

# CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

by Karen Lesiak, Hartford, CT, Digitizing Partner

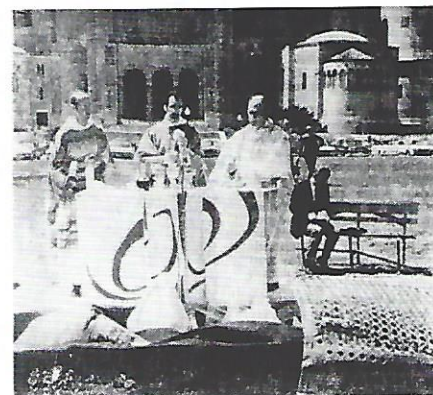
# CRRACORNER

**E**arth Day celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year on April 22. After its institution in the United States in the 1970s, other countries followed suit and Earth Day became a global campaign. We face more challenges today than in years past with growing pollution that negatively affects biodiversity and ecosystems, threatening our existence and that of future generations. Organized by Earth Day Network, this year's theme is Climate Action. Proposed campaigns include Earth Challenge 2020, that is described as being the largest citizen scientist initiative ever and will aim to equip individuals with the necessary tools to report on the health and wellbeing of the environment.

We think of Saint Francis as synonymous with care and protection of all living things. He had a gentle yet steadfast love for all the creatures of the earth and all God's creation. Saint Francis was removed from the material world garnering tremendous spiritual insight and connection to our universe.

Pope Saint Paul VI; Pope Saint John Paul II, who declared Saint Francis the patron saint of ecology; and Pope Francis are popes who have championed a conscious and concerted effort to protect our environment. In the encyclical *Gaudium et Spes* (1965), Pope Paul VI asked us to consider the future of humanity and be strong enough to give reasons for life and hope for a coming generation. In *Redemptor Hominis* (1979), John Paul II stated that we all have a responsibility to protect the environment. Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si' or On Care for our Common Home* (2015) is the most recent Vatican document on the environment.

A great starting place for further research is Ted Bergfelt's freely available subject guide "Laudato Si'" <<http://guides.catholicresearch.org/laudato-si>> which provides links to papal documents, recent articles in the media, and search terms for finding books and other materials in the Catholic Portal. For compelling newspaper accounts of the beginning of the global environmental movement and other resources, tap into the Catholic News Archive and the Catholic Portal.



*Earth Day Observance at Catholic University included an outdoor Mass. The coffin filled with trash in the foreground was a reminder of environmental pollution.*

25 December 1970. Kasper, Rob. *CAP Zaps Chicago Area Pollution*. Father Dubi and the Campaign Against Pollution (CAP) takes on big companies for excessive environmental waste.

24 September 1979. *New Books on Ecology*. A listing of books of the time period containing environmental studies, ecological essays, originally published narratives, and preventative solutions for the burgeoning environmental crisis.

## **CATHOLIC TRANSCRIPT, HARTFORD**

12 May 1972. *U.N. Conference to Study Environmental Influences*. A detailed look at the preparatory committees' drafting of the declaration for the international conference, to be held in Stockholm, on six major areas of the environment.

23 June 1972. *Ecocide Concerns Churchmen*. The aftermath of the historic Stockholm conference holds many concerns for Vatican delegates and religious task force members on issues not addressed such as ecocide and the population explosion.

15 June 1973. *Vatican Commission Views Eco Crisis*. The Vatican Commission for Justice and Peace issues a report to the U.N. Conference outlining ecological concerns on the environment on its first anniversary. ■

## **Selected Catholic newspaper articles on the environment.**

### **PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC**

8 August 1969. Endst, Jeff. *Are we destroying the world we live in?* Predictions about the effects of pollution on the earth's climate at the millennium.

16 June 1972. *Weapons of War Cause Pollution*. Traces the impact of weapons of war as major causation for adverse effects upon the environment.

7 July 1972. *Editorial: Ecology and Theology*. A commentary on the results of the U.N. conference emphasizing the problem of social justice.

### **NCR**

25 March 1970. *Famous, Filthy Cuyahoga*. Cleveland, Ohio's Cuyahoga River Ohio Water Pollution Act.

## **EXPLORE MORE**

- Catholic Research Resources Alliance | [catholicresearch.org](http://catholicresearch.org)
- The Catholic Portal | [catholicresearch.org/catholic-portal](http://catholicresearch.org/catholic-portal)
- Catholic News Archive | [thecatholicnewsarchive.org](http://thecatholicnewsarchive.org)

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