

9. The throwaway culture

The throw away mentality invades all aspects of our lives today – from coffee cups to clothing, plastic bags to relationships. *Laudato Si'* challenges all people to embrace renewable resources.

We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them. A serious consideration of this issue would be one way of counteracting the throwaway culture which affects the entire planet, but it must be said that only limited progress has been made in this regard. [§22]

READING

Slowly but surely, a mounting obsession with consumerism has replaced prudence with an extravagant throwaway culture, resulting in an unfathomable amount of trash: more than two billion tons of solid waste are created globally every year, weighing about five times more than all the people on the planet.

Not only does the waste have an enduring, destructive impact on waterways and ecosystems, but the endless production of cheap plastics, electronics and fast fashion is also accelerating climate change and poisoning life with chemicals, dyes, microplastics and fibers and seeping landfills. The biggest culprits are the wealthy economies; the supply chains serving the richest 10% of the planet are driving 50% of carbon emissions. If we don't take urgent action, these practices are simply going to destroy the Earth as we know it. (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/>)

*Where do
you see the
challenge of the
throwaway culture
in your daily life?
What can we do to reduce
waste and recycle
more in our
ministry?*

*Be strong and
courageous. Do not
be afraid; do not be
discouraged, for God will
be with you wherever
you go.
Joshua 1:9*

***As we consider new ways to
reuse let us pray together***

God of past, present and future
Help us to build communities
which are sustainable.
To build homes
which recycle and reuse.
To nurture workplaces
which reduce waste.
Give us hearts
which yearn for greener pathways.
Amen.