



Earth Day is April 22!

World Environment Day is June 5!

While it seems that there is a day designated for everything under the sun, we shouldn't be too quick to dismiss the importance of days devoted to the environment. They serve as a reminder to us to reflect on a very important part of our Catholic Social Teaching.

Luke 12:16-21

And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive and he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'

Then he said, 'this is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 'And, I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'

But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Those who are wealthy feel insulated by their wealth. Their needs aren't as acute as those of the poor, and they are often not desperate enough to change. The farmer, who measured his wealth in possessions, was "not rich toward God." How does this relate to us or to the environment? Often, as a country, we hoard resources and resist sacrifice and change.

U.S. Population: 4.5% of the world

U.S. consumption...

- **26% of the world's electricity.** More electricity than Canada, France, Brazil, the UK, Italy, Spain, Australia, Mexico, AND 170 other countries and territories combined!
- **33% of the world's paper.** The average U.S. citizen uses over 660 lbs. of paper each year. In several African countries, an individual will use less than 2 lbs.
- **Over 50% of global military spending.** More than the rest of the world combined!
- **25% of the world's cars.**
- **65% of U.S. adults are overweight.**

- **52% of aluminum cans are left unrecycled.** In 2001 alone, this was enough to rebuild the entire commercial U.S. airline fleet four times.
- **22% of global greenhouse gases** are produced in the United States.

Statistics from Education for Justice

www.sspeterandpaul.net (Ministries/ Christian Service/ Peace)
Next Social Justice Mtg.: Thurs.4/26/07; 7:30-9:30, Rm. 227