

Justice, Peace and Life

July 2024

“Let the trees of the forest sing, let them sing for joy before the LORD.” 1 Chronicles 16:33

Speak for the Trees! (And the rest of the forest too)

From Creation Justice Ministries:

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has just released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) outlining its plans to conserve and monitor the conditions of old-growth forests nationwide. This is a crucial step towards fulfilling President Biden's Executive Order to strengthen the nation's forests. However, we need your voice to ensure the final policy provides robust, comprehensive protection for these invaluable ecosystems.

Mature and old-growth forests are not just essential; they are irreplaceable pillars of climate stability, clean water, and biodiversity. These ancient woodlands store billions of metric tons of carbon, safeguard countless wildlife habitats, and serve as natural buffers against soil erosion and flooding. As our planet grapples with the escalating impacts of climate change, preserving these forests has become more than critical—it's imperative for our collective future.”



Credit: David Johnson via Flickr.

Adirondack State Park includes around 300,000 acres of ancient trees

Submit your comments to the Forest Service at [this link](#), calling for stronger and concrete actions to protect and recover old growth forests. Include your own experiences in old growth forests like those found in the Adirondaks.

Join millions of people reducing their plastic waste.

Plastic Free July® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?

Yes! I will take the challenge! >



Out of love and gratitude for God's creation— choose to have a **PLASTIC FREE JULY**.

Click here to view a short [video](#) about this global effort to reduce and avoid single-use plastic.

And go to this web page to sign up for the challenge:

www.plasticfreejuly.org/take-the-challenge/

Keep a list of the single-use plastic items you buy, and ask yourself whether you can swap one out for a reusable alternative. Especially avoid the top four most prolific single-use plastics: **plastic bags; bottled water; take-out coffee cups; and plastic straws.**



Father of all nations and ages,
 we recall the day when our country
 claimed its place among the family of nations;
 for what has been achieved we give you thanks,
 for the work that still remains we ask your help,
 and as you have called us from many peoples
 to be one nation,
 grant that, under your providence,
 our country may share your blessings
 with all the peoples of the earth.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
*Source: Collect for Independence Day,
 New Roman Missal*

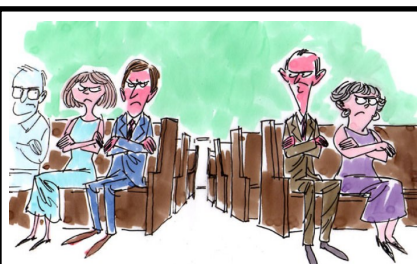
Legislative Update from Albany

The New York State legislature ended its regular session in early June. The bad news is, they did not pass the Bigger Better Bottle bill or the Packaging Reduction bill. Environmental advocacy organizations leading the efforts will continue to ask for our support in the coming session, or in a special session if the Governor calls one before the end of this year.



The New York State Capitol

The good news is, they also did not pass the physician-assisted suicide bill! In fact, the bill did not make it out of committee. However, the effort to legalize this practice in our state will continue, so our opposition to it must as well. It's not too soon to tell your state legislators that you stand on the side of life.



*Can We Disagree Agreeably?
 What can Catholics do to lessen polarization
 in our country and our Church?*

**2024 Diocesan Social Ministry Conference:
 Following Jesus in a Polarized World**

Wednesday July 24, 2024
 10:00am-3:30pm
 Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua NY

\$30 registration fee,
 includes lunch
 To register, contact:
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