

Earth Day Calls for a Respect for Biodiversity

Earth Day, April 22, calls us to respect all life on planet Earth, especially human life. Today this respect for life is expressed in the term “biodiversity.” Biodiversity, or biological diversity, refers to the great wealth of beings that live on planet Earth, as well as the delicate equilibrium of interdependence and interaction that exists between them and the physical environment that hosts and conditions them.

This biodiversity is translated into different ecosystems, of which examples can be found in forests, wetlands, savannah, jungles, deserts, coral reefs, mountains, seas and polar zones. There are three imminent and grave dangers to biodiversity that require an urgent solution: climate change, desertification and the loss of biodiversity.

Biodiversity is linked to human activity and our lifestyle. Earth Day is a time for all of us, government, church, special interest groups, businesses, families and individuals to seriously ask the question: How are we, how am I, providing for the care and stewardship of all life on planet?

Each day we are in contact with the beautiful nature that surrounds us and encouraged to respect and value the beauty and marvelous gifts of all creation. There exists in nature a certain reciprocity: as we care for creation, we realize that God, through creation, cares for us.

Earth Day is a day to remind ourselves how we are to care for our beautiful planet Earth that sustains our life needs and how we are to share in a loving way these gifts of God with others that belong to all the people on Earth.

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