



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, November 17, 2024

Charting the Path To A Just and Peaceful Future

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. (Jn 13:34)

As we reflect on the U.S. elections, “help us to reflect not just on the elections’ outcomes but also on their significance for charting the path to a just future for all. **We see a nation deeply divided, but we remain a nation that together must find the way toward a just and peaceful future.** Help us to promote Catholic social teaching widely and to encourage the study of social issues from a Gospel perspective. Give us the will to engage in informed and respectful dialogue. Guide us all to serve and to promote the common good, to respect human rights, and to ensure that all our national policies reflect solidarity with all of God’s peoples: men, women, and children in every part of the U.S. and everywhere around the world. Amen.” (*Sisters of Mercy of the Americas*, 11/4/24)

Solidarity, one of our Catholic social teachings proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. (*Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice*)

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on caring for our common home, the Holy Father writes, “Underlying the principle of the common good is respect for the human person as such, endowed with basic and inalienable rights ordered to his or her integral development. It has also to do with the overall welfare of society.” **We can and must act for the common good.**

Another Catholic social teaching 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. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions which cannot be ignored. (*Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice*)

“We know there will be challenges ahead.... We know that energy efficiency and renewable energy projects can and will compete with fossil fuels and save money for homeowners, businesses, and church facilities. We also know that younger generations are deeply concerned about their future in a climate-threatened world, and older generations are committed to leaving a liveable world for those who follow. We know that climate impacts — rising sea levels, extreme weather, and ecosystem disruptions — disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

We call upon and seek to work with President Trump’s administration and Congress to help **ensure that the momentum generated on climate policies in the past four years continues, so that current and future generations inherit a safer planet....** Climate change is not a partisan issue — it is a human and moral issue that requires the commitment of all people of goodwill across political lines to protect God’s creation and care for the future of our common home.” (*Catholic Climate Covenant*, 11/6/24)

It is in times when division is fierce that we must reach for each other and hold each other much, much tighter. (From a poem by Chelan Harkin)

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