

Going “Green” for the Missions

Pope Francis has written a letter addressed to every person asking us all to protect our common home, the earth. In his letter, called an encyclical, *Laudato Si*, he speaks about the devastating effects of not caring for our earth. And how frequently the poorest of the poor are the first to feel the impact of neglecting to care for the environment.

“Greenbacks” for THE MISSIONS

Invite young Catholics to make sacrifices, such as giving up candy or soft drinks for a time and to contribute that money (“greenbacks”) to the Missions through the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA). Their offerings will help see that children everywhere have the opportunity to hear about the “Good News” of Jesus and live safely.

Discuss the elements of Catholic social teaching that call upon the faithful to uphold the dignity and sacredness of every human person, to be in solidarity with our brothers

and sisters worldwide, and to care for God’s creation. Discuss how *Laudato Si* urges us to see how protecting the environment is a call of Christian discipleship.



Global Climate Change

According to the London-based humanitarian organization, Christian Aid, at least one billion people could be forced from their homes by 2050 as the effects of climate change deepen an already severe global migration process. In a report titled “Human Tide: The Real Migration Crisis,”

Christian Aid indicates that already 163 million people have been forced to leave their countries of origin because of natural disasters, or situations of conflict or war. The report also indicates that those countries least responsible for global climate change will be the most affected. In addition to global warming, vast areas of land in the Developing World are also being destroyed by rapid urbanization, deforestation and massive dam projects.

Mission snapshot

“We thank MCA for helping us provide a home for children where they can learn and grow to become good citizens and faithful children of God,” wrote Sister Mariangela Costa in a letter to the MCA.

Sister Mariangela helps to run a boarding school for children in Meherpur, Bangladesh. “We provide a home to very poor girls,” she explained. “We offer food, clothing, education and medical care because their parents cannot afford to do so. The financial help that you give helps us to stretch our helping hands toward the poorest and most needy children.”

Each year, the children at this boarding school attend a special MCA Mass with other children in a

In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: “Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest” Laudato Si #48

