

Program Seven: A Moral Issue

As stewards of creation, we are not owners or masters of the natural world. Creation is a gift to humanity which in turn takes responsibility for its health and well-being.

Materials

Videos

- Program Seven: A Moral Issue

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
- Scarborough 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, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (1987)
- Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* (2009)
- Francis, Message for World Youth Day (July 25, 2013)

Books

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



Study Guide

Goal

The goal of Program Seven is to introduce to the fifth theme of the CCCB document "Building a New Culture - Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment" which describes care for the environment as a moral issue.

Steps

1. Show the video "Program Seven: A Moral Issue"
2. Ask students to form small groups to describe the following impressions from the video:
 - What is the fifth theme of the document and why is it important?
 - What is Apostolic Farming, according to the Madonna House Apostolate?
 - What did you know after viewing the video that you didn't know before?
 - Which quote from what pope in this episode 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.