Clean Up The World

“Our Place…Our Planet…Our Responsibility”

September 15–17, 2017

“A Christian who doesn’t safeguard creation, who doesn’t make it flourish, is a Christian who isn’t concerned with God’s work, that work born of God’s love for us.”

— Pope Francis, Meditation, Vatican City, February 9, 2015

http://bit.ly/2rhNmCD

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Clean Up the World Weekend is a global campaign created by the United Nations Environmental Program to inspire and empower communities to clean up and protect our common home. (Source: http://bit.ly/2aSM6Km)

**WHAT DOES CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING SAY ABOUT THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT?**

Catholic social teaching highlights the importance of honoring God through the protection of the environment. Pope Francis refers to Earth as our “common home,” and proclaims that we have a responsibility to take care of it as part of our faith.

Deforestation, the burning of fossil fuels, pollution, and improper waste management are resulting in climate change and its effects are already apparent. Daily, we witness the adverse effects: melting of glaciers and polar ice; rising seawater temperatures; continuing droughts and heatwaves; increasing heavy rainfalls and flooding. These are life-threatening to the world’s poorest and most marginalized communities. Climate change will continue to have a profound effect on the global population.

Catholic social teaching reminds us that caring for our planet is a central and an essential part of our faith. We share a collective responsibility to respond to today’s global environmental crisis and to make a positive contribution to a cleaner and healthier world for the earth and her inhabitants.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- How can you engage in a nonthreatening conversation with deniers of climate change?
- What actions can you promote to engage members of your community to care for our common home?
- Reflect on how your daily actions contribute to climate change. What are some alternatives to these actions?
- Climate change affects all people, regardless of their faith, economic status, political affiliation, and age group. How can we, as individuals and as a global community, foster collective action to promote proper stewardship of the planet and to ensure basic intergenerational justice for those who follow us?

**FAITH IN ACTION**

- Join the Clean Up the World campaign. Participate in this year’s activities. For more information go to: http://bit.ly/1UvbKDu.
- Make this campaign a way of life. Commit to recycling and composting, using only the necessary amount of water, saving electricity by changing to LED light bulbs, decreasing your use of plastic, and using alternative forms of transportation like public transportation and biking.