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Care for God's Creation

News from the Stockton Diocese Environmental Justice Project

Central Valley residents face health and environmental hazards

We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy beautiful sunsets, to enjoy looking at the billows of the sea and to be thrilled with a rose that is bedecked with dew... Human beings are actually created for the transcendent, for the sublime, for the beautiful, for the truthful... and all of us are given the task of trying to make this world a little more hospitable to these beautiful things.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Central Valley Business Times, November 14, 2011. Half of the people who live and work in the San Joaquin Valley face elevated levels of air and water pollution coupled with poverty, limited education, language barriers, and racial and ethnic segregation, according to a three-year study by the University of California, Davis. The study also found that residents of the region report more environmental hazards than are currently documented or addressed by state agencies.

"Our conclusion is that immediate and comprehensive action is needed by local, regional and state policymakers to protect the health and well-being of the region's most vulnerable residents," says study leader Jonathan London, director of the UC Davis Center for Regional Change and an assistant professor of human and community development. Read more at:

<http://www.centralvalleybusinesstimes.com/stories/001/?ID=19784>

In this issue:

- UC Davis report confirms Valley residents at health, environmental risk
- Making your Christmas green
- Pope urges progress on climate change
- Faith, Food, Farming symposium

I'm dreaming of a green Christmas

From St. Meinrad Archabbey: Snail's Pace is a new line of environmentally and socially responsible paper goods, including note and greeting cards, gift wrap and bags, journals, notebooks and more, most printed locally in their own facility using FSC-certified recycled paper, soy-based inks and eco-friendly processes. Every Snail's Pace product celebrates the artistry of God's Creation and invites the user to slow down and rediscover the written word. Visit the gift shop at www.saintmeinradgiftshop.com

From California Interfaith Power and Light: Climate friendly holiday meal tips will keep your family healthy and your carbon footprint low. You can extend your actions to holiday food choices. Check out the Interfaith Power & Light's tips for climate friendly cuisine choices for Christmas and year-round. Go to www.interfaithpower.org



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Useful websites:

**Catholic Charities, Stockton
Diocese:** www.ccstockton.org

**National Catholic Rural Life
Conference:** www.ncrlc.com

CatholicClimateCovenant
Catholicclimatecovenant.org

Pope urges climate change agreement

By John Thavis, Catholic News Service, November 28, 2011.

Pope Benedict XVI urged international leaders to reach a credible agreement on climate change, keeping in mind the needs of the poor and of future generations.

The pope made the remarks at his noon blessing at the Vatican Nov. 27, the day before officials from 194 countries were to begin meeting in Durban, South Africa, to discuss the next steps in reducing greenhouse gases and stopping global temperatures from rising.

"I hope that all members of the international community can agree on a responsible, credible and supportive response to this worrisome and complex phenomenon, keeping in mind the needs of the poorest populations and of future generations," the pope said. Read more: <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1104646.htm>

Catholic Charities hosts "Faith, Food, Farming"

On November 19th, San Joaquin Valley farmers, farm workers, Bishop Stephen Blaire, California Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross, and other regional and national leaders gathered to explore agricultural practices and hunger issues in the Central Valley.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton and the National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC) organized the one-day symposium on "Faith, Food, and Farming." The Modesto Bee and Stockton Record published commentaries by Catholic Charities and NCRLC before the symposium. Read the commentaries at:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111114/A_OPINION03/111140301/-1/A_OPINION

<http://www.modbee.com/2011/11/07/1937594/life-sustaining-ag-a-faith-based.html>

Read the opening keynote by Dr. Christopher Thompson, University of St. Thomas St. Paul, Minnesota at: <http://ccstockton.org/main/environmental-justice/>

About the Stockton Diocese Environmental Justice Project...

Since 2005, the Environmental Justice Project has worked "to educate and motivate Catholics to a deeper reverence and respect for God's creation, and to engage local parishes in activities aimed at dealing with environmental problems, particularly as they affect the poor." The Project brings a unique Catholic voice to the public policy debate in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada.