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Family, Faith, and Environment

The family, as a center of individual formation and as the "domestic church", can make important contributions to tackling emerging environmental crises. Climate change, water scarcity, deforestation, and species loss afflict our planet and are reaching critical thresholds, and the response to these issues requires a citizenry that understands and values the environment as the basis for all life. Families are a natural place to link faith to the environment, by integrating environmental issues into the more familiar teachings regarding the poor, and by giving environmental dimensions to Church traditions such as Lenten fasting. By deepening individuals' sensitivity to Creation, families can help to create a strong, new, faith-based culture of care for Creation in the next generation.