatly enrich it; The stream of God is full of water; You prepare their grain, for thus You prepare the earth. You water its furrows abundantly, You settle its ridges, You soften it with showers, You bless its growth. (Psalm 65:9-13). Humanity can choose the difficult path that leads to hope, or cater to wistful, hear-no-evil dreams from which we'll awaken into a bleak dystopia? "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live." (Deuteronomy 30, 19-20).

### ACT:

- Talk with a friend about what it will mean for future generations to live without knowing many species of plants and animals.
- Visit a zoo or wildlife preserve to learn and appreciate other species of plants and animals.
- Investigate the installation of solar panels at your home or church.



## DAY TWENTY ONE: INSECTS, BIRDS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS RISK EXTINCTION

### SEE:

Insects around the world are disappearing at frightening rates. Scientists say we could soon face an "ecological Armageddon." And monarch butterflies could be the next casualty due to massive increase in the use of glyphosate -- a.k.a. Monsanto's Roundup®. (Friends of the Earth). Bird abundance has declined by 30 percent since 1970. Studies have identified loss of habitat driven by agriculture, urbanization, and deforestation. Increased pesticide use and the massive reduction in insect numbers worldwide also likely play a major role. (By Jason Daley | Sep 19 2019). 1.5°C Species losing more than half of their range: 6% of insects, 8% of plants, 4% of vertebrates, 2°C 18% of insects, 16% of plants. (Source Earth / Food / Life). Detergents and chemical products, commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas (29).

### JUDGE:

The Catechism firmly states that human power has limits and that "it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly". Pope John Paul II reminds us that "respect for life and the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation." This means that climate change that threatens and destroys plant, animal and human life is a strong Pro- Life matter. (107) "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you-the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you-every living creature on earth." (Genesis 9:9-10).

### ACT:

- Invite a speaker about what species are at risk and how we contribute to this happening.
- Investigate inviting a speaker from the Audubon Society to speak about risks to bird species due to chemicals and climate change.
- Include creation care in your daily prayer routine or read one of the prayers at the end of Laudato Si.





## **DAY TWENTY TWO: EXTREME HEAT AND CROPS**

### **SEE:**

World population is exposed to severe heat waves (like one that blanketed southeastern Europe in 2007) at least once every five years: 1.5°C expose about 14% of world population, 2°C, about 37% of world population. Extreme heat will be much more common worldwide under 2°C of warming compared to 1.5°C. Global crop yields are expected to be lower under 2°C of warming compared to 1.5°C, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America. A half a degree of warming could be significant for small island nations, which are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and other climate change impacts. (Taken from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at the U. N. Oct. 2018).

### **JUDGE:**

Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction (204). "Demand for food, water, and energy will grow by approximately 35, 40, and 50 percent respectively owing to an increase in the global population and the consumption patterns of an expanding middle class. Climate change will worsen the outlook for the availability of these critical resources. Rapid changes in precipitation patterns could sharply disrupt the world's ability to feed its population." (U. S. Intelligence Community Report).

### **ACT:**

- Think what would happen to plants if a greenhouse became overheated.
- Tell companies you buy from that you want greener products (local and organic).
- Plan ways you can save water in your home or at your church.





## DAY TWENTY THREE:

### FOOD CRISIS, INSECURITY AND NUTRICION DEFICIENCIES

#### SEE:

"Food insecurity had been declining steadily for the last couple of decades, just as extreme poverty had been declining. But in the last couple of years, that too has changed, and the principal reason is the climate crisis." Look at population growth: "Africa, by mid-century, will have more people than either China or India. And by end of century, more people than China and India combined." Staple crops such as wheat, rice, maize and soybeans, which provide two-thirds of the world's caloric intake, are sensitive to temperature and precipitation and to rising atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide. A sweeping 2017 study showed that every degree-Celsius of warming will reduce average global yields of wheat by 6 percent, rice by 3.2 percent, maize by 7.4 percent and soybeans by 3.1 percent. (Brackney Indexing Service- USA, Planet Earth)

#### JUDGE:

"There is a minority that believes it has the right to consume in a way which can never be universalized. Besides, we know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and "whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor" (50). These problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish (22). It is also the mindset of those who say: Let us allow the invisible forces of the market to regulate the economy, and consider their impact on society and nature as collateral damage. This same "use and throw away" logic generates so much waste, because of the disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary (123).

#### ACT:

- Organize a group to visit a soup kitchen or talk with some homeless families.
- Eat less red meat and dairy products.
- Encourage low carbon snacks, emphasizing vegetable and fruit consumption.



## DAY TWENTY FOUR

### AIR POLLUTION AND QUALITY CRISIS IN INDIA:

#### **SEE:**

Air pollution now results in almost 1.6 million deaths per year (or approximately 4,400 deaths per day) -and that about 3/8 of the population breathes air which would be considered unhealthy in the United States. The Chinese government has now decided it needs to move away from coal and convert factories to natural gas. (Berkley Earth). Air is safe to breathe as long as there are no more than twenty-five micrograms of particulate matter per cubic meter of air. Delhi once choked and gasped air with an average 640 micrograms. Thermal power plants are major polluter. Forests once acted to absorb the pollution of the plains. Now, with the trees gone. India's citizens produce an average of one and a half tons of greenhouse gases per person every year; their American counterparts produce almost sixteen tons. (By Jo McGowan June 25, 2018)

#### **JUDGE:**

Patriarch Bartholomew said "For human beings... to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation; for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests or destroying its wetlands; for human beings to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life - these are sins".[15] For to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God" (8). Pope Benedict XVI stated: "I hope that all members of the international community can agree on a responsible, credible and supportive response to this worrisome and complex phenomenon, keeping in mind the needs of the poorest populations and of future generations."

#### **ACT:**

- Imagine being in an area where your eyes sting or your throat is irritated and make you cough.
- Invite the Environmental Health Coalition or other knowledgeable entity to explain about your local air control and quality.
- Inform your friends, parishioners or school about your air quality.



## **DAY TWENTY FIVE: SOCIAL CONFLICT AND MASS MIGRATION**

### **SEE:**

In 2017, David Wallace-Wells wrote "The Uninhabitable Earth". He discussed that, with diminished resources and increased migration caused by flooding, "social conflict could more than double this century." The World Bank did conclude in March 2018 that water scarcity, crop failure and rising sea levels could displace 143 million people by 2050. The report focused on Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America, which represent 55 percent of the developing world's population. Unsurprisingly, the poorest and most climate-vulnerable areas will be hardest hit. (Source Earth / Food / Life) "The paradox is that those least responsible are the most affected" (Lutheran Church in America).

### **JUDGE:**

"In the present condition of global society, the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters" (158). People occasionally forgive, but nature never does. The vocation of being a "protector", means protecting all creation. In the End, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it.

"The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it." (Psalm 65: 9-13)

### **ACT:**

- Ask someone who assists migrants why families risk their lives and security, searching for opportunities.
- Invite Catholic Relief Service CRS to explain the world reality and their work with over 60 thousand refugees in our "common home".
- Talk with a migrant or refugee neighbor about their experience.



## DAY TWENTY SIX: THE MIGRANT CARAVAN AND 'CLIMATE APARTHEID'

### SEE:

How did our country reach the point where we are tear-gassing mothers and children? One reason is because of the widespread myths about these brothers and sisters of ours. There are many myths circulating: They are "illegals." We cannot afford them. They are mainly criminals. (Fr. James Martin, Nov. 2018).

"The risk of community discontent, of growing inequality, and of even greater levels of deprivation among some groups, will likely stimulate nationalist, xenophobic, racist and other responses. The impacts of the climate crisis could increase divisions. "We risk a 'climate apartheid' scenario where the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger, and conflict while the rest of the world is left to suffer." (June 25, 2019 The Guardian (London)

### JUDGE:

Believers should dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good (201). "We have denounced ecological abuse as sin against God; we should recognize how it is a crime against humanity. We need to move from a culture of consumerism to one of conservation." (Episcopal Church of America). Bold initiatives are needed- and needed now to create incentives for the development of alternative energies, to protect endangered coastal areas. I believe that our religious voice must be strongest closest to home, manifest in how we daily live. (Rabbi Warren G. Stone, Temple Emanu El, Kensington, Maryland).

### ACT:

- Invite a speaker or migrant from another race or culture to your group or church community.
- Work with San Diego Organizing Project SDOP or another entity to encourage recent immigrants to become informed and vote.



(An unknown cemetery in the Imperial valley - 440  
Unknowns who died crossing the desert.)



## **DAY TWENTY SEVEN:**

### **DEFORESTATION, LOGGING AND MINING IN THE TONGAS FOREST**

#### **SEE:**

The Department of Agriculture just said it will exempt all 9.2 million acres of roadless area and 165,000 acres of old-growth forest-in the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. That means more logging and drilling in the world's largest intact temperate rainforest. The Tongass is home to threatened species. And further development would threaten sites sacred to Alaska Natives. The Tongass is an essential carbon sink. It stores more atmospheric carbon than any other U.S. forest. Each tree cut down removes a piece of this invaluable resource that helps slow climate change. This could set a precedent for states to open up millions of countless acres of pristine wild lands to development. The goal is to open as much of our public land to clearcutting and drilling as they can. (The Department of Agriculture)

#### **JUDGE:**

The ecosystems of tropical forests possess an enormously complex biodiversity, yet when these forests are burned down or levelled for purposes of cultivation, within the space of a few years countless species are lost and the areas frequently become arid wastelands (38). Similarly, wetlands converted into cultivated land lose the enormous biodiversity which they formerly hosted (39). "The choices we make today and over the next decade will have a radical impact on the path we travel in the future." (Evangelical Christian climate scientist, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe). "I (as a pastor) am urging all of us to speak about moral, ethical and spiritual reasons for addressing climate change." (Thomas Carr, Baptist pastor)

#### **ACT:**

- Investigate what and where the Tongas Forest is and its importance for environment and species.
- Organize a phone bank or a letter or email writing meeting and together compose a message and give contact information about the pollution and destruction of our national parks and wildlife reserves.





## **DAY TWENTY EIGHT: THE AMAZON BASIN**

### **SEE:**

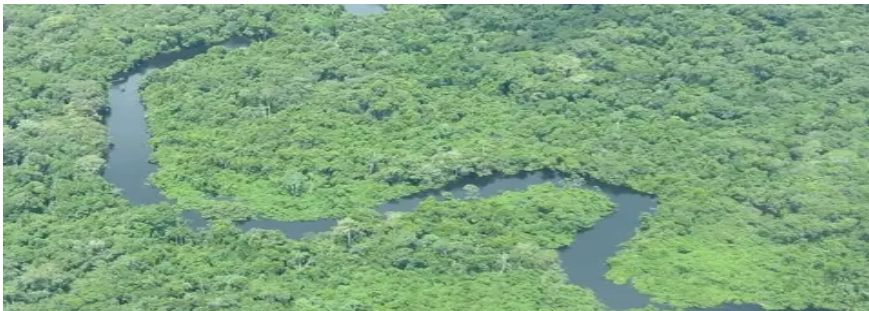
Over the next ten years, industrial producers hope to triple the land under single-crop plantations to 240,000 hectares, mostly oil palm. This is in stark disregard of Peru's international commitment to zero deforestation by 2020. Reported by Oxfam. The pope drew parallels between the devastation of gold mining and human trafficking, an "outcry that reaches heaven". He also highlighted the need to protect indigenous people. They should not be considered a "kind of museum of a bygone way of life." Amazon leaders said they would call for the intervention of United Nations agencies to halt the "ethnocide of 60 isolated peoples" and the "criminalization of nature's defenders" across the nine Amazon countries. Titling community lands in the Peruvian Amazon led to an immediate reduction in deforestation by three-quarters. (2013 study by the Carnegie Amazon Mercury Project.)

### **JUDGE:**

Many intensive forms of environmental exploitation undo the social structures which, for a long time, shaped cultural identity and their sense of the meaning of life and community. The disappearance of a culture can be just as serious as the disappearance of a species of plant or animal. The imposition of a dominant lifestyle linked to a single form of production can be just as harmful as the altering of ecosystems (145). The Amazon and the Congo basins are the richly biodiverse lungs of our planet and of great aquifers and glaciers. We know how important these are for the entire earth and for the future of humanity (38) "When you besiege a city a long time, to make war against it in order to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees; for you may eat from them, and you shall not cut them down. For is the tree of the field a man, that it should be besieged by you?" (Deuteronomy 20:19)

### **ACT:**

- Look up and read an article about the Vatican Synod on the Amazon or about the environmental problems and the loss of the culture of the indigenous.
- Ask a speaker from the Creation Care Ministry or a science teacher to explain the importance of the Amazon Basin for our planet.



## **DAY TWENTY NINE: INTEGRAL ECOLOGY AND THE AMAZON**

### **SEE:**

More than a political duty and a social obligation, defending and promoting human rights is demanded by our faith and extractive destruction is denounced. Nations are asked to stop thinking of the region as an inexhaustible resource, and a hope is expressed for a socially inclusive "new paradigm of sustainable development" that combines scientific and traditional methods. The definition of "ecological sin" as "an action or an omission against God, against one's neighbor, the community, the environment", and future generations. Protecting the earth means encouraging reuse and recycling; reducing the use of fossil fuels and plastic; modifying eating habits such as the excessive consumption of meat and fish; adopting a sober lifestyle; planting trees. (2013 Study by the Carnegie Amazon Mercury Project)

### **JUDGE:**

An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics. The common good is "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment" (156) Pope Benedict XVI spoke of an "ecology of man", based on the fact that "man too has a nature that he must respect and that he cannot manipulate at will".[120] The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation (155). "There is no honest way to avoid the conclusion that climate change is intimately related to deep defects in the way we have defined prosperity; the way we have conceptualized standard of living." (Unitarian Society of Hartford)

### **ACT:**

- According to these brief paragraphs how do you understand "integral ecology".
- Consider including cactus, rocks or an urban food forest at your home or on the church property.



A community garden in North Park.

## DAY THIRTY: THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT ON THE EARTH

### SEE:

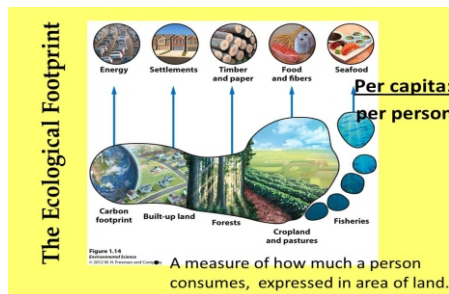
The amount of fertile earth or ocean needed to generate the indispensable means of life are measured such as water, grains, meats, fish, fibers, wood, renewable energy and others. We have available 12 thousand million acres of fertile earth but in reality, we need 20 thousand million acres. We are slowly decapitalizing Mother Earth. We do not know when the collapse will occur, but to continue with our level of consumption and waste by the opulent countries, it will come, with disastrous consequences for everyone. This Ecological Overload is a loan that we are taking from future generations for our use and actual enjoyment. Our descendants might ask us: "you did not think of your children grandchildren or great grandchildren". A perverse social injustice prevails where 15% of those that live in opulent regions of the North of the planet dispose of 75% of natural goods and services and of 40% of fertile land. Millions of persons wait for the scraps that fall from the abundant tables of the rich.

### JUDGE:

The world organization of Indigenous peoples has said: "Mother earth is no longer in a time of climate change, we are now in a time of climate crisis". The Buddhists claim that "climate change is the greatest challenge man has ever faced". The Jewish tradition calls climate change "a global human moral disaster and the most profound religious issue of our day. We face two central questions: How are we to be stewards of creation in an age when we may alter that creation, perhaps irrevocably? How can we exercise stewardship in a way that respects and protects the integrity of God's creation and provides for the common good"? (United States Conference of Catholic Bishop, USCCB, 2010). "Climate change is a greater threat than international terrorism" (Islam)

### ACT:

- Define what a carbon footprint is.
- Join with others of a group, organization or church movement to learn and respond to climate change.
- Learn to be more energy efficient through better use of heat and air condition or turning off appliance not in use.



## **DAY THIRTY ONE: PROBLEMS WITH STYROFOAM**

### **SEE:**

Polystyrene is a petroleum-based plastic. In fact, Styrofoam is the trade name for polystyrene. Environmental health concerns start with the elements used to make Styrofoam. It appears to last forever, as it is resistant to photolysis, or the breaking down of materials by protons originating from a light source. Styrofoam is lightweight and therefore floats. It is now considered the main component of marine debris. There are 57 chemical by-products released during the creation of Styrofoam. Styrofoam has a petroleum base and is a non-sustainable resource. Petroleum production create heavy pollution and if used for food, chemicals can leach into the food, affecting human health and the reproductive systems. According to some reports, Styrofoam can take up to 500 years to disintegrate in a landfill.

### **JUDGE:**

Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor, and causes millions of premature deaths. There is also pollution that affects everyone, caused by transport, industrial fumes, substances which contribute to the acidification of soil and water, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and agrottoxins in general. The 1972 Stockholm Declaration set the goal of limiting greenhouse gas concentration. It stated that the obligation of those who cause pollution to assume its costs. (167) "Climate change is happening too fast... and our civilization's engagement of the problem has been too slow. I'm heartened by the prospect that we can harness this painful experience to make a better civilization; governments and economies and businesses more humane and just." (Unitarian Universalists, Hartford Connecticut).

### **ACT:**

- View the video on biodegradable products from the S. D. Catholic Diocesan Office of Life, Peace, Justice and Creation Care web site.
- Go on-line and open Eco-Friendly products to learn about substitutes for plastics and Styrofoam.
- Refuse to use Styrofoam carry-out boxes- bring your own.



## **DAY THIRTY TWO: PLASTICS IN OUR OCEANS:**

### **SEE:**

Studies project that by 2050, there could be more plastic in our ocean than fish. Researchers estimate that on average, 8 million metric tons of plastic trash enter the ocean every year, with the number continuing to grow every day. This pollution is ravaging our marine ecosystems, entangling and choking wildlife, such as seabirds, dolphins, fish and turtles, and even displacing plankton at the base of the food chain. Facing intensifying global efforts to curtail the use of oil and gas for transportation and energy-and at the same time seeking markets for the torrent of oil and gas from the US fracking boom-the fossil fuel industry is looking to plastics as a lifeline. Today, 14 percent of oil and 8 percent of gas is used for the manufacture of petrochemicals, the essential feedstock of plastic production. The International Energy Agency predicts that by 2050, 50 percent of the growth in oil demand will be related to petrochemicals, overtaking the oil-demand growth related to automobile transportation. (Houston Area Petrochemical Plant. June 30, 2019).

### **JUDGE:**

"You must keep my decrees and my laws.... And if you **DEFILE** the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you." (Leviticus 18:26, 28) You shall not **POLLUTE** the land in which you live.... You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell; for I the **LORD** dwell among the Israelites." (Numbers 35:33-34) "I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you **DEFILED** my land, and made my heritage an abomination." (Jeremiah 2:7) "You have polluted the land with your whoring and wickedness. Therefore, the showers have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come." (Jeremiah 3: 2-3)

### **ACT:**

- Imagine what your house or patio would be like if you discarded all plastics, Styrofoam and other materials there.
- Organize and plan a costal or inland gorge clean-up (only 9% of plastics are recycled).
- Refuse to use plastic straws in restaurant or plastic "beads" as packing fillers.





## **DAY THIRTY THREE: SURGING WILDFIRES AND THE HUMAN THREAT**

### **SEE:**

The Camp Fire, which burned more than 150,000 acres in Butte County in November, was the deadliest and most destructive fire in California's history, killing at least 85 people. The Mendocino Complex Fire torched roughly 300,000 acres in Northern California,. In 2017's the Thomas Fire, which burned 281,000 acres in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. But the Golden State's fires will only get worse, according to California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. If greenhouse gases continue rising, large fires that burn more than 25,000 acres will increase by 50 percent by the end of the century, and the volume of acres that will be burned by wildfires in an average year will increase by 77 percent, the report said. "Higher spring and summer temperatures and earlier spring snowmelt typically cause soils to be drier for longer, increasing the likelihood of drought and a longer wildfire season, particularly in the western United States," The Union of Concerned Scientists explained in a blog post. Deadly fires are the new normal in California, and residents of other Western states should be paying close attention. (Source Earth / Food / Life).

### **JUDGE:**

Self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today. They can end up prey to an unethical consumerism bereft of social or ecological awareness. Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. The work of dominating the world calls for a union of skills and a unity of achievement that can only grow from quite a different attitude".[154] The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion (219). "Climate change is one of the greatest moral disasters of human history as the people who suffer the most have been the least responsible for its cause." (Rabbi Larry Troster, Teaneck, New Jersey).

### **ACT:**

- Invite a fireman to explain how to not contribute to fires and what practices to avoid.
- Ask the Sierra Club or other source to explain how humans and forests can co-exist and avoid fire dangers.
- Share your successes in person or through some digital or media form.



## **DAY THIRTY FOUR: SKEPTICISM OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **SEE:**

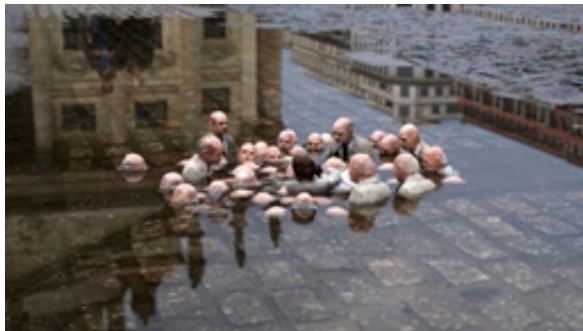
Perhaps one of the greatest reasons for resistance is that the reality of climate change demands that we change. To change the lifestyle to which we have become accustomed. To stop our dependence on fossil fuels, which in turn decreases the profits and the power of all the related industries and corporations. To alter our habits of consumption and disposal. To transform how we view the role of the human in the enterprise we call life. We are in service to the future generations of all species and to the planet. These realizations do not come from data alone. We recognize that what happens to our atmosphere happens to each of us. The first step is to talk to others. Doubts about the science are being replaced by doubts about the motives of scientists and their political supporters. Once this kind of cynicism takes hold, is there any hope for the truth?

### **JUDGE:**

“There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology” (118). The fact is that "contemporary man's immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience" (105) As for the lack of action, it is explainable only by the fact that there are vested interests, political interests, who lobby against environmental action. Second, there is an ideological predisposition against regulation. The third, simple inertia. There are OIL and gas interests who have a reason not to want to take action on climate change... They have a cause which I don't believe is in the interest of God, or in the interest of man.

### **ACT:**

- Look up someone you know who is skeptical about climate change and listen to his/her logic, their fears and possible ways to him open them to more dialogue.
- Invite a science teacher or professor to explain what science has documented and knows about climate change.
- Visit to another church, synagogue or mosque that is in your area to learn about their work.



A group discussion about climate change.

## DAY THIRTY FIVE: GLOBALIZATION OF INDIFFERENCE

### SEE:

Patriarch Bartolome has stated: "For Christians to deny contamination of our air, water and land, these are SINS". Pope Francis states that this contamination is a form of "self idolatry" (a worship of humanity) paraphrasing the Book of Revelations 11, 18. He says: "If we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us; don't ever forget this." Since climate change is caused by humans it becomes a moral and spiritual problem. Abuse begin when we no longer recognize a higher instance than ourselves. This happens when profit becomes the primary or sole motive of human activity and environment is overlooked and contamination begins. Also the common good is forgotten or sacrificed for individual and national interests. Pope Francis calls this the "globalization of indifference". Many of us become like the priest and the Levite in the parable of the good Samaritan- "We pass on by". Pope John Paul II came to Yankee stadium in 1979 and said "Americans do not see the Lazarus's of the world at your doorstep."

### JUDGE:

"As the United States bishops have said, greater attention must be given to "the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests".[31] "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 indifference (52). "Coming to grips with the environmental crisis may rekindle a deeper vision of who we are and where we live." (Rev. Charles Redfern, taken from the Huntington Post).

### ACT:

- Ask a pastor or community leader why they see no urgency about climate change.
- Get the short video link from the Creation Care Ministry of scientist Dr. Ramanathan and Bishop McElroy on a New Alliance Between Science, Religion and Policy and discuss it with others.
- Eat a healthy diet; buy organic or locally grown in order to cut down on transportation emissions.



## DAY THIRTY SIX: LACK OF POLITICAL WILL

### SEE:

The depressing actions of the present administration are legion for environmentalists. Using federal agencies and executive orders, it is dismantling the climate progress so many have worked for. In September, federal agencies deregulated the release of methane gas, which traps about 25 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide does. It has allowed land set aside as national monuments to be pillaged for oil and gas drilling and mineral extraction and dismantled our clean air regulations. If human-induced atmospheric warming continues at the current rate, the world will cross the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold of global temperature increase around 2040, according to an October 2018 report from the International Panel on Climate Change. Most Americans are committed to building climate resiliency. Some 79 percent foresee a serious problem for the U.S. if nothing is done to prevent global warming, according to a July 2018 survey by ABC News, Stanford University, and Resources for the Future.

### JUDGE:

"Christians in their turn realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty toward nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith" (64). "There may have been a time when from a point of indecision on the matter of climate change, to a decision on whether it is real and caused by humans or not, required leaps of faith of somewhat equal proportions. But that was a long time and a lot of science ago." (National Catholic Reporter editorial staff, 2014). "One should ask in faith, not doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed about by the wind." (Jas. 1, 6)

### ACT:

- Ask yourself: How can I become better informed and add my voice to help avoid more damage to the environment.
- Make a list of your 6 elected representatives (city, county, state = 2, federal = 2).
- Write or email your local newspaper editor about your concerns.



## DAY THIRTY SEVEN: STUDENT CHALLENGE

### SEE:

Young people across the world are struggling to tip the social scale towards swift and concerted climate action. On 20 September, they mobilized for a global climate protest. Since its debut in September, the Ignatian Carbon Challenge has presented thousands of participating students each month with eight possible actions: all aiming to bring Laudato Si' to life within Catholic schools, and ultimately, in students' daily lives.

The "ID a tree" challenge was from September, when all challenges focused on confronting habits. A January challenge had students count how many days they can go without purchasing a single-use plastic item. "The bigger goal for us was to create a program that worked, and allows folks to engage in Laudato Si', on both an individual and an institutional level. Actually, reading Laudato Si' has been a key piece of the challenge. "We want it to be part of the fabric of our schools." We would like to see the challenge cultivate collaboration among U.S. Catholic schools in developing agents of social change"



### JUDGE:

The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity (159). Beginning in the middle of the last century and overcoming many difficulties, there has been a growing conviction that our planet is a homeland and that humanity is one people living in a common home (164). Environmental education should facilitate making the leap towards the transcendent which gives ecological ethics its deepest meaning. It needs educators capable of developing an ethics of ecology, and helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care (210). "Just as we all are part of the problem, so also we are part of the solution." Desmond Tutu said.

Today, in a word, "the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle" (206).

### ACT:

- Find and talk with or invite a group of students to express their concerns and what they would like to do.
- Learn about the Sunrise Movement and how youth want fossil fuels out of politics.
- Plan a youth night to listen to youth's concerns about climate change and open a dialogue with them.



## **DAY THIRTY EIGHT: THIS ECONOMY BREEDS VIOLENCE AND KILLS**

### **SEE:**

Catholic social teaching insists that solidarity cannot be wholly outsourced to the state. Pope Benedict argued that market activity cannot be just about making money, but must embody "authentically human social relationships of friendship, solidarity, and reciprocity." This means that business must orient its activities toward the common good-producing goods and services that meet genuine human needs, prioritizing dignified work and decent wages over profits, and embracing a keen sense of social and environmental responsibility. It's not only about creating wealth, but creating it sustainably and distributing it justly. (Commonweal, June 5, 2017, Anthony Annett). Only eight billionaires have as much combined wealth as the poorest half of the world, according to Oxfam. The POOR suffer under growing inequalities and the worst effects of climate change. Pope Francis says we should be indignant at the extreme inequalities in our world. "Inequality is not only keeping millions of people trapped in poverty, it is fracturing our societies and poisoning our politics."

### **JUDGE:**

Benedict XVI proposed "eliminating the structural causes of the dysfunctions of the world economy and correcting models of growth which have proved incapable of ensuring respect for the environment" (6). "When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society" (82). "The alliance between the economy and technology ends up sidelining anything unrelated to its immediate interests" (54). "Politics must pay greater attention to foreseeing new conflicts and addressing the causes which can lead to them" (57). This is what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products. This shows us the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers. "Purchasing is always a moral - and not simply an economic act".[146]

### **ACT:**

- Read paragraphs 109 and 95 of Laudato Si and examine how you relate to the message of Pope Francis expressed there.
- Write out your reaction to the moral reflection points (Judge) cited on this topic.
- Practice the 4 R's- recycle, repair, re-use, and refuse.



## DAY THIRTY NINE:

### WORLD BANK POLICY AND GLOBAL CREDIT RESEARCH

#### SEE:

The World Bank's \$5-billion-dollar policy loans shows lender supporting investment incentives for coal and other fossil fuel projects in Southeast Asia, South America, Africa and the Middle East, threatening climate change efforts, indigenous groups and natural resources. The study, reveals that funds intended to boost low-carbon growth and promoting a carbon tax are instead supporting investment incentives for projects that put the climate, forests and people at risk. Development Policy Finance (DPF) operations, which account for approximately a third of all World Bank funding-equal to more than \$15 billion in 2016. "However, the Bank's policy lending does the opposite by introducing tax breaks for coal power plants and coal export infrastructure." Climate change is forecast to heighten US exposure to economic loss placing short- and long-term credit pressure on US states and local governments. (New York, Moody 28 Nov 2017).

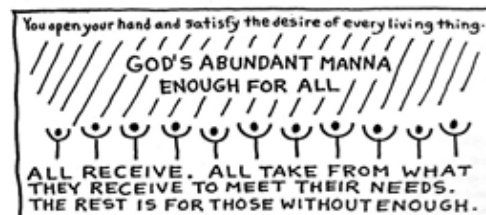
#### JUDGE:

"The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. Politics must not be subject to the economy, nor should the economy be subject to the dictates of an efficiency-driven paradigm of technocracy" (189). "When technology disregards the great ethical principles, it ends up considering any practice whatsoever as licit" (136). Benedict XVI has said that "technologically advanced societies must be prepared to encourage more sober lifestyles." (193). We believe climate change to be a profound pro-life issue. "We need to see climate change, not as an issue about politics or partisanship, but as a moral concern. As the church starts to take on climate change more directly, it's also time for clean businesses to take the lead." (Christians in Florida for Climate Action).

#### ACT:

- Reflect on how social equity would help undeveloped nations progress in an environmental, clean and sustainable manner.
- Read and reflect, in group if possible, paragraph 179 of Laudato Si and how we citizens can bring pressure on elected representatives.

Here is a diagram of a just society-a MANNA SOCIETY:



## DAY FORTY: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### SEE:

Environmental stewardship is nothing new to our faith. From the Old Testament to Pope Francis' "Laudato Si'," our faith has recognized and treasured mankind's intimate relationship with the earth and all the life that calls it home. The reckless contamination of our air, water and soil has reached crisis levels. These changes affect the most vulnerable nations worldwide. My faith has shown me that we are all part of an interrelated whole through Christ. If our climate breaks down it will cause additional breakdowns of global supply chains that provide medicine to the sick, and it will create droughts that will lead to even greater outbreaks of famine across the world. As U.S. citizens, fellow human beings and Catholics, we cannot stand idle as our country contributes to the ecological destruction of our planet. To deny this is to turn a deaf ear to God's teachings. As Pope Francis has expressed, we must focus less on maximizing profits and more on what nourishes the spirit. (Catherine Cortez Masto, November 30, 2017).

### JUDGE:

“Unless citizens control political power - national, regional and municipal - it will not be possible to control damage to the environment.” (179) “I (Pope Francis) will point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, and that proposes a new lifestyle” (16). “Some circles maintain that current economics and technology will solve all environmental problems, global hunger and poverty will be resolved simply by market growth. Their deeds show no interest in more balanced levels of production, a better distribution of wealth, concern for the environment and the rights of future generations. Their behavior shows that for them maximizing profits is enough” (109).

### ACT:

- Read Gen. 2, 15 and consider how you show protection and responsible stewardship.
- Make copies of the St. Francis Pledge and discuss with others the 10 things suggested that you can do.
- Evaluate how you are influencing or pressuring church and elected representatives to accept science and act to reverse climate change.




These problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish (22). It is also the mindset of those who say: Let us allow the invisible forces of the market to regulate the economy, and consider their impact on society and nature as collateral damage. This logic generates so much waste, because of the disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary (123) "The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast".[152] ). Patriarch Bartholomew asks us to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing, an asceticism which "entails learning to give, and not simply to give up (9).

Local legislation can be effective if agreements exist between neighboring communities to support the same environmental policies. A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power. Beginning in the middle of the last century and overcoming many difficulties, there has been a growing conviction that our planet is a homeland and that humanity is one people living in a common home (164).

Today, in a word, "the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle" (206).

The New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment "Thou shall not kill" means when "twenty percent of the world's population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive" (95).

A serene sunset scene over a body of water. The sun is a bright orange orb on the horizon, casting a warm glow across the sky. A small white lighthouse is visible on the horizon line to the left. The water is dark blue with gentle ripples. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

*In your dreams,  
anything is possible.*

*Its time to wake up  
and start dreaming*