

The Cry of the Poor

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to defend human life from conception to death, and all the many parts of the fabric of life on Earth.

STATEMENT FROM POPE FRANCIS

I will point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology, the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious responsibility of international and local policy, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle. (*Laudato Si'* #16)



SCRIPTURE QUOTES

- “God created mankind in his image; in the image of God, he created them; male and female, he created them.” *Genesis 1:27*
- “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” *Matthew 25:40*

REFLECTION

God calls us to walk with the poor and marginalized. We have been asked to share with those who are discarded by a throw away culture. St. Paul reminds us that Christ Jesus is the firstborn of all creation. As members of the one body of Christ we are part of a new creation (*cf. II Cor. 5:17*). Technology helps us in many ways, but it can also harm us. In this time of hyper-inflation, there are signs of a hyper-inflated narcissism that centers the world around oneself making everything and everyone usable or disposable for one’s own pleasure. Technology tempts us to master and manipulate the earth, our own bodies, and even whether the unborn, the elderly, or the incarcerated should live or die. St. Paul reminds us that we are members of the one body of Christ. We cannot say to another, “I do not need you.” (*cf. I Cor. 5:21*) Jesus’ example of humility and mercy show us the way to live in harmony with one’s own body and soul, as well as with one another as mutual stewards of the earth, the common home entrusted to us by our Father in heaven.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are the sacraments, the Eucharist in particular, concrete moments of divine encounter between God, creation, and his children?
2. What is your understanding of our sacred covenant as we live out our promise of being part of the body of Christ?
3. What are the challenges of technology in living the gospel of Jesus? What are the opportunities technology offers? What are the moral criteria for using technology in harmony with creation and the creator?

TAKE ACTION

- What are the ways your parish community is interested in using technology for fostering more encounters, protecting and supporting human life, saving energy and conserving natural resources?
- Take the St. Francis Pledge: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/pledge>
- Form a Parish Creation Care Team: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.worldsecuresystems.com/creation-care-resource-library>
- Catholic Covenant Energies: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/cce>
- Legislative Advocacy Resources: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/advocacy>