



Canada's Federal Election and the Catholic Church:

Educate, Reflect, Act

THE ENVIRONMENT CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

When it comes to the environment, Pope Francis calls us to have a personal change of heart and a collective transformation that responds to “both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home, he issues an urgent challenge to all of us “to protect our common home ... to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.”

While Earth is our common home, we continue to act in a way that damages our relationship with it by harming the environment. This also damages our relationship with those around us, especially the most vulnerable in our society.

To bring about positive change, individuals, families and communities can make a difference in small yet significant ways. This includes making sustainable choices, reducing waste and changing our lifestyle when needed. In this way we take steps towards a deeper spiritual ecological conversion.

MORE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT ON REVERSE

FACTS

- Canada's average annual temperature increased 1.7°C over the past 70 years. Scientists believe human activity caused more than half of this change.
- If carbon emissions aren't reduced, Canada's average temperature could rise up to 6°C by the end of the century, causing more extreme weather.
- Canada produces 1.6% of global carbon emissions. We have the highest carbon emissions per capita among wealthy, industrialized countries. Canada is the 9th highest carbon emitter by country.



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION BEFORE YOU VOTE ON OCTOBER 21, 2019:

- How can we collectively work toward a practical plan to reduce carbon emissions by the amount recommended by the scientific community and within the timeline they call for?
- Besides fighting climate change, in what other ways should government be protecting Canada's environment?

Voting for a candidate who wants to build on our commitment as a country to protect our environment today and for future generations is one way we can care for God's creation.

WHAT CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING TELLS US ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

“Protecting the environment means, among other things:

- Implementing responsible stewardship practices for the environment;
- Honouring international agreements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reducing our dependence on fossil fuels;
- Taking steps to control urban pollution;
- Introducing forms of transportation that are less harmful to the health of citizens and the environment;
- Encouraging companies to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- Developing natural resources without harming the quality of life in communities;
- Protecting water as an essential resource;
- Bequeathing a sustainable and healthy environment to future generations.”

—*Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, “2015 Federal Election Guide: Making Our Voices Heard”*

“Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it ... The problem is aggravated by a model of development based on the intensive use of fossil fuels, which is at the heart of the worldwide energy system. Another determining factor has been an increase in changed uses of the soil, principally deforestation for agricultural purposes.”

—*Pope Francis, Laudato Si’, #23*

“The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest.”

—*Pope Francis, Laudato Si’, #48*

Want to attend a debate with 1,000 Catholics or learn more about other issues leading up to the October 21, 2019 election?

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