



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, November 20, 2022

We Pray in Thanksgiving for the Good News

Though we have much to do to be good stewards of our earth, let us take some time this Thanksgiving to be grateful for what has been achieved.

The Inflation Reduction Act, **the largest climate and clean energy commitment in U.S. history**, was signed into law. It includes a \$369 billion commitment to climate and clean energy products. (Environmental Defense Fund)

At the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference held in Egypt, the U.S. administration announced “**a new policy for dealing with climate change**. Arguing that climate change and the shortages and damage to supply chains it brings create significant financial risk for the government (that is, taxpayers), it advanced a plan to use the federal government’s power as the world’s largest buyer of goods and services—over \$630 billion in the last fiscal year—to address climate change.

It would require any federal contractor who gets annual contracts worth more than \$7.5 million a year to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions, explain their climate-related financial risks, and set emissions reduction targets.” (Heather Cox Richardson, *Letters from an American*, 11/10/22)

“The Department of the Interior and 16 other federal agencies formally committed to **protecting Tribal treaty rights**, and the administration agreed to conduct meaningful consultation with Tribal leaders on natural resource issues.... In addition, President Biden signed an executive order directing federal agencies to create a strategy **addressing the crisis of violence against Indigenous women**.”

“...**Gray wolves regained their protected status** under the Endangered Species Act in 44 states.... But gray wolves still need our help in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming.”

The Clean Air agenda is advancing. The Environmental Protection Agency “is hard at work on a **suite of rules and regulations pushed by Sierra Club and partners to clean up our air**.... Despite the setback in one recent Supreme Court ruling, we’re pushing forward for clean air that will protect health, save lives, and make climate more sustainable.” (Sierra Club 2022 Year in Review & Action Plan for 2023)

It is clear that when we work together, we can achieve. When the common good is our goal, justice is served for our earth and its inhabitants. We must remember that to whom much is given, much is expected, and that we must protect our home that is near and beyond our borders.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!