

“If you want to cultivate peace, look after creation.”

Papal speeches - world day of peace (1990-2016)

The Catholic Church has consistently underlined the importance of looking after God’s creation, the environment, and the perils of Individualism, egocentric and materialist consumerism. In a growing secular / atheist world it is often tempting for some people to throw away everything about the church.

With this current emphasis on massive tree destruction across the country, not just in rural but in urban areas, and the unscrupulous overdevelopment of our country, it could be time for all of us, of all political persuasion, faiths and beliefs to review our own beliefs about the natural world, and our natural environment.

1/1/1990 POPE JOHN PAUL II

“In our day, there is a growing awareness that world peace is threatened not only by the arms race, regional conflicts and continued injustices among peoples and nations, but also by a lack of due respect for nature, by the plundering of natural resources and by a progressive decline of the quality of life. The sense of precariousness and insecurity that such a situation engenders is a seedbed for collective selfishness, disregard for others and dishonesty.”

1/1/2010 POPE BENEDICT

IF YOU WANT TO CULTIVATE PEACE, PROTECT CREATION

Yet no less troubling are the threats arising from the neglect – if not downright misuse – of the earth and the natural goods that God has given us. For this reason, it is imperative that mankind renew and strengthen “that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying”

1/1/2014 POPE FRANCIS

Globalization, as Benedict XVI pointed out, makes us neighbours, but does not make us brothers. The many situations of inequality, poverty and injustice, are signs not only of a profound lack of fraternity, but also of the absence of a culture of solidarity. New ideologies, characterized by rampant individualism, egocentrism and materialistic consumerism, weaken social bonds, fuelling that “throw away” mentality which leads to contempt for, and the abandonment of, the weakest and those considered “useless”.

1/1/2016 POPE FRANCIS

Here I would mention the efforts to bring world leaders together at COP21 in the search for new ways to confront climate change and to protect the earth, our common home. We can also think of two earlier global events: the Addis Ababa Summit for funding sustainable development worldwide and the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Margaret Thatcher has been quoted:

“Watch your thoughts, for they will become actions. Watch your actions, for they'll become... habits. Watch your habits for they will forge your character. Watch your character, for it will make your destiny.”