



## Earth Day: 10 Catholic Things You Can Do\*

### From the Office of Social Concerns-Diocese of Columbus

In the Catholic perspective, every day is a Earth Day. In his encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis urges everyone to create a community of care for people and the environment. He asks us to pray, engage in dialogue, have a conversion of heart, and act. Here are 10 Catholic things you can do to do your part.

(Click on bold items for resources)

1. **Pray in Gratitude** for God's gift of creation. Pray before each meal.
2. **Read Laudato Si'** On Care for our Common Home. Form a study group. Dialogue with others.
3. **Take the St. Francis Pledge** to Care for Creation and the Poor
4. **Host a feast of St. Francis program** – Catholic Climate Covenant.
5. **Form a Creation Care Team** in your parish or school.
6. **Support Catholic charities** and parish ministries which **serve the poor and vulnerable**.

(Examples include: Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Parish Social Concerns Ministry, JOIN, Catholic Social Services, St. Stephen's Community House, St. Vincent Family Center, St. Francis Center, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, some of Shepherd's Corner's produce is donated to soup kitchens, etc.)

7. **Be in Solidarity** – global & intergenerational.
8. **Live a Christian lifestyle** – ongoing conversion. Reduce your carbon footprint by recycling or conducting an energy audit at home, school, or work. Keep taking steps to be a good steward of resources.
9. **Advocate** for sound policies in your local community that contribute to environmental stewardship. Write a letter to the editor, contact or visit a legislator, etc. Contact the Office for Social Concerns for details and issues.
10. **Start a Laudato Si' Fund** to support care for creation efforts in your community.

## Resources:

**Earth Day 2016 Program Guide: for parishes, schools, community**  
(Catholic Climate Covenant)

**Laudato Si Resource Handout: Office for Social Concerns**

\* This material supports Task III Moral Formation F. Gospel of Life and Task VI Missionary Spirit C. Social Action and Transformation of the [Diocesan Religion Course of Study](#)