Green Giving for the Greater Good

☞ Book and compact fluorescent light bulb
☞ Set of cloth napkins and loaf of bread
☞ Coffee mug and Fair Trade coffee
☞ Large canvas bags for grocery shopping
☞ Purchase a tree and offer to plant it
☞ Cloth lunch bag and napkin
☞ Subscription to a magazine like:
  www.kosmosjournal.org;
  www.worldwatch.org;
  www.yesmagazine.org
☞ Non-toxic toys
☞ Solar technology gadgets
☞ Gift card for an eco-friendly retailer e.g. Patagonia, Ten Thousand Villages, Aveda, REI etc...
☞ Basket of Seventh Generation products
☞ Community Supported Agriculture membership
☞ Gift for an Oregon eco-friendly bike tour 503.239.8426 or www.democracybike.com
☞ Donation to an environmental group in the person’s name
☞ A gift made from recycled materials
☞ Support self-sufficiency and sustainability through www.heifer.org
☞ Purchase “Green Tags,” certificates to support Northwest production of renewable energy, www.b-e-f.org

The power to repair the world is already in you!

—Rachel Naomi Remen

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
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Greening Our Congregation

- Is there a Creation Awareness and Care Committee in your parish?
- How do committees incorporate this element of our faith into planning?
- Do you have any observances of days related to care of all creation, e.g., feast of St. Francis, Earth Day, right to life, etc.?
- If there is a parish resource library, magazine rack or bulletin board, does it include church documents and materials on care of God’s creation?
- Do RCIA, sacramental preparation programs, adult education, youth programming, and small faith groups include an environmental component?
- Do liturgy, ritual, homilies, and prayer incorporate Earth community consciousness?
- When remodeling, are energy efficiency and Earth consciousness factored into the planning?
- Does your parish recycle on a daily basis and take special measures to recycle during and after large events? Are plates and glasses used when possible, instead of plastic and paper?
- In what ways are you moving toward being a “Green” congregation: conservation, using Fair Trade products, purchasing with energy star ratings in mind, completing an energy audit?
- Do all parish facilities reflect the simplicity of the Gospel and stewardship of natural resources?
- Promote Eco-justice efforts and legislative advocacy
- Bring church teachings on the environment to the public square

Care for the Earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God’s creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

—Sharing Catholic Social Teaching Challenges and Directions Reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1998