

A Message from Reclaiming Earth Committee – Jan. 30, 2019

By the time you read this, World Youth Day will be referred to in the past tense. So, what makes this meeting so important besides the opportunity for so many young people from around the globe to be in the presence of Pope Francis? Well, for one thing, a “manifesto” that was an important outcome of this gathering called attention to the environment. (<https://www.ncronline.org/news/quick-reads/manifesto-world-youth-day-calls-attention-environment>)

“They called church officials and other young Catholics to repentance and conversion before environmental conditions—including the increasing of the planet’s temperature, lack of biodiversity and loss of ancestral lands for indigenous people—put the poor, youth and future generations in grave danger...While some may see some of the urgent calls as Domsday predictions, they should not be met with irony or distain,” they said.

Bishops from around the world have admitted that the present generations have left the planet in less-than-healthy conditions, and some of those resulted in conditions that have forced populations, particularly the poor, to migrate from their homes.

“Our troubled Earth suffers from lack of taking responsibility, from denying the problem, excusing ourselves and escaping to something nicer. Failure to take responsibility is destroying ourselves and our planet. Climate change is the result of the privileged class feeling comfortable in consuming for their profit-making purposes what belongs to all, both present and future generations. Simply buying off our wrongdoing....by ‘caps and trade’ or carbon offsets is shifting from personal responsibility to escapist techniques.”
(*Daily Reflections: Earth Healing* by Al Fritsch, SJ, <http://earthhealing.info/daily.htm#a30> January 24, 2019)

How long, oh Lord, how long can we continue on this path?

