

Wednesday Earth Wisdom

Wednesday, October 12



Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee – Wednesday Earth Wisdom:

The September-October issue of Catholic Health Progress contains several articles on global health partnership and implications for Catholic health care. One article concerns the community benefit and the impact on climate change and environment.

It reads, “Why include environment and climate issues in community health improvement? Pollution and other environmental risks are known to affect physical and intellectual growth, child development, allergies and respiratory problems and illness such as cancer and heart disease. Climate change, with its rising temperatures and extreme weather, can lead to greater occurrence of diseases carried by increasing numbers of mosquitos and ticks, exacerbations of chronic illness such as asthma and heart disease because of extreme heat events, air quality problems and local and global water quality problems ... When our community benefit programs have an impact on the environment, we create co-benefits to improve both health and the environment.” (page 69, written by Julie Trocchio, Ellen Tohn and Lauren Kleinman)

“ ... Scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest ... depletion of fishing reserves ... water pollution ... rises in the sea level ... The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor, in conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are insufficiently represented on global agendas.” (*Laudato Si*, paragraph 48)

What is our moral and ethical responsibility for those suffering diverse health problems? Do we see this same dynamic here in the United States?

Reflect and act!

