

# Opinion

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## **Letter: Let's heed pope's call and protect our planet**

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### **Let's heed pope's call and protect our planet**

Pope Francis' encyclical on climate change, released on June 18, is a wake-up call not only for Catholics, not only for Christians or for those of a religious persuasion, but for "every person living on this planet" in the hope of opening a conversation on the crucial matter of we humans protecting "our common world."

Each of us has a moral obligation to join that conversation. Earth is a gift and all of nature and humanity are our brethren for whom we are all responsible.

Reading the encyclical helps one become aware of the world's fragility and how easily we could irrevocably destroy that gift. One hopes, with Francis, "that all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves and choosing again what is good and making a new start." A good beginning would be to read and expose our children to the contents of the encyclical itself, as an aid in engendering the revolution in the lifestyle referred to by the pope.

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