

## Hope for Mother Earth—Celebrate Earth Day, April 22

Face with global warming, endangered species, toxic waste, deforestation, and general pollution, it's sometimes hard to hope for the future of our planet. But being people of hope means hoping for our earth, and taking steps to correct our mistakes. Below are ways we can make a difference!

### **Love God's creation.**

- Learn to love God's creation: learn about and spend time in the natural world.
- Read books about plants, animals, and weather cycles.
- Read about a famous naturalist, such as Rachel Carson, Sigurd Olson, or John Muir.
- Watch a nature program, for example a National Geographic special.
- Visit your local state or county park. Go for a canoe ride and take a long hike. Explore!
- Pray outside by yourself. Take time to quietly observe what's around you.

### **Be aware of the issues.**

- Find out about the different environmental groups in your community and what they are doing.
- Read the newspaper or a news magazine on a regular basis.
- Talk to knowledgeable adults, and ask questions.

### **Take action by becoming a gentle steward.**

- Recycle.
- Use dishes, cloth towels, and napkins instead of paper products.
- Wear warm clothing in the winter and cool clothing in the summer. Avoid over-use of the furnace or air-conditioner.
- Don't let the water run when you're not using it.
- Repair, rather than replace.
- Plant flowers, a tree, or a vegetable garden. Use organic fertilizer. Make your own compost.

In the space below describe what most concerns you about our environment. Then write how you think you can make a difference. Share your ideas with your peers.