

“You shall also give to the Lord the first fruits of your own corn, wine and oil.” Deuteronomy...18-4

Continuing our discussion of environmental aspects of our beautiful stained glass windows, The window of a stalk of corn with its bursting ears ready for harvest, depicts a sight that can be seen everywhere on Long Island as we anxiously await the “first corn.” Deuteronomy reminds us that the fruits of the good ground are gifts from God. As Fr. William Hanson, the designer of our windows noted, “Nothing expresses our faith that “all is grace” more powerfully than our return to God of the first fruits of all we have.

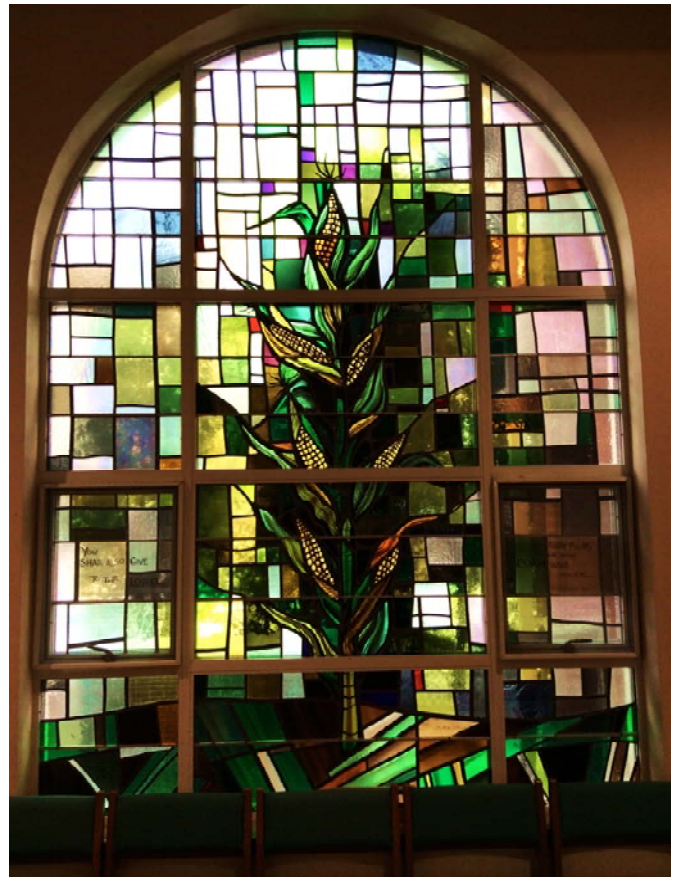
As people of faith, we believe that “the earth is the Lord’s and all it holds”. (Ps 24:1) Our response to threats to our environment should reflect our respect for God’s creation. Our Catholic tradition speaks of a “social mortgage” on our property and calls us to be good stewards of the earth.

When Jesus said, “Come, follow Me!”, he was not just talking to the Vowed Religious or the Ordained Clergy. He was speaking to each one of us!

Since 1960, the global population has more than doubled to 7 billion. All are striving for a better life. In “Renewing The Earth”, found on www.usccb.org website, the US Catholic Bishops invite all Catholic women and men of good will in every walk of life, to consider the moral issues raised by strains being imposed by our increasingly fragile environment. This is a matter of powerful urgency and major consequences. It constitutes an exceptional “call to conversion.”

Over 2500 years ago, we were warned through the prophet Ezekiel (Ez 34:17-18) “As for you my flock...Is it not enough for you to feed on good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?

As inheritors of Good Ground, it’s time that we paid attention to the signs of the times!



Environmental Sub-committee of the Committee for the Common Good