

Opinion

Letter: Pope is exactly right on environmental point

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Pope is exactly right on environmental point

I am not known for agreeing with Vatican polices, especially those which marginalize women, but I think that Pope Francis' environmental encyclical is spot on.

Our collective human behaviors have led to an excess production of greenhouse gases that is effecting climate change to what is approaching a cataclysmic degree. Our personal efforts at saving the earth, like turning off an unwatched TV, frequent use of recycle boxes and decreased driving, are certainly worth continuing, but what may be more important is our community response in publicly standing up to the worst ecological offenders.

Urge expansion of public transportation. Stop production of killer drones which, like other military hardware, rape the earth when materials to make them are extracted.

The dangerous process of hydraulic fracturing to obtain fossil fuels should be nationally banned and cheaper and cleaner renewable energy promoted.

Fracked Bakken crude oil, which has the consistency of gasoline, is highly volatile. It is shipped daily from North Dakota on railroads crossing Western New York. Derailments or explosions of these bomb trains (named by the crews that operate them) along the vast North American network average one per month.

Such an incident on tracks in the heavily populated Parkside or East Side neighborhoods would devastate our city.

Pope Francis earlier called for "making a mess" or more accurately "havoc," which to an Argentinian means banging pans in the streets. The time is over for leaving this to the other guy or gal.

Make your voice heard to save our planet.

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