



JPIC CORNER



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An E-Publication of the United States Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart to promote Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

This E-publication is sent free of charge to persons who ask to receive it. [Sign up now!](#)

Coordinator's Note

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The month of April has two celebrations which honor God's created world. April 22 is the celebration of Earth Day and April 24 is Arbor Day. We, therefore, are focusing once again on stewardship and respect for God's creation.

Creation is sacramental i.e. God is "present and speaks in the dynamic life forces of our universe and planet as well as in our own lives." (Care for Creation. Alberta Bishops' Letter on Ecology, 10/04/1998) Today we are facing an ecological moral crisis, but we cannot be prophets of doom and escape present realities. Now is the time for individuals and communities to love, honor and respect and save our earthly home, not only for ourselves but for future generations. Our task is not easy, but inspired by hope we believe, "Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes from the tireless choices of men willing to be coworkers with God, and it is without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation." (Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter From Birmingham Jail). God will not abandon us as we take up the challenge to fulfill His promise for a better world.

5 Ways to Get Involved This Month

Recycle. See page 2.

Volunteer at your local recycling center or animal shelter. Or help pick up litter around your community.

Turn off the lights. Make a conscious effort to use no more than one light at a time per person.

Spring Cleaning. Go through your closets and donate the clothes, shoes and electronics that you no longer use but which are still in good condition.

Take the Good Stewardship Assessment either by yourself or as a family and make one positive change this month.



Did you know?

- A glass bottle can take up to one million years to decompose. (<http://www.thinkgreen.com>)
- A newspaper can be recycled 7 times.
- Americans throw out 38 billion plastic water bottles each year.
- It takes 700 years for a plastic bottle to begin to decompose in a landfill.
- Recycling Helps Conserve Energy
 - Recycled glass takes 75% less energy to produce than glass made from new materials.
 - Recycled paper requires only 60% of the energy needed to make new paper.
- A steel mill that uses recycled scrap reduces related water pollution, air pollution and mining wastes by about 70%.
- Every year nearly 900,000,000 trees are cut down to provide raw materials for American paper and pulp mills. ([U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#))
- People in the United States generate around 14 million tons of food waste per year, which is 106 pounds of food waste per person.
- People in the USA produce more than 200 million tons of garbage each year.



Catholic Social Teaching Quote

“The use of the mineral, vegetable, and animal resources of the universe cannot be divorced from respect for moral imperatives.”



Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2415

Related Catholic Writings & Resources:

- [An Ecological Spirituality](#) by Reverend Joseph A. Tetlow, SJ
- [The Good Life from a Catholic Perspective: The Problem with Consumption](#) by Monsignor Charles Murphy
- [An Invitation to Reflection and Action on Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Useful Resources for Diocese and Parishes](#) (from the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).

Recycling FAQs

Many products can now be recycled but sometimes it's hard to remember which ones. These FAQs are meant to be general guidelines. Please check with your local recycling service to see specific information and requirements for your area.

Tip: Make sure that any food waste is removed from the product before you put it in recycling.

Paper products: Office paper, corrugated cardboard, phonebooks, magazines, mail and paper milk or juice cartons can all be recycled.

Metals: Aluminum cans, aluminum foil, and steel cans such as soup cans can all be recycled.

Glass: Clear glass, brown glass and green glass can all be recycled. Certain types of glass cannot be recycled such as ceramics, heat-resistant glass such as Pyrex, mixed colors of broken glass, crystal, or mirror or window glass. Light bulbs cannot be placed in your recycling bin, but can be recycled through special programs.

Plastics: Code 1 and Code 2 plastics (such as water and soda bottles, milk jugs and laundry detergent containers) are widely accepted. Other types of plastic, including Code 4 and Code 5 are growing in acceptance. Please check with your local recycling service to see if they accept these items.

Ways to Recycle

Recycling is one of the best ways you can help care for God's creation and it is relatively easy to get started.

As an Individual

Recycle at home. Set up recycling bins for your house or apartment. Be sure to include aluminum, steel, glass, plastic and paper.

Check with your community to see what recycling services are offered. Several apartment complexes have recycling services. Many communities offer curbside recycling pick up. Also, check to see if your local parish has a recycling program. If none of these options work for you, locate the nearest recycling center and set a goal, such as going to the recycling center once a week or twice a month.



Recycle at work. Locate the recycling bins at your workplace and make it a point to recycle your scrap paper, soda cans and water bottles. If no recycling program exists, set one up with your coworkers. With management's permission, place a bin for waste paper in the office and take turns emptying the bin and taking the paper to the recycling center each week.

For Parishes

If your parish doesn't currently have a recycling program, consider adding one. Having a recycling program can greatly reduce the waste of your parish offices and school, not to mention that you can become a resource for your parishioners and anyone in the community who wants to help take better care of the earth. It is likely that your parish is closer to your parishioners' homes than the recycling center. Small steps can have great success. Take for example St. Matthias the Apostle Catholic Church in Lanham, MD: Since adding a special dumpster just for paper a little over a year ago, they have collected almost 25 tons of waste paper just between the rectory and school alone. That's saving 425 trees!

“We cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention both to the consequences of such interference in other areas and to the well-being of future generations.”



Pope John Paul II

Everyone Can Help Care for the Earth

For Children

Talk to your kids about taking care of the earth and get them involved. They might have good ideas for ways they can recycle more and use less energy.

1. Do a gardening project together and learn how plants grow.
2. Involve children as much as possible in the care of your pet to encourage respect for animals. If you don't have a pet, plan trips to the zoo or a petting zoo.
3. Need more ideas? Check out the book *50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth*.

For Businesses

1. At events, use reusable name tags and serve coffee in reusable mugs (instead of Styrofoam or plastic cups).
2. Install energy efficient lighting in your workspaces.
3. Turn off printers, computers, etc. at the end of the day

For Households

1. Use environmentally friendly household cleaners.
2. Buy fewer individually wrapped pre-packaged food items. Instead, package snacks such as yogurt or pretzels yourself using reusable containers.
3. Bring cloth bags when you go grocery shopping.

10 Tips to Take Better Care of Creation Today

- Use both sides of all paper
- Bring reusable cloth bags when you do your grocery shopping.
- Invest in one plastic water bottle and fill it using filtered water instead of buying bottled water.
- Bring coffee to work in a thermos instead of using paper or Styrofoam cups.
- Replace burned out light bulbs with energy efficient light bulbs.
- Make it a point to recycle your newspapers, phonebooks, magazines and junk mail.
- Don't use the heated dry feature on your dishwasher.
- Donate the clothes, kitchen gadgets, furniture, etc. that you no longer use instead of throwing them out.
- Donate cell phones that still work but which you no longer use to a charity or local shelter.
- Recycle electronic equipment that no longer functions, such as old televisions, printers, ink cartridges, computers, cell phones, etc. [More information](#).

Don't forget to take the Good Stewardship Assessment!

Mark Your Calendar!

- April 22 is Earth Day
- April 24 is Arbor Day

1 Year of JPIC Corner!

This month the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart celebrate one year of our social justice newsletter, JPIC Corner!

We are pleased to announce that starting with the May 2009 issue, we will be sending out email newsletters with links to articles on our website. The PDF version will still be available for download at <http://www.misacor-usa.org/jpic-e-newsletter>

Tell us what you think!

What are some changes you have made in your life to help better care for creation? How are you celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day?



We'd love to hear from you! Drop us a line at jpic@misacor-usa.org.

Celebrate Arbor Day (April 24)



Plant a tree. If you have room, plant a tree in your yard or volunteer with a tree planting organization. Can't plant a tree yourself? Send a [Give-a-Tree-E-card](#). (Each card plants one tree.)

Check out online games and activities.

Learn more about trees by going to the Arbor Day Foundation website: <http://www.arborday.org/kids> for online games and activities for young children, youth and educators.

Send a card. Making Arbor Day cards from recycled paper can be a fun family activity. Or send a free E-card at <http://www.arborday.org/cards/index.cfm>

Go hiking. Go for a trek in a nearby park and take time to appreciate the beauty of God's creation.

Find more ideas at <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/celebrate.cfm>.



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