

**February 11, 2014**

On Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> as we remember our day of fast and prayer, “We will work to eradicate violence against and abuse of the earth and its creatures. Through our responsible and appropriate use of all creation (Art. 24) we practice active stewardship and reverence for our planet.”



“When we talk about the environment, about creation, my thoughts turn to the first pages of the Bible, the Book of Genesis, which states that God placed man and woman on earth to cultivate and care for it (cf. 2:15). ! Cultivating and caring for creation is God’s indication given to each one of us not only at the beginning of history; it is part of His project; it means nurturing the world with responsibility and transforming it into a garden, a habitable place for everyone. To "cultivate and care" encompasses not only the relationship between us and the environment, between man and creation, it also regards human relationships.”  
Pope Francis

#### Reflective Sharing

- What does cultivating and caring for the earth mean?
- Are we truly cultivating and caring for creation? Or are we exploiting and neglecting it?
- How is human ecology, closely linked to environmental ecology?

#### Action

- As a local community you are invited to write two or three intercessory prayers fostering a greater awareness of our responsibility to “cultivate and care for the earth”.