The ministry of the North American Dominican Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation is to encourage all members of the Order of Preachers and their associates to embrace a deepening of the Dominican charism to search for and preach TRUTH as it impacts the lives of people and planet. In this effort they join with Dominicans world-wide to promote the call of Gospel justice and help guide the study of and advocacy for human rights and climate justice in our world today. These efforts are augmented by our Dominican presence at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

A Legacy of Justice

Dominicans have a long history of advancing the understanding of human rights and the economic, social, and political systems that influence and shape the lives of people.

In the early 13th century, the young theology student Dominic de Guzman sold his school books to help those who were starving and destitute during a time of famine. His subsequent impassioned preaching helped to form others in the Truth of the Gospel and led to the founding of the Dominican Order of Preachers.

16th century Dominican missionaries shared their experiences of accompanying native peoples with the Dominicans at the University at Salamanca, Spain. Those Dominicans then reflected, wrote, and called for justice for the native people oppressed by the system of colonialism.

Dominicans, 800 years later, continue that work, recommitted to the promotion and defense of human rights and protection and care of Creation.

MORE RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND COLLABORATION

- Laudato Si': Care for Our Common Home by Pope Francis
- Catholic Climate Covenant https://catholicclimatecovenant.org
- Dominican Life issues and calls to action at domlife.org
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

Laudato Si', Pope Francis speaks to integral ecology:

Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behavior patterns, and the ways it grasps reality.

Given the scale of change, it is no longer possible to find a specific, discrete answer for each part of the problem. It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.

Laudato Si –139

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Preach the truth as if you had a million voices.

- St. Catherine of Siena
Gospel Call to Justice/Updated Dec 2019

According to the United Nations, 70.8 million individuals are displaced worldwide as a result of poverty, persecution, conflict, violence and environmental degradation. Popes and Bishops worldwide defend the right of peoples to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families. You shall also love the stranger, for you were once strangers in the land. Deuteronomy 10:19

What role must I take in bringing about the kind of world I wish for all to inhabit?

The term Climate Justice frames global warming as an ethical, social, economic, political and environmental issue. CO2 levels in the atmosphere now reach 415 ppm, far above the 300 ppm level of the last 3 million years. The consequences of the climate’s heating are intensifying around the world. We have 11 years left to limit climate change catastrophe.

Peace, in effect, is the fruit of a great political project grounded in the mutual responsibility and interdependence of human beings. But it is also a challenge that demands to be taken up ever anew. It entails a conversion of heart and soul. Pope Francis, 2019

What can I do to expose the truth about modern-day slavery and advocate for substantive laws that protect victims and hold accountable all who facilitate and enable human trafficking?

May God move within us and give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with, and hands that your work might be done.

A Dominican Prayer