

The logo for the Mercy Earth Challenge. It features the words "MERCY", "EARTH", and "CHALLENGE" stacked vertically in a bold, green, sans-serif font. To the right of the word "EARTH" is a colorful, stylized flower or sunburst icon with six petals in shades of green, yellow, orange, blue, purple, and red. The center of the icon contains a small globe. The entire logo is set against a white background with green triangular accents in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

MERCY EARTH CHALLENGE

The Future of Green Is Local

"There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings." -- Laudato Si #211

The cumulative effect of the smallest behaviors can leave the biggest imprint on Earth, negative or positive.

One action that we can take is to consider buying locally and patronizing locally owned restaurants and businesses. More money and more jobs stay in the community when the business is local. The local community has more influence on environmental practices. A customer of a local restaurant who suggests to management that their takeout containers be environmentally friendly instead of plastic will have more influence on the practices of that restaurant than on the practices of a national chain. Purchasing locally instead of purchasing online will result in less waste in the packaging and reduces the use of fossil fuels. Often the packaging is made of plastic which is affecting our environment and our health. Shipping miles not only consume energy, but contribute to poor air quality,

During the pandemic, small local restaurants and businesses are struggling to survive. Many of these are owned by African Americans, immigrants, and women. Businesses owners are often involved in and support local organizations.

You may watch [here](#) a 17-minute video that tells the stories of three local entrepreneurs who keep the environment and local communities in mind in their business models.

For Prayer and Reflection

Think globally, act locally is an often-heard phrase. What does it mean in your life? We are inextricably united in a global world, a global environment, and a global economy. Many of the resources needed for technological society come from other parts of the globe. Yet, this does not absolve us from considering our actions affect both the people in our local community as well as our global world.

Do I know what restaurants and businesses are owned locally?

How do I make my purchasing decisions? What goes into my decision to buy locally or to purchase online either locally or not?

Am I willing to be inconvenienced?

In [this 9-minute musical and visual reflection](#), *For the Love of WHOLE-Making*, we are invited to join in sharing our mutual belonging, praising God by connecting, healing relationships with our Earth-family and Earth-home. You will come to an archive of videos; scroll through them to find this particular video.