



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, December 29, 2024

### *All God's Creatures are Connected*

Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. (*Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice*) "Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect." (*Laudato Si'*#42)

**On December 28th, we celebrated 51 years of the Endangered Species Act** which has served as the last line of defense for countless species and habitats. However, this law must be continually defended, strengthened, and funded to ensure effective implementation. **Consider two proposals currently in the works to protect two declining species.**

"U.S. officials [recently] moved to protect the monarch, an iconic orange and black butterfly famous for its marathon migration across North America, under the Endangered Species Act.... **If the proposed rule is finalized, the monarch would become one of the most widespread species ever protected under the landmark law.** But federal scientists say the move is necessary because several factors — including logging in the butterfly's overwintering habitat in Mexico, destruction of grasslands in the United States, chemicals applied to the plants and climate change — are decimating its population....

**The monarch is just one of the most visible species at risk of disappearing as an estimated one million plants and animals are threatened with extinction** due to rising temperatures, shrinking habitat and other human-driven threats. The loss of pollinators such as butterflies could have profound effects on ecosystems and people who depend on them." (Excerpted from Dino Grandoni (Washington Post) in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 12/11/24)

"Following a 2017 petition from the Center for Biological Diversity and its allies, **the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has finally proposed Endangered Species Act protections for giraffes.**

Recognizing that giraffe populations are declining because of poaching, habitat loss, and climate change, the Service is proposing to grant all giraffes protection, wherever they live in Africa. But not everyone supports this decision — the United States is a leading global importer of giraffe products, which are used for knife handles, rugs, decor, and other trinkets. **Few people are aware that, on average, at least one trophy-hunted giraffe is imported into the United States every day.**"

[Tell the Service that after years of delay, it's past time for the agency to step up and do its part to save these spotted icons from extinction.](#) (*Center for Biological Diversity*, 12/6/24)

"**In this Christmas season, let us remember to share not only our material gifts but also the gift of goodwill, kindness, friendship, and a renewed commitment to care for the earth and each other.** In doing so, we honor the true spirit of Christmas — the love that connects us all, the joy in giving, and the peace found in protecting the precious gift of nature." (Katie Zakrzewski, Communications Manager, *Catholic Climate Covenant*, 12/10/24)

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at [socialjustice@holycrossphl.org](mailto:socialjustice@holycrossphl.org). [Click here for column archive.](#)