



Let's Save the Environment: A Call to Action for Students, Inspired by

St. Francis of Assisi



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Introduction – Earth our Common Home

The Earth is our only home, and it is in urgent need of care. Every day, we hear about rising temperatures, polluted air and water, disappearing forests, and animals losing their homes. While this might seem overwhelming, we all have a role to play—especially students. The future of our planet depends on the choices we make today. It begins with understanding that the Earth is not just a place where we live; it is a gift that we are called to protect.

One of the greatest examples of someone who truly loved and cared for nature is St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. St. Francis saw all of creation animals, trees, the sun, and even the wind as brothers and sisters. His deep respect for nature teaches us that everything in the natural world is connected and valuable. Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, reminds us of this connection and urges us to hear “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

St. Francis of Assisi – A Friend of Creation

St. Francis of Assisi, born in Italy in the 12th century, lived a simple life dedicated to God, peace, and care for creation. He gave up wealth to serve the poor and saw every creature as part of God's family. He famously preached to birds, tamed a fierce wolf, and referred to the sun as 'Brother Sun' and the moon as 'Sister Moon.' His famous prayer, *The Cantic of the Creatures*, celebrates the beauty of nature and the glory of God through it.

St. Francis teaches us:

- To treat animals and plants with respect.
- Simplicity and humility bring us closer to God and Nature.
- Nature is not for us to exploit but to cherish.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II declared St. Francis the patron saint of those who promote ecology. His life encourages us to live in harmony with nature, not in dominance over it. For students, this means being mindful of how daily choices impact the environment.

Practical Tips for Students to Care for the Environment

Students can make a huge difference by changing simple habits and encouraging others to do the same. Here are practical tips:

1. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:

- Carry reusable water bottles and lunch boxes.
- Use both sides of paper before throwing it away.
- Separate waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable bins.



2. Conserve Water:

- Close taps tightly after use.
- Use a bucket instead of a shower when bathing.
- Collect rainwater to water plants.



3. Plant Trees and Care for Plants:

- Join school eco-clubs or plant trees during environmental days.
- Grow small plants at home or in school gardens.
- Avoid cutting trees; instead, promote afforestation.



4. Say No to Plastic:

- Use cloth bags instead of plastic ones.
- Avoid single-use plastic straws, cups, and spoons.
- Educate others about the harm of plastic pollution.



These small acts, when practiced daily, can create a big change.

5. Save Energy:

- Turn off lights and fans when not in use.
- Unplug chargers and electronic devices when not needed.
- Use natural light during the day.



Becoming a Green Leader in School and Community

As students, you can influence your school and community by becoming green leaders.

START AN ECO CLUB:	OBSERVE ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS:	USE CREATIVITY:	PRACTICE GREEN SPIRITUALITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with your teachers to organize clean-up drives, awareness campaigns, or recycling programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celebrate Earth Day, World Water Day, World Soil Day, World Environment Day, World Wild Life Day, World Ocean Day with events that raise awareness and action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write poems, draw posters, or act in skits that highlight the importance of saving the environment.• Use social media positively to spread awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pray for the Earth and all creation. Reflect on Scripture that shows God's love for the Earth (e.g., Genesis 1, Psalm 104).• Celebrate nature walks as moments of prayer and reflection.

St. Francis of Assisi didn't just love creation with words; he showed it in action. You too can be a living example of love and care for the Earth.

Conclusion – A Mission for All

The call to save the environment is not just for environmentalists or scientists. It is for everyone, especially young people, who are the hope of tomorrow. Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, students can be powerful agents of change—by making eco-friendly choices, spreading awareness, and living in harmony with nature.



REMEMBER:

- Every tree planted is a sign of hope.
- Every plastic avoided is a step toward healing.
- Every act of care is a prayer for creation.



Let us join hands to protect our common home. Let us become “instruments of peace” not only among people, as St. Francis said, but between humanity and nature as well. The Earth is crying out—may we respond with love, wisdom, and action.