



GrayIsGreen

Who are we?

Gray Is Green is an online gathering of older adult Americans aspiring to create a green legacy for the future. As environmentally conscious elders, we respond to a generational call: to co-create a future of economic justice, ecological sustainability and social justice.

We hold next generations of humans in mind and consider the future of ecosystems and other species. We are alert to the historic challenges facing our planet. And we are aware of the question arising from descendants generations hence:

What did you do, when you knew?

What do we do?

We aspire to embrace our eldership, living beyond consumerism and ageism. **Our Curriculum for Gray-Green Living** offers a variety of ways to join—and re-engage with—this elder movement.

We offer a periodic newsletter, a speaker's bureau, online resources, a [Facebook page](#) for relevant updates. In partnership with congenial organizations, we serve as a central clearinghouse of ideas and communications for older adults interested in greening their lives, learning about sustainability, advocating for sound public policy, being creative stewards or grandparents, emerging as elders, and mentoring young people.

*We invite **you** to get involved!*

www.grayisgreen.org

Pathways To Gratitude Catholicism

"God's original creation is good. And God saw everything that God had made, and, behold, it was very good,"

—Genesis 1:31

Adapted from USCCB.org

Catholicism is a branch of Christianity that embraces the belief that God is the Holy Trinity who created everything in existence including Earth and all of its inhabitants.

It is our duty as God's people to respect and care for God's magnificent creation. We must protect the natural world for ourselves, our families and the larger global community. By making environmentally conscious choices, we will be in greater harmony with God. The Earth is an irreplaceable gift from God.

Three Key Teachings in Catholicism Related to the Environment

This information is adapted from [Catholic teachings on climate change](#) highlighted at www.catholicclimatecovenant.org.

1. Responsible Stewardship of the Earth

We have the potential to destroy the Earth or protect it. Caring for animals, plants and ecosystems is a moral obligation. Responsibly managing Earth's resources will help preserve the vibrant world we live in. Being an environmental steward involves taking action to lessen our negative impact upon

the Earth. It includes making choices to live sustainably such as conserving energy by turning off electronic devices that are not currently in use, conserving water, recycling, and eating less meat.

[Genesis Farm](#) in Caldwell, New Jersey, was founded in 1980 by Dominican Sisters who teach environmental education and sustainable living programs with a spiritual and holistic focus. [Click here for more information on Genesis Farm.](#)

"We human beings are not only the beneficiaries but also the stewards of other creatures. Thanks to our bodies, God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement."

*— Apostolic Exhortation
(The Joy of the Gospel)
Evangelii Gaudium
Of The Holy Father Francis
released on November 26, 2013.*

[Excerpted from Pope Francis's first document outlining his vision for the Catholic Church].

2. Helping the Poor

Helping the poor is an important moral principle in Catholicism. We have an obligation to reduce the suffering of all people. This includes ensuring that people have access to clean air, water, food, and shelter.

Climate change often harms the lives of individuals in poverty the most. The Catholic Church calls upon people to take actions to help the poor by reducing our carbon footprint, using fewer resources, and other actions. This will ensure that all people can have access to resources that meet their basic needs.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides more in depth information on [Catholic teachings on social justice and the environment](#).

3. Solidarity and the Common Good

“Solidarity...is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and each individual, because we are all really responsible for all...”

*– On Social Concern, #38
[Excerpted from
Pope John Paul II's
document released
in December 30, 1987
titled Sollicitudo
Rei Socialis
(On the Social Teaching
Of The Church)].*

Solidarity enables us to work together to solve our ecological crisis. We have the power to be agents of positive change. We have a responsibility to protect the Earth because we are all dependent upon it for survival.

How we consciously chose to live our lives on a daily basis will help determine the vitality of our planet and all of its creatures. Catholic environmental advocacy groups such as [The Franciscan Action Network \(FAN\)](#) spread the message of social justice through community organizing and activism.

Other resources:
Pope Francis' [Laudato Si](#)



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