

# Renewing the Earth Quotes

After duplicating this resource, cut apart these quotations for use by the small groups.



"At its core, the environmental crisis is a moral challenge. It calls us to examine how we use and share the goods of the earth, what we pass on to future generations, and how we live in harmony with God's creation."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], page 397. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*

"The environmental crisis of our day constitutes an exceptional call to conversion. As individuals, as institutions, as a people, we need a change of heart to save the planet for our children and generations yet unborn."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], page 417. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*

"The human family is charged with preserving the beauty, diversity, and integrity of nature, as well as with fostering its productivity. Yet, God alone is sovereign over the whole earth."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], page 402. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*

"To ensure the survival of a healthy planet, then, we must not only establish a sustainable economy but must also labor for justice both within and among nations. We must seek a society where economic life and environmental commitment work together to protect and to enhance life on this planet."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], page 398. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*



"Our tradition calls us to protect the life and dignity of the human person, and it is increasingly clear that this task cannot be separated from the care and defense of all creation."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], page 398. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*

"The option for the poor embedded in the Gospel and the Church's teaching make us aware that the poor suffer most directly from environmental decline and have the least access to relief from their suffering."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], page 408. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*

"But in most countries today, including our own, it is the poor and the powerless who most directly bear the burden of current environmental carelessness . . . Too often, the structure of sacrifice involved in environmental remedies seems to exact a high price from the poor and from workers . . . [they] shoulder much of the weight of economic adjustment."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], page 399. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*

"Regrettably, advantaged groups often seem more intent on curbing Third World births than on restraining the even more voracious consumerism of the developed world. We believe this compounds injustice and increase disrespect for the life of the weakest among us."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], page 409. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*



"We in the developed world . . . are obligated to address our own wasteful and destructive use of resources as a matter of top priority."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], pages 409–410. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*

"Humanity is at a crossroads. Having read the signs of the times, we can either ignore the harm we see and witness further damage, or we can take up our responsibilities to the Creator and creation with renewed courage and commitment."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], page 414. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*

"We are charged with restoring the integrity of all creation. We must care for all God's creatures, especially the most vulnerable. How, then, can we protect endangered species and at the same time be callous to the unborn, the elderly, or disabled persons? Is not abortion also a sin against creation? If we turn our backs on our own unborn children, can we truly expect that nature will receive respectful treatment at our hands? The care of the earth will not be advanced by the destruction of human life at any stage of development."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], pages 410–411. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*

"A just and sustainable society and world are not an optional ideal, but a moral and practical necessity. Without justice, a sustainable economy will be beyond reach. Without an ecologically responsible world economy, justice will be unachievable. To accomplish either is an enormous task; together they seem overwhelming. But 'all things are possible' to those who hope in God (Mark 10:27). Hope is the virtue at the heart of a Christian environmental ethic, . . . We can proceed with hope because, as at the dawn of creation, so today the Holy Spirit breathes new life into all earth's creatures. Today, we pray with new conviction and concern for all God's creation: Send forth thy Spirit, Lord and renew the face of the earth."

*(Renewing the Earth, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Pastoral Letters and Statements of the United States Catholic Bishops, Volume VI 1989–1997, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [Washington DC: USCCB, Inc., 1998], pages 417–418. Copyright © 1998 by the USCCB, Inc.)*