

Commitment Card

Environmental Justice: Our Common Home -- Equity for All

In his far reaching encyclical Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis emphasizes "Everything is interconnected." Racism, health problems, climate change, pollution -- these issues are linked, and are in some cases the very same struggle that hits frontline Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities hardest.

PRAY/ EDUCATE

- Pray to discern how God is calling me to respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.
- Pray for those who are impacted by climate change and pollution, often the people who contribute the least to these.
- [Reflect prayerfully](#) on my own contribution to environmental problems from the way I consume and dispose of energy or goods.
- Read Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. Text and guides [here](#).
- Learn the definition of [environmental justice](#).
- Find out about [environmental injustice](#) to Black, Brown, and Indigenous persons

BE VOCAL

- Silence equals complicity. Talk about climate change and how it impacts vulnerable people and about our obligation to future generations
- Commit to ongoing ecological conversion by nurturing "a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion." Laudato Si' 220
- Ask my pastor to address environmental injustice in his [homilies](#) and/or include prayers inviting care for our Common Home and all creation in the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass.
- Suggest bulletin entries in my parish:
 - tips for simplifying my lifestyle, e.g alternative meal ideas, ways to reduce energy use;
 - updates on environmental injustice issues and actions

JOIN / FORM / TAKE ACTION

- Invite a group of parishioners/friends to view the recording of today's webinar on Environmental Justice and then gather to discuss what moved you and where the Holy Spirit is leading you as a result.
- Form a [Care for Creation Team](#) in your parish (or outreach within a Social Justice Committee) ; connect with other parish Care for Creation Teams via [Boston Catholic Climate Movement](#) (contact Fran Ludwig BostonCatholicClimate@gmail.com)
- Find a Laudato Si' discussion group or join [JustFaith: Eco-Justice topics](#) where conversations on environmental justice are happening and ask to join.
- Consult [Mass Interfaith Power and Light](#) for energy saving tips for your parish and home.
- Work with my local Catholic School to introduce a [curriculum](#) based on Laudato Si'
- Learn/Collaborate/Donate: [Greenroots](#), [Our Climate](#), [Alternatives for Community and Environment \(ACE\)](#).
- Advocate for just environmental legislation with your town, [state](#) and [federal](#) elected officials. Research the [Mass Power Forward bills](#). Support federal [Environmental Justice for All Act](#).
- Sign the petition to the MBTA General Manager: [We still can't breathe: the MBTA's Dirty Air Problem in Black and Brown Communities](#) (ACE)
- Connect your parish youth group with [Our Climate](#) or [Sunrise](#) or other members of the [Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition](#) by reaching out to eben@ourclimate.us .

More information on each suggestion & links are provided on the Social Justice Ministry website: bostoncatholic.org/socialjustice

"...a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach -- it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' (49)

"You can't have climate change without sacrifice zones, and you can't have sacrifice zones without disposable people, and you can't have disposable people without racism."

- Hop Hopkins, Racism is Killing the Planet

