

World Environment Day – June 5



World Environment Day provides an opportunity to appreciate the natural world, and to learn to recognize the interconnections between ourselves, our social institutions, and our environment. For example, the 2000 miles of land that stretches across the U.S.-Mexico border is biologically rich, housing six separate eco-regions, which include many vulnerable species. This is also the area that will be crushed by the proposed “border wall.” Not only will a wall inhibit the ability of migrants to assert their right to cross the border to request asylum, it also will wreak havoc on the natural environment of the borderlands.

The words of Pope Francis are compelling: “It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.” (*Laudato Si'*, 139).

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