



Catholic Social Teaching

The Hidden Stars

Terrell and Ethan were lying in their sleeping bags, staring at the night sky. This was the last night of the end-of-summer camping trip sponsored by the Boys Club. It had been an amazing week full of hiking, fishing, rafting, and other outdoor activities in the wilderness.

"Wow," said Terrell. "I didn't know there were so many stars in the sky. Look at that one! It's a shooting star! We can almost touch it!"

"Yeah," agreed Ethan. "This is so cool. It's so clean up here. It's so different from where we live. I didn't know places like this existed. Think of how many animals and trees and plants and streams and lakes we've seen."

"Remember what Ranger Tom told us, though. Every year people destroy more of the mountain with their pollution and over-development and carelessness. It's not right," said Terrell.

The two fell asleep under the clear sky and awoke the next morning to board the bus that would take them down the mountain. Halfway home the boys could see a brown, thick haze in the distance. "Is there a fire somewhere?" Ethan asked their group leader.

"No. That's not a fire, Ethan. That is smog."

"Gross!" the boys in the bus exclaimed. "That is so disgusting. We live in that?"

"Yes, we do," said their leader. "And every year it seems to get worse."

"No wonder we can't see the stars at night," Terrell whispered to Ethan. "We've got to do something about this."

"Yeah, right. I mean, I'd like to save the world, but how can you and I make a difference?" asked Ethan as he stared out the window into the brown haze and saw litter strewn along the road.

Stewards of Creation

Creation is one of God's greatest and most wondrous gifts to us. God has given us this gift; he has entrusted creation to our care. Our Christian faith challenges us to be caretakers, or stewards, of creation. We can do this by participating in activities that preserve and protect the natural wonders around us.

