

live simply Call of Creation

Community Challenges

Learning

The Challenge

“A way of life that disregards and damages God’s creation, forces the poor into greater poverty, and threatens the right of future generations to a healthy environment and to their fair share of the earth’s wealth and resources, is contrary to the vision of the Gospel. “

This quotation comes from the Call of Creation, a document published by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales in 2002 about our special responsibility as Christians to look after the planet.

We hope you’ll find the Call of Creation toolkit a good resource for use for learning with groups in your parish or community about how faith is linked to environmental issues.

Getting started

In order to get started, order the Call of Creation toolkit, priced £3 (see www.cafod.org.uk/worship/environment for details)

- Use the Call of Creation photo cards for discussion in a small group setting. You may wish to meet for six short meetings and discuss one card each time or for longer meetings using 2-3 cards.
- Get people to think about how the photo on the card makes them feel, then read the quotation from the Call of Creation and consider how it relates to the photo.
- Use the reflection on the cards to prompt further discussion or to close the meeting.
- Organise a liturgy using the Call of Creation liturgy leaflet
- Read the document “Call of Creation” and then lend it to someone else!



Photo by Annie Bungeroth

Environmental destruction and social injustice often go hand-in-hand. Damage to the environment will almost inevitably affect the poor most of all, since poor communities inevitably inhabit the worst and most vulnerable locations.

What is more, 80% of the world's resources are commandeered by the richest 20% of the world's population. In other words, we in affluent countries take far more than our fair share of the world's goods. Much of our consumption becomes waste almost immediately. Meanwhile, 20% of humanity remains destitute, lacking even the basic necessities of clean water, adequate food, shelter and clothing.

CAFOD
just one world

About CAFOD

CAFOD is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. CAFOD believes that all human beings have a right to dignity and respect, and that the world's resources are a gift to be shared equally by all men and women, whatever their race, nationality or religion. Underpinning CAFOD's work is a deeply held set of values that are central to its ethos and identity. We act based on principles of compassion, solidarity, stewardship and hope.

www.cafod.org.uk

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Online resources linked to this toolkit at www.cafod.org.uk/worship include:

- Call of Creation PowerPoint presentation using the six photos from the photocards and quotations from the Bishops' document.
- A PowerPoint presentation called *It's a wonderful world*, about our relationship with creation within a faith context. This could be used to open a course or study day as a source of inspiration and encouragement – perhaps as part of the opening liturgy;
- *Words of inspiration*: a selection of readings on creation, for use with groups.

For news and events around climate change and environmental justice, check www.cafod.org.uk/climatechange

The choices we make affect the life of others



Celebrate your success!

Let us know how you got on with this challenge – it's really easy!

1. Take photographs of your group and their action
2. Ask everyone to write a sentence about the difference they think they made
3. Feeling adventurous? Use mobile phones to make a short video of the action (a guide is available at www.ycwimpact.com/mobile)
4. Write a paragraph about what you did and email it with a photo to your diocesan paper (the livesimply website has contact details)
5. Email your photos, sentences, article and videos to spirituality@cafod.org.uk and copy in challenge@livesimply.org.uk

About *livesimply*

livesimply is based on a radical idea: that God calls us to look hard at our lifestyles and choose to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. *Community Challenges* encourage us to take action for justice together and fall into 5 categories: learning, liturgy, lobbying, lifestyle change and local action.

www.livesimply.org.uk

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