



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, April 20, 2025

Earth Day 2025: We Are the Light of the World

This April 22 marks the 55th anniversary of Earth Day, and Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC) in its Earth Day program, *Our Power, Our Planet*, is calling for tripling renewable energy generation globally by 2030.

“We already possess the solutions we need to create clean, inexpensive, and unlimited energy for the entire planet through renewable solar, wind and other technologies.... **Renewable energy is a powerful unifying force, bringing together diverse countries, regions, states, and communities** that are often polar opposites, politically and economically. Clean energy transcends ideological boundaries, showcasing the universal appeal of affordable energy.” (Adapted from [Earth Day Theme 2025 Snapshot Briefing](#), EarthDay.org)

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis stated, “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). **Yet, the necessary transition towards clean energy sources such as wind and solar, and the abandonment of fossil fuels, is not progressing at the necessary speed** (*Laudate Deum* #55).

“Consider that emissions per individual in the U.S. are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries. As Catholics, we are called to speak out and advocate for investments in renewable energy like wind and solar because:

- **Renewable energy is often more cost-effective** than traditional fossil fuels.... and fosters economic growth by creating hundreds of thousands of new, well-paying local jobs.
- Adopting more diversified and stable energy sources in renewables **will decrease our need to import fossil fuels**, thereby enhancing national security.
- Transitioning to clean and renewable energy also **brings significant public health benefits**. Reducing pollution from fossil fuel energy leads to fewer health issues such as respiratory diseases and lower overall healthcare costs. Cleaner air contributes to better mental health and a higher quality of life.
- Transitioning to renewable energy **will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions**, which benefits the environment and helps to tackle climate change.” (CCC Program)

“**Contact your state legislators today and urge them to prioritize renewable energy investments.** Our collective voices can help secure a healthier, more affordable, and sustainable energy future for all.” (CCC Program) [To take action go here.](#)



This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.
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