



PRAYER

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION OR CONSUMERISM?

Environment: Choose images that give an idea of sustainable consumption and consumerism, or objects...

Welcome: In the grace of God, we gather to pray with the whole Congregation and the people of God who are committed to sustainable consumption and solidarity. We are invited to "Live an ethical lifestyle, opposed to consumerism and anything that hurts humanity and the integrity of creation, aware that every choice we make has an impact on society and the planet."(GC/2009 FD). In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Music: Appropriate choice for the occasion...

Psalm Nº 8: The psalmist calls us to pray and reflect that human beings, the image and likeness of God, are called to take care of all creation ... (sing or pray the Psalm).

Music: (Choose an appropriate refrain to introduce the reading)

Scripture: Acts 4: 32-35 – The biblical text we hear shows the consequences of free and conscious sharing for living with what is necessary...

Elements for sharing:

What did I experience from Psalm 8 and the reading from Acts? Do they have something to say to me/us when it comes to the subject of this prayer? What do we mean by sustainable consumption and/or consumerism?

Sustainable consumption is, "the use of goods and services that meet basic needs, providing a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials, waste generation and the emission of pollutants during the whole life cycle of the product or service, so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations." On the other hand, indifferent consumerism has become, worldwide, a strong enemy of the environment. The garbage and the waste coming from packaging and discarded products have caused enormous environmental problems. The main causes are the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, leading to the aggravation of poverty and disparity.

Factors that influence consumer decisions and behavior are: (a) cultural: involving culture, subculture and consumer social class that defines the profile of products that will be consumed; (b) social: involving reference groups, the family, roles and social standing; (c) personal: including age and the stage of the life cycle, occupation, economic conditions, lifestyle, personality and self-concept; and (d): include psychological motivation, perception, learning, attitudes and beliefs. Are my way of being and living a contribution to conscious consumption, sympathetic or naive? What impact do we Sisters of St. Joseph want to leave on our planet?

Sharing: (Personal moment followed by sharing of reflections... prayers...).

The Lord's Prayer...

Commitment: Which of these attitudes am I/are we called to take on to ensure sustainable consumption: generating less trash, using less water and electricity, avoiding food waste, contributing to recycling and refuse collection, use of rain water, personal attitudes of daily consumption, etc..

Prayer and blessing: Lord, through the strength of the Earth, Mother of life, God of the universe, bless us and all creatures, strengthen us in faith and unite our forces for use in solidarity at the service of a fair use of goods for sustainable life. Amen.

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Suggestions for further study:

- Factors that influence consumption: (in Portuguese)

<http://www.implantandomarketing.com/fatores-influenciadores-nas-decisoes-de-consumo/>

- Conscious consumption, sustainability and environment: (in all languages)

<http://www.colunazero.com.br/>