

Assumption Resurrection  
Social Justice Reflection  
Ecological Responsibility

We all know that the earth and its resources are a gift from God to all. Yet, in Canada, we are disproportionately privileged. We consume resources at a higher rate than many other countries. For example, despite our small population, Canada, in 2023, was 8<sup>th</sup> in worldwide per capita energy consumption (World Population Review, Energy Consumption By Country 2025 <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/energy-consumption-by-country>).

More sobering is the fact that we (the global community) are presently using the earth's resources at an unsustainable rate. According to The World Counts, today we need about 1.75 planets to provide the resources for our consumption and absorb our waste.

(<https://www.theworldcounts.com/challenges/planet-earth/state-of-the-planet/overuse-of-resources-on-earth>) Pope Leo XIV, in his exhortation DILEXI TE, summarizes this unequivocally as he quotes Pope Francis, who wrote in Evangelii Gaudium: ***Unless we stop and take this matter seriously, we will continue, openly or surreptitiously, "to legitimize the present model of distribution, where a minority believes that it has the right to consume in a way which can never be universalized, since the planet could not even contain the waste products of such consumption."***

Our economic systems can no longer be considered as separate from the environment and human beings. Infinite economic growth on a finite planet is a contradiction in terms. We have an undeniable (and scriptural) responsibility to protect and cherish the Earth's ecological diversity, beauty and life-sustaining systems. Together, we are called to care for and protect our common home for future generations. But how do we begin to address this in our own lives, let alone in the lives of billions around the world, who daily go without the bare necessities of food, water, clothing, and shelter? First, let us hold firm to our faith tradition that gives us hope. Pope Francis reminds us that ***"The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home."*** [Laudato Si, 13](#)

***"Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."*** [Laudato Si, 49](#)

Many of us strive to adjust and simplify our lifestyle and make daily choices, recognizing that we belong to a global community, that we are all inter-connected far beyond our understanding. We know that the steps we take are vital, and they benefit people and our planet. There are many websites with advice on how to become intentional stewards of our Earth. Take some time to explore these sites and reflect. Finally, let us celebrate the ways in which we are already being good stewards, and pray for resolve to continue and do even more.

<https://devp.org/en/catholic-social-teaching/ecological-responsibility>