



CARE OF CREATION



Play "Agree/Disagree/Not sure" using the following statements. Get people to go to a corner of the room, or stand on a continuum depending on their answer to the statements (NB The final two quotations are from Pope Francis). Pull out some of their responses.

- Climate change is real.
- People going hungry every day is more important than recycling.
- All Christians should be vegetarians.
- The book of Genesis tells us that God created man and woman entrusting them with the task of filling the earth and subduing it, which does not mean exploiting it, but nurturing and protecting it, caring for it through their work.
- Creation is a wonderful gift.

You may want to finish with the quotations from the Bishops of England and Wales, who said in The Call of Creation:

"Individual actions may seem insignificant but together the small steps of many people can have an astonishing impact."

We can often feel that what we do, whether around creation, or social justice in general, won't make an impact, but together, we can make a huge difference.





CONCLUSION



Explain that we have quickly looked at six areas of Church teaching – ways of looking at the world, at others, at how we treat creation:

- The dignity and equality of each human person
- The call to community and participation
- The preferential option for the poor
- The dignity and rights of workers
- Solidarity among peoples and the promotion of peace
- Care of creation

Our challenge is to put them into action in our daily lives. Using the postcard pack, either invite people to choose one guideline, or divide people into groups and give them either a postcard per group or set of postcards per group.

- Invite people to think about the principle/guideline:
 - Around this guideline, what are the issues in your local area/parish?
 - What is the principle saying about that issue?
 - What could you do as an individual or group to make a difference to people affected?
- Give people time to discuss, then share back.

Explain that this is only a beginning. The hope is that there will be a group to come together, to bring together ideas, and put them into action (and give details if this has been arranged).

To finish, bring people back together around either the body, or the candle/focus from the start of the session.

- Share with the group these words from Pope Francis at World Youth Day in Brazil, 2013:
"Dear young people, please, don't be observers of life, but get involved. Jesus did not remain an observer, but he immersed himself. Don't be observers, but immerse yourself in the reality of life, as Jesus did."
- In front of us are some of the gifts and talents we share. When we unite together, like we did with the ball of string, we can do something incredible. We're called to be involved, in life, with people close by and far away, with those we know and strangers, all sisters and brothers in Christ.
- As we go from here, let's hold before God some of the people who may have come to mind as we've thought about people who may be suffering in our community, our country, our world. Think of one or two names, images, even people we may not know, as we hold them in our hearts.
- And let's pray together the prayer which unites us all, praying to our common Father who makes us sisters and brothers of each other.
- Our Father...

You may wish to have copies of the Take Home Sheets to give out.



In all the world, there is nobody,
nobody like you.
Since the beginning of time, there has never
been another person like you.
Nobody has your smile, your eyes,
your hands, your hair.
Nobody owns your handwriting, your voice.

You're Special!

Nobody can paint your brush strokes.
Nobody has your taste for food or music
or dance or art.

Nobody in the universe sees things as you do.
In all time, there has never been anyone
who laughs in exactly your way,
and what makes you laugh or cry or
think may have a totally different
response in another.

So, you're Special!

You're different from any other person
who has ever lived
in the history of the Universe.
You are the only one in the whole creation
who has your particular set of abilities.
There is always someone who is better at
one thing or another.
Nobody in the universe can reach
the quality of the combination of
your talents, your feelings

Like a roomful of musical instruments,
some might excel in one way or
another but nobody can match the
symphonic sound
when all are played together.

Your Symphony.

Through all eternity no one will ever
walk, talk, think or act exactly as you
do.

You're Special!

You're rare and in all rarity,
there is enormous value
and because of your great value
there is no need for you
to imitate anyone else but Christ.

You're Special and it is no accident you are!

Please realise that God made you
for a special purpose.
He has a job for you to do that nobody else
can do as well as you can.
Out of the billions of applicants
only one is qualified.
Only one has the unique and right
combination of what it takes
and that one is you.

You're Special!

