

Stewards of the Earth



Understand that God calls us to care for creation.
Be aware of our responsibilities.

God's command

God has given us a wonderful world, the gift of His creation. He wants us to be stewards of this creation. This means that we have to use our God-given gifts and talents to care for the whole world and other people.



**"God blessed them,
saying to them,**

'Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and every living thing that moves upon the earth.'



'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit: this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all that He had made, and indeed it was very good" (Gen 1:28-31).



Our responsibility

God has made us caretakers or stewards of creation. We are responsible for looking after the earth for God. He wants us to enjoy it but not to abuse it. We do not own the world; we are simply looking after it. This is a serious responsibility. We have to think not only of ourselves but the people who will come after us. The resources of our earth, living and non-living, must be used sensibly and thoughtfully. We have only one earth and we must care for it.



Pause to discuss in pairs

What can you do every day to be a good caretaker for God's world? Think of what you can do:

- at home,
- around the school,
- in the playground,
- in parks.

God's personal gifts to us

God has given each one of us a variety of gifts and talents so that we can share in His life. Pope Francis invites us to use our gifts: "Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of one another and of the environment. Let us show loving concern for every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about". (Inauguration Mass, 19 March 2013)

Task 1

How can you be a good steward of creation to protect our common home?

On the back of the Steward of Creation template, list things that you can do to be a good steward of creation and explain why.

Task 2

Write a letter to Pope Francis in response to his letter 'Laudato Si' and tell him what gifts you will use to be a protector of creation and one another.