

## RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

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### Description

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, pollution, acidification of the oceans, massive destruction of forests and wetlands, and ecological sustainability.



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### Scripture

The Earth mourns and fades, the world languishes and fades; both heaven and Earth languish. The Earth is polluted because of its inhabitants, for they have transgressed laws, violated statutes, broken the ancient covenant. Isaiah 24:4-5

I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. Jeremiah 2:7



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### Laudato Si'

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her....the Earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the Earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air, and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. LS #2

The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish. LS #21

There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy. LS #26

Saint Bonaventure held that, through universal reconciliation with every creature, Saint Francis in some way returned to the state of original innocence. LS #40



These situations have caused sister Earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course...we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness. LS #53

This is a far cry from our situation today, where sin is manifest in all its destructive power in wars, the various forms of violence and abuse, the abandonment of the most vulnerable, and attacks on nature. LS #66

When we speak of the “environment,” what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. LS #139

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## Our Bishops

On a planet conflicted over environmental issues, the Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the Earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

*The Summary Report of the Task Force on Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic Education*



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## Reflection

What emotions/thoughts stir within you or comes to mind when you read the quotes above from Scripture, Laudato Si' and USCCB

- expressing how we are abusing creation;
- expressing the need to develop policies addressing causes of climate change;
- expressing our call to be instruments for God?

What other actions do you suggest adding to the list?

Does one of the actions look particularly feasible for your community, your parish, your family, etc.? How might it be implemented? How might your advocate for one of these measures?



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## Prayer

God of all may we hear the cry of the Earth and respond to the call to protect our common home. Help us to commit ourselves to this journey through reimagining how we can equitably address the climate crisis, particularly through energy conservation, biodiversity, and promoting clean waterways in our community. *Ignatian Solidarity Network*



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## Media

Pope Francis on an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. (September 2021) <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=FnQxcFLH7Y8>

[Ocean Pollution Documentary - YouTube](#)

[Plastic Disaster - An Ocean Pollution Documentary - YouTube](#)

Facts about deforestation: [https://content.eia-](https://content.eia-global.org/assets/2021/10/EIA-Briefing-US-Imports-Commodity-Driven-Deforestation.pdf)

[global.org/assets/2021/10/EIA-Briefing-US-Imports-Commodity-Driven-Deforestation.pdf](https://content.eia-global.org/assets/2021/10/EIA-Briefing-US-Imports-Commodity-Driven-Deforestation.pdf)

How does a vegan/vegetarian diet help the environment:

<https://www.forksoverknives.com/wellness/vegan-diet-helps-environmental-sustainability/>



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## Actions

**Meatless Monday**--If the world reduced meat consumption by 15% it would save the same greenhouse gas emissions as taking 240 million cars off the road each year. Consider planning for meatless Mondays. Learn more and get recipe ideas at [www.meatlessmonday.com](http://www.meatlessmonday.com).

**Carbon Footprint Energy Efficiency**-- Grab a copy of your home energy bill and calculate your carbon footprint at <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>. Take note of the activities that are the most carbon-intensive. Resolve to change them.

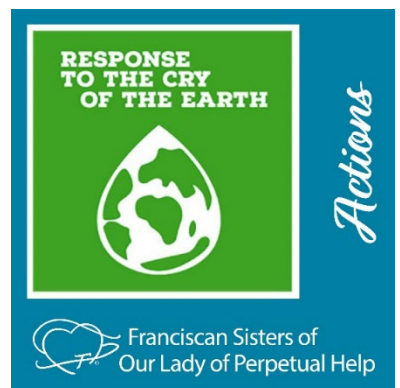
**Water**--Do you know your water footprint? Use this calculator to find out.

[What's Your Water Footprint: Water Footprint Calculator Home Page \(watercalculator.org\)](http://watercalculator.org)

**Nature**-- Watch a nature documentary. Planet Earth and Earth's Natural Wonders are good options. Also, see Nature on Public Television. Take a walk and marvel at the miracle of God's creation.

**Reduce** the use of plastic bottles, the use of paper towels, the use of Kleenex, single use plastic

**Use** cloth napkins, cloth handkerchiefs, reusable shopping bags



**Learn** about Deforestation--[Deforestation - EIA \(eia-international.org\)](http://eia-international.org)

**Participate** in litter clean-up actions

**Plant** native trees and gardens, protect pollinators, remove invasive species