Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. … God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. … God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.”

The biblical story of creation found in the Book of Genesis is one with which we are very familiar. Among the many truths found in this story is that God created the world and all it contains as well as humankind and “found it very good.” God also set man and woman within the world to fill it and to care for it as a ruler has “dominion” over lands, not just to use the land, but to tend it and preserve it. Creation is a gift from God.

In the New Testament, this truth of creation is linked very clearly to Christ himself. In John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15, we read that all things were made through Christ. As both true God and true man, Christ is able to disclose the creative love of God. As one author puts it, “In one sense, God made the universe as a gift for his Son who, along with the Spirit, worked with the Father in this great work of creation. But perhaps we can also say that God made the universe as an act of love. God who is love created a world on which he could lavish his love and kindness. He created the world that it might enjoy his love and that all creation might respond to his love, glorify him and give delight to him” (Peter Misselbrook, “Musings”).

My friends, we can spend lots of time arguing about the causes of climate change and whether or not it is caused by humans or just part of the regular cycle of planetary warming that the Earth has known over the course of millennia, but we cannot ignore the fact that it is happening, and at a very accelerated rate. I urge you all to seriously read and ponder the work of the Catholic Climate Covenant, an organization formed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to help guide the U.S. Church’s response to climate change. By educating, giving public witness and offering resources, the Catholic Climate Covenant inspires and equips people and institutions to care for creation and to care for the poor.

Pope Francis in his encyclical “Laudato Si’” spoke eloquently and strongly against a “throw-away” culture that does not see the Earth as a place to be cultivated and sustained as the sphere in which we come to know God’s love, but instead sees the Earth and its resources as something only to be used and discarded when no longer useful. He warns against the pollution of our seas with discarded plastic, the destruction of diverse earthly habitats for humanity’s enrichment only, the scarcity of water that arises from unbridled industrialization, and the tragic reality of seeing other human beings as disposable when they are not useful or when they hinder personal choices. Pope Francis’ voice is one we must listen to if we are going to help our world survive.

We will soon celebrate the feast day of the pope’s namesake, St. Francis of Assisi. This great saint’s affinity and love for creation is one that we should emulate every day of our lives. Each day is a reminder of the great first act of creation in which God said, “Let there be light.” May the dawn from on high break upon us in the glory of creation and the hope of salvation in Christ.
For developing high school leaders. It promises to be fun, but also formative and spiritually edifying. Registration deadline Sept. 27. $30 per person.

FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/event/youthlead-2019 for more information.

This rosary campaign is sponsored by Ameri-Can. Holy Rosary, Essex Junction • 12 - 1 pm

Sponsored by Court St. Monica #1181. Cost: adults $12, children under 12 $6.

To schedule an appointment, go to www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS. New donors are needed. Please consider giving the gift of life. Walk-ins are welcome!

This is a rare opportunity for parishioners to receive the Rite for the Blessing and the Enrollment of the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, as a promise from our Lady, that she will give extra protection to whom consecrate one self to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Includes: The Rosary for Peace and the Reformation to Our Lady, Confession, Weekend Vigil Mass

The Catholic elementary school in Burlington serves learners of all ages from three years old through eighth grade. Space is still available for the 2019-2020 school year. Open House or schedule a tour by contacting admissions@cksvt.org or calling 862-6696. Go online to www.cksvt.org and check us out on Instagram @cksvt or facebook.com/cksvt.

For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

Did you know that for a gift of $24 or more to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal you can receive the award-winning Vermont Catholic Magazine in your mailbox at home?

Consider supporting this initiative with a gift at bishopsappealvt.org.