

6. Climate change harms the poor

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis reminds us that it is the poor who will bear the brunt of the ecological crisis facing our world.

...the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest. [§ 48]

READING

Efforts to address climate change must take into account creation and its relationship to “the least of these” (Matthew 25). Too frequently we observe the damaging impacts from climate-related events ... across the globe, particularly on poor and vulnerable communities. We know that the communities served by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are already experiencing the tragic consequences of climate change. Increasingly limited access to water, reduced crop yields, more widespread disease, more frequent and intense droughts and storms, as well as conflict over declining resources – are all making the lives of the world’s poorest people even more precarious.

(<http://www.usccb.org/.pdf>)

*Where is
climate poverty
evident in our
ministry and in
your own
life?*

*How does
God’s love abide in
anyone who has the
world’s goods and sees
a brother or sister in
need and yet refuses
help?
1 John 3:17*

Gathering these thoughts together, let’s pray

Help us God of love and patience,
in the everyday of our busy lives,
to stop and consider the plight
of those affected by climate change.
Farmers fighting years of drought,
families who lose homes in bushfires,
those living in communities
threatened by rising sea levels,
the people who can’t breathe
the air of our own cities,
the sea waters littered with plastic,
the forest stripped bare.
Help us God of love to speak out
for the Earth and all people.
Amen