A Call from Pope Francis

Challenging Our Culture of Waste

Throughout his papacy, Benedict XVI recalled that God gave us the task of cultivating and caring for His creation. Benedict wrote of “the rhythm of the love story of God and man” and saw the need for humans to grasp the logic and rhythm of creation.

In his World Environment Day address, Pope Francis blamed our culture of waste for our inability to read this rhythm and care for creation. People consume and dispose of materials senselessly. This consumerism leads to disrespect not only of the earth’s resources, but of its people.

“The Gospel observes that Jesus Christ began to do and to teach, which means that He started to preach by example and then by word.”

—Blessed John Martin Moye

Calendar

March

- Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 11:00 a.m. — Mass in Annunciation Chapel. Associates are welcome.
- Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. — Tenth Annual Associates Convocation, Regan Hall Community Room. All are welcome.
- Tuesday, March 10, 6:00 p.m. — Associate Discussion/Spiritual Enrichment, Regan Hall Community Room sofa area.
- Thursday, March 19, 3:30 p.m. — Associate Formation Session VII—Prayer, Community & Spirituality, St. Joseph Hall Assembly Room. Associates are encouraged to attend and meet the participants.
- Tuesday, March 24, 11:00 a.m. — Texas History Month: Re-enactment of Juana Navarro Alsbury, Regan Hall Community Room. If you wish to stay for lunch, please RSVP by Friday, March 20.
- Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 p.m. — A Call to Silence Lenten Mini-retreat, St. Joseph Hall Assembly Room.
- Saturday, March 28, 10:00 a.m. — Associate Formation Session VII — Prayer, Community & Spirituality, St. Joseph Hall Assembly Room. Associates are encouraged to attend and meet the participants.

March

1 Emma Mejia
5 Candelaria Gonzalez
8 Donna Kuykendall
San Juanita de Dios Salinas
12 Marissa Garcia
Bro. Lázaro Leal
13 Jeanette M. Geyer
15 María del Socorro Ramón
Olivia Zertuche
19 Sandra Lee Brisby
Ester Solis Correa
Blanca Villarreal
21 Patricia Moncevais
27 Susan Aguilera
28 Jane Thompson
29 Maria Christina Lopez

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In line with the World Environment Day theme of food scarcity, Pope Francis drew several parallels between throwing food away and throwing human life away. He suggested that our culture of consumption leads both to our reckless disposal of land, resources, and food, and to our neglect of our brothers and sisters. He also denounced our culture for being obsessed with money, saying “Man is not in charge today; money is in charge, money rules.”

About 800 years ago, St. Francis of Assisi struggled with a similar problem. He grew up in Italy at a time when money was gaining undue influence over society. St. Francis had to act radically to counter this trend and turn people’s eyes toward the suffering of their brothers and sisters. Although [St] Francis did many radical things, such as commanding his brothers to throw money in dung and to avoid touching money with their hands, his most radical act was simply to love and care for creation. [St.] Francis realized the importance of a spiritual consciousness of creation and community. This consciousness catalyzed [St.] Francis’ compassion for those that society judged to be “lesser” of creation. Importantly, [St.] Francis showed compassion not only for the poor and the lepers, but for plants and animals. [St.] Francis professed that concern for any of God’s creatures, great or small, overflowed into concern for all of God’s creation.

Pope Francis’ call for us to recognize the linkages between all creation, and the necessity of respect for each creature, closely reflects St. Francis’ concept that spiritual consciousness of creation and community can be a catalyst for compassion.

In conclusion of his address, Pope Francis referred to the miracle of the loaves and fishes (Luke 9:10-17). Francis emphasized that every fragment was saved, filling 12 baskets—an action representative of feeding all tribes, and all people. Francis asserted that, “When everything is shared, and none is wasted, the community can meet the needs of the poor.” Pope Francis encouraged his audience to reflect on “the problem of thrown away and wasted food.” This reflection, Francis hoped, would guide people to be conscious of their own actions, and to realize that “when food is shared in a fair ways, with solidarity...every community can meet the needs of the poorest.”

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