**MARCH 2019**

**STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH**



**Bulletin: March 3**

**A New Idea to Beat Recycling**

**“Loop\*** is a new way to shop, offering about 300 items — from Tide detergent to Pantene shampoo, Häagen-Dazs ice cream to Crest mouthwash — all in reusable packaging. After using the products, customers put the empty containers in a Loop tote on their doorstep. The containers are then picked up by a delivery service, cleaned and refilled, and shipped out to consumers again.

In other words, it’s the 21st century milk man — here to save the world from single-use plastics….

Loop customers [must make an account](https://loopstore.com/) and fill up a basket online. The prices for the items should be comparable to what they would be at a nearby store, says Tom Szaky, CEO of TerraCycle, a waste management company, and the brains behind Loop.

In addition to the regular cost of the item, customers must put down a fully refundable deposit for each package…. Shipping becomes free after the customer buys about five to seven items, depending on the size and bulk of the products.

In the United States, the items arrive via UPS in a Loop tote bag.  Frozen items, like ice cream, come in a cooler within the tote.

As customers go through products — use all the shampoo, eat all the ice cream — they fill up the totes with the empties. Unlike traditional recyclables, the packages don’t need to be washed. At the end of the cycle, a UPS driver picks up the tote. Customers can keep repeating the cycle or opt out and recover their deposit.”

Companies like Nestlé and Unilever are trying out the loop project and will evaluate it as to its workability and impact. Maybe you’ll be a pioneering customer!

Source: Danielle Wiener-Bronner, *CNN Business*, January 24, 2019

\*Note: This is not the Loop from CatholicVote.

**Bulletin: March 10**

REUSABLE BAG JEOPARDY – **Part 2**

**Test your environmental knowledge!** (Answers below)

1. Over 500 billion of these items are used and discarded each year.

2. By 2050, at current production rates, there will be more of this than fish in the ocean.

3. The average person consumes about 70,000 of these each year.

4. 63 billion of these non-recyclable items were used in the U.S. in 2017.

(Source: Trash Academy [www.trashacademy.org](http://www.trashacademy.org))

**This spring, you can urge City Council to limit the use of single-use plastic bags and**

**provide incentives to encourage reusable bags.**
Plastic pollution not only reduces our quality of life, it also contributes to water pollution and degradation of life on our planet. Be an Environmental Steward!

If you support this, you can go to sc.org/no-plastics-philly to add your name to the petition. If you’re reading this online at the Holy Cross website, you can simply click here ► [sign our petition.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScg6TUs2BgfH-qKI8jo5dj1pWrmaW7eaAm1JtQxWX77JtRwgA/viewform)

Answers:

1. What are plastic bags

2. What is plastic

3. What are microplastic particles

4. What are plastic straws

**Bulletin: March 17**

“Lent offers us a new opportunity to examine our lifestyles. In his [Lenten reflection](https://default.salsalabs.org/T88ddb969-304e-408c-9d8f-92462cee7a8a/393d246b-d2f0-4452-bdd8-a94003e57465)[,](https://default.salsalabs.org/Tb871d1b3-d1c9-4ee1-bfc8-e47d85ec0e35/393d246b-d2f0-4452-bdd8-a94003e57465) Pope Francis puts fasting, praying and almsgiving in a creation care frame….

*Fasting*, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. *Prayer*, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. *Almsgiving*, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us.” (Catholic Climate Covenant Newsletter, March 2019).

By the way, if you’ve missed any of the *Stewards of Our Earth* columns in the bulletin or you want to reread any of them, you can find the archives going back to October 2018 on the Holy Cross website <https://holycrossphl.org/> . Under the Ministries tab, just click on Social Justice Concerns. Perhaps one of your children could use these as a resource for a school assignment on the environment.

**Bulletin: March 24**

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." Laudato Si' 217

Please share with us one way you (adults and children) are contributing as an environmental steward. Perhaps the contributions you are making include consistent recycling, or using reusable straws, or using a mug instead of a styrofoam coffee cup or encouraging companies to phase out single-use plastics, or joining an environmental group, or starting an environmental initiative at your school. There are so many ways!

► See the sign-up sheets at the entrance to or in the middle aisle of the church. If you simply provide your name and contact information (phone or email), someone from the Social Justice Committee will contact you to hear about your contribution.

**Bulletin: March 31**

**Care for Our Earth Takes Preference**

“Last month. Arturo Sosa, S.J., the superior general of the Society of Jesus, announced four universal apostolic preferences, or reference points, for the ministries of Jesuits around the world…. The four points, presented in a letter to all Jesuits and approved by Pope Francis, are meant to guide the Jesuits and their colleagues in the ‘common mission of the Catholic Church’ for the next 10 years.

The four points are: First, as men of ‘prayer, rooted in Christ,’ Jesuits must help people move closer to God through discernment and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, especially in response to a more secularized society. Second, Jesuits must walk with the most marginalized and excluded in the world, including the poor and other vulnerable people. Third, the Society of Jesus and its ministries must place a focus on accompanying young people; and fourth, it must prioritize ‘care for our common home’ and the protection and renewal of the environment.”

(**America**, March 18, 2019, p.8)

► Don’t forget to sign up on the sheets at the entrance to or in the middle aisle of the church so someone from the Social Justice Committee can contact you to hear about your contributions to the care of our earth.

**Our Social Justice Committee meets on the 1st Sunday each month after the 11:00 Mass on the lower level of the church. Come and share your ideas and suggestions for taking care of our common home! All are welcome.**