



## Pope Benedict XVI on the Environment

These quotes are taken from a book published in 2012 by Our Sunday Visitor called: The Environment by Pope Benedict XVI. The quotes were published with permission from Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

**“The order of creation demands that a priority be given to those human activities that do not cause irreversible damage to nature, but which instead are woven into the social, cultural, and religious fabric of the different communities. In this way, a sober balance is achieved between consumption and the sustainability of resources.”**

(Pope Benedict XVI, Message to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization for the Celebration of World Food Day, October 16, 2006.)

**“Preservation of the environment, promotion of sustainable development and particular attention to climate change are matters of grave concern for the entire human family.”**

(Pope Benedict XVI, Letter to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople on the Occasion of the Seventh Symposium of the Religion, Science and the Environment Movement, September 1, 2007)

**“The relationship between individuals or communities and the environment ultimately stems from their relationship with God. When ‘man turns his back on God, he provokes a disorder which has inevitable repercussions on the rest of the created order.’”**

(Pope Benedict XVI, Letter to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople on the Occasion of the Religion, Science and the Environment Movement, September 1, 2007)

**“My dear friends, God’s creation is one and it is good. The concerns for nonviolence, sustainability, and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity. They cannot be separated apart from a profound reflection on the innate dignity of every human life from conception to death, conferred by God himself and thus inviolable.”**

The Interfaith Center  
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(Pope Benedict XVI, Address, Welcoming Celebration by Young People for World Youth Day 2008).

**“The deterioration of nature is... closely connected to the culture that shapes human ecology’ is respected within society, environmental ecology also benefits.” “The Earth is i Creator who, in designing its intrinsic order, has given us bearings that guide us as stewar from within this framework, the Church considers matters concerning the environment a linked to the theme of integral human development.”**

(Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, August 26, 2009)

**“When making use of natural resources, we should be concerned for their protection and environmentally and socially – as an essential part of the overall expenses incurred.”**

(Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2010)

**“The ecological crisis offers a historic opportunity to develop a common plan of action aim global development toward greater respect for creation and for an integral human develop proper to charity in truth.”**

(Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2010)

**“I would advocate the adoption of a model of development based on the centrality of promotion and sharing of the common good, on responsibility, on a realization of our need on prudence, the virtue which tells us what needs to be don today in view of what might Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, II-II, q. 49, 5).”**

(Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2010)

**“We are all responsible for the protection and care of the environment. This responsibili accordance with the principle of subsidiarity it is important for everyone to be committed working to overcome the prevalence of particular interests.”**

(Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2010)

**“Too often, attention is diverted from the needs of populations, insufficient emphasis is p and the goods of the earth are not given adequate protection. As a result, economic imb; inalienable rights and dignity of every human person are ignored.”**

(Pope Benedict XVI, Message to Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO on the Occasion of 2010)

The brief statement can be found [here](#)

For other faith’s statements on the environment, please click [here](#)

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