LAUDATO SI’ GOAL #1

Response to the Cry of the Earth

The pope calls us to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. As we seek a flourishing future for ourselves and future generations, we work together to preserve and protect the natural resources and ecological systems that nurture all of Earth’s creatures.

How can YOU respond to the cry of the Earth?

Start by listening to and hearing the cry of the Earth. This first step can lead to your ecological conversion by experiencing our oneness with Earth and all of creation. Once we know ourselves to be one with Earth, we are willing to take steps, large and small, to heal, restore, and safeguard this wonderful planet.

Try these ideas

- Spend some quiet time in nature—feel the crunch of snow under your feet, let the sun caress your face, listen to the waves rolling onto the shore or crashing against rocks, enjoy the scent of flowers in summer, hear the songs of returning birds in spring, feel the leaves and earth as you walk a forest path, contemplate the starry night sky.

- Have you chosen to buy locally grown vegetables as much as possible during the growing season? Can you go meatless at least once a week?

- Have you lessened your use of single-use plastics—by using cloth shopping bags, eliminating the use of plastic straws, recycling, and reusing?

- Have you planted a tree to replace a tree felled in a storm?

- Have you planted flowers either in your yard or in a pot or flower box to honor and beautify your small patch of Mother Earth?

Example: Reduce our carbon footprint with plants.

Did you know that every acre we garden or farm can regeneratively capture 25-60 tons of carbon? That means planting 5,000 Climate Victory Gardens is like taking at least 140,000 cars off the road for a year, according to Green America.

“The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.”

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