

Justice, Peace and Life

April 2025

“Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.”

-Pope Francis, Laudato Si

Celebrate Earth Month All Year

In the final weeks of Lent and during the season of Easter, let's reflect on God's creation and our moral obligation to address climate change, not just on Earth Day, or only during this Earth Month, but always.



Interfaith Power & Light, a national faith-based environmental organization, invites you to bring the documentary **Gratitude Revealed** to your congregation this month. The film is described as “a transformational journey that shows us how to appreciate life and find happiness through gratitude” and features Benedictine monk Brother David Steindl-Rast. Click [here](#) to see the trailer and learn how to screen the film at your parish for free this month and [here](#) to access it for home use.



Creation Justice Ministries is rallying Christians to request that Congress protect funding for clean energy: “Right now, Congress is preparing the federal budget for the next fiscal year. As communities across the country experience harm caused by increased flooding, fires, and drought, investing in clean energy is imperative to address the urgency of the climate crisis.

In order to meet the moment and enhance resilience in the face of climate disasters, the Department of Energy estimates the U.S. must double the size of its power grid in the next decade – a challenge requiring robust investments in affordable, renewable energy sources.” Click [here](#) to advocate with our Senators.

Catholic Climate Covenant has recently posted this [informative article](#) on the president's executive orders concerning the environment, and the many ways they run counter to Catholic Social Teaching.

For example, they write: **Executive Order 14162: Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement**

This order withdraws the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, which is a global effort to mitigate climate change and limit global temperature rise. The Catholic Church has consistently supported the goals of the Paris Agreement. [St. John Paul II](#), [Pope Benedict XVI](#), and [Pope Francis](#) all emphasize that climate change is an urgent moral issue that requires collective action...

Some Conflicts with CST:

Rights and Responsibilities: [St. John Paul II](#) asserted “the right to a safe environment,” which “the State also has the responsibility of ensuring.” [Pope Benedict XVI](#) stressed that ecological degradation violates the right to life: “How can we separate, or even set at odds, the protection of the environment and the protection of human life, including the life of the unborn?”

**Executive Orders and Directives
Vs. Catholic Social Teaching:
How They Stack Up**





For international meatless recipes go to: www.crsricebowl.org/

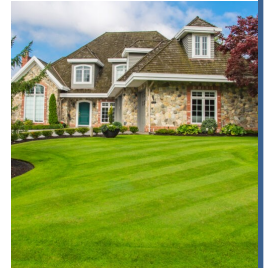
Please be generous in your Lenten almsgiving to Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl. CRS provides humanitarian assistance in over 100 countries, supporting millions of people in accessing food, clean water, health care, agricultural training, and hope. Our donations can help to counter the suffering caused by the recent dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Keep contacting your members of Congress at this [link](#) to tell them you oppose the draconian cuts to federal international aid.



GOD'S TAKE ON LAWNS: LESS GRASS, MORE BEAUTY

Imagine the conversation The Creator might have had with St. Francis on the subject of lawns:

God: Hey St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the Midwest? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect "no maintenance" garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.



St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?



St. Francis: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

God: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it... sometimes twice a week.

God: They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. Francis: No Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.



Read the rest of the story at [this link](#) and more on responsible lawn care [here](#) and [here](#).

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