

Program One: A Life-Giving Ecology for All

Introducing **Building a New Culture: Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment** (Justice and Peace Commission, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops [CCCB]).

Also introduced: Catholic religious and lay communities and individuals with long-standing commitments to eco justice.

Materials

Videos

- Program One: A Life-Giving Ecology for All

Websites

Visit the websites of people interviewed for this series:

- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna
- Elliot Allen Institute of Theology and Ecology
- Farmland Legacies Project
- Heirloom Seed Sanctuary
- Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative (ICUCEC)
- Justice and Peace Commission
- Madonna House
- Prairie Garden Seeds
- Scarboro Missions
- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Gabriel's Parish, Willowdale, ON
- St. Joseph Villa Retreat and Ecology Centre
- St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, SK

Documents

- Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment June 2015. Coming Soon
- Building a New Culture - Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment

Read the original documents for papal statements quotes in this program:

- John Paul II, Message for the World Day of Peace (January 1, 1990)
- Benedict XVI, Message to Brazilian Bishops for the 2011 Brotherhood Campaign (February 16, 2011)
- Francis, General Audience (June 5, 2013)

Books

- Ten Commandments for the Environment Benedict XVI. Ave Maria Press. 2009



Study Guide

Goal

The goal of Program One is to introduce students to Church thought on the environment, highlighting documents from recent Popes and Canadian Bishops, as well as the efforts and thoughts of Catholic religious, lay communities and individuals with long-standing commitments to eco justice.

Steps

1. Show the video "Program One: A Life-Giving Ecology for All "
2. Ask students to form small groups to describe the following impressions from the video:
 - What is the document mentioned in this episode and why was it created?
 - What small steps can we make towards improving the environment?
 - What did you know after viewing the video that you didn't know before?
 - Which quote from what pope in this program means the most to you and why?
3. Option for Take-Home Assignment. Using the internet, find more facts about:
 - Existing Catholic eco justice initiatives
 - The writings of Popes on the environment
4. Write 1.5 pages on the results of your research.
5. Group discussion
In groups, first share your short essays and then, asking one person to represent the discussion, make presentations to the class about any or all of the above. Include suggestions on how students could start an ongoing eco justice project or become involved with local Catholic eco justice projects already in existence.