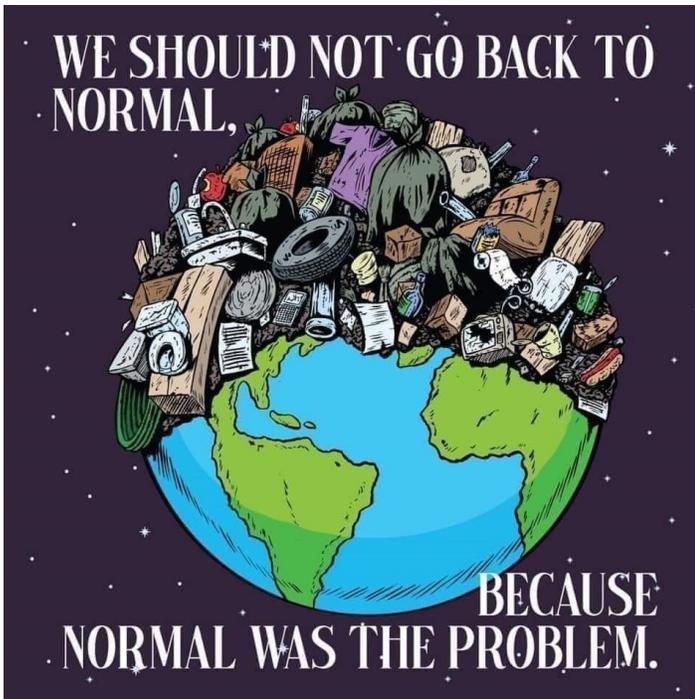


SALT & LIGHT

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NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, many countries are seeing this as an opportunity to reassess the way things are done and seeing what changes can be made to not only keep people safe from the virus, but also see how we can keep the earth safe. We have all heard stories about nature and animals "reclaiming spaces" and pollution dropping as people stay in place. Countries are trying to find ways to both jump start their economies while also finding ways to prevent climate change. The European Union is leading the way with this. "If we relaunch the economy in the wrong direction, we will hit the climate crisis wall," said Pascal Canfin, French MEP and chairman of the European Parliament's environment committee. "We need to unite all the energies for a green recovery."

Germany plans a stimulus package that advances the nation technologically and helps the economy's move toward climate neutrality. For instance, it is looking to provide incentives for fully electric vehicles as this will not only limit pollution, but also jump start their auto industry. South Korea is actually working with the EU to create programs that would benefit both countries financially and the world as they look to globalize some best practices.

There is a push for a similar "Green Economic Stimu-

lus" here in the United States. A year ago, there was a buzz about the "Green New Deal." Although Pope Francis hasn't spoken specifically about America's Green New Deal, he has shared his general support for reforms like this. Plans that promote green infrastructure help individuals in many ways. They address employment, environmental, educational, financial, health, justice/equality, and life issues. If you want to learn more, go to <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/catholic-social-teaching-and-green-new-deal> for a wonderful overview of how these policies fit perfectly into Catholic Social Teaching.

Without quick, significant changes we are destined to do permanent harm to the one world that God has given us. The list can go on and on as each of these issues interconnect and create a net which can lift all of humanity into a new, more peaceful, healthy, and just world.

Sadly, during this time of crisis, the federal government has rolled back environmental regulations. Companies no longer have to report their polluting numbers. This has the potential to not only further harm the planet, but make us more susceptible to future outbreaks. So what can you do? Talk to your elected officials, both on the national and state level. NYS is a leader among states taking environmental steps. Unfortunately, where we thrive in vision, we also have at times lacked in actual funding. Make sure that your representatives know that you want money put towards these important issues. On a national level, talk to your representatives and tell them it is important to keep pushing for these policies to be included in the next stimulus bill. Some of these proposals are written into the current House bill, but Senate leadership is saying they won't include any of it. You can find and contact your elected officials here: www.usa.gov/elected-officials Together, let's make the future better!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We are fashioned from the earth, and fruit of the earth sustains our life. But, as the book of Genesis reminds us, we are not simply "earthly"; we also bear within us the breath of life that comes from God (cf. Gen 2:4-7). Thus we live in this common home as one human family in biodiversity with God's other creatures. As imago Dei, in God's image, we are called to have care and respect for all creatures, and to offer love and compassion to our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable among us, in imitation of God's love for us, manifested in his Son Jesus, who became man in order to share our state with us and save us.

Pope Francis, General Audience, April 22, 2020

LIST OF ONLINE MASSES

The Catholic Courier has compiled a list of places to watch/live stream masses. Find it here:

<https://catholiccourier.com/articles/list-of-parishes-with-live-streams-available>. To receive notifications of the livestreams and facilitate viewing, subscribe to the *Courier's* YouTube channel (<youtube.com/catholiccourier>).

CENSUS REMINDER

If you haven't responded to the Census yet, you should have received a paper copy in the mail last week. You can fill this out and return it or you can go online or call to submit your household's information. Go to www.2020census.gov to fill it out online or call [844-330-2020](tel:844-330-2020) to do it over the phone.

Did you Know?

Census results affect planning and funding for children in your community. It determines how much money is allocated for things such as Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, Foster Care, Child Care and Development Fund, State Children's Health Insurance Program, Adoption Assistance and more!



JOIN US FOR A FREE

JUST FAITH MINI-PROGRAM

What is *JustFaith* you ask? According to their website "JustFaith Ministries was birthed in the effort to invite and prepare people of faith for the life-changing and world-changing call of the Gospel to help heal the world and, in so doing, experience a deeper faith, a more fulfilling life, and a community of care and vitality." In short, it help us look at the world differently, to see how we can shape it into the kingdom God promised us by digging prayerfully and deeply into different social justice issues. Their programs typically meet weekly for 6, 8, or 24 weeks, but during the pandemic, they are provided one-off mini-reflection sessions for free. I will be virtually hosting these every Tuesday starting May 12th at 11am and will last between 45 minutes and an hour. Contact Marcus at mebenhoe@cfcrochester.org to sign-up or with any questions.

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/bail-out-the-people-not-the-pentagon-arms-dealers?source=direct&link&referrer=group-pax-christi-usa>

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

10 THINGS TO DO IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS TO SAVE THE EARTH

PART 5

I came across this list of clear, but achievable list of things we can do to help flatten the curve of climate change. This is the last of the 10 things. What else would you add to the list?

Written by Laura Lamber on Mom.com

9.) **Protect Our Land** We don't just need to help nature, we need nature to help us. **Scientists say** we need to preserve an additional 30% of untouched nature on Earth's surface by 2030 in order to maintain a healthy planet. Those large swaths of forests — tropical forests, in particular — and grasslands are what help soak up carbon emissions. Next time your town or village wants to tear down woods for more housing, challenge them to describe how they will offset that ecological loss.

10.) **Vote Green** If you've read this far, you're probably on board with sweeping change. Voting in representatives at every level of government who are committed to fight climate change can help make change that will last. Do you want a Green New Deal? If we vote for it, it's within reach. *(Note: I am not advocating for any specific political party or candidate)*

VIRTUAL NOVENA FOR FARMERS

Every year hundreds of people join together for a very special Novena to St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers and Catholic Rural Life (CRL). Given the essential nature of farmers, farmworkers, and all who are involved in food production and distribution, especially during this global pandemic, CRL is hosting the novena virtually this year!

The novena will begin on Thursday, May 7, and conclude on Friday, May 15, the Feast of St. Isidore, with virtual Mass on a farm in Texas. Each day a Bishop from the CRL Board of Directors will lead us through the novena, lifting up all the intentions of rural communities throughout our country.

For more information and to see the schedule go to <https://catholicruralife.org/VirtualNovena/>

NEED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT?

If you experiencing emotional distress related to the COVID-19 pandemic, crisis counselors are available 24/7, 365 days a year.

**Call 1-800-985-5990
or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.**



If you are in crisis or or thinking about suicide, get connected to a local crisis center and get in touch with someone immediately.

**Call 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)
or text "MHA" to 741741.**