

Ways to Respond to the Gulf Coast Oil Spill

1. Pray for the people and ecosystems of the Gulf Coast:

- ✓ for those whose livelihoods have been destroyed by the oil spill;
- ✓ for the health and safety of those directly involved in oil spill recovery efforts;
- ✓ for healing and strength for God's creation; and
- ✓ for humility and courage in those with power in business and government - that they may place their power at the service of the common good.

2. Reduce petroleum use.

- ✓ Ride the bus, carpool, walk or bike.
- ✓ Run multiple errands whenever possible.
- ✓ Maintain correct air pressure in tires.
- ✓ If you're in the market for a new car, choose a fuel efficient one.
- ✓ **Use reusable bags when shopping** - Twelve million barrels of oil were used to make the 88.5 billion plastic bags consumed in the United States last year.
- ✓ **Purchase products with less packaging** to decrease overall consumption, particularly use of items made from petroleum-based plastics.

3. Learn about local groups that promote alternatives to driving.

- ✓ E.g. <http://www.biofuels.coop/education/> - A worker and member-owned cooperative promoting and offering **biodiesel** fuel made from vegetable oil. Offers courses, a listserv, FAQs, membership details

4. Volunteer in the clean-up effort.

- ✓ The internet lists options to assist - see www.volunteerlouisiana.gov, Gulf Coast Surveillance Teams at www.nwf.org or www.audobon.org

5. Learn ways to protect birds and other wildlife in your area.

- ✓ visit www.audubon.org

6. Know your seafood.

- ✓ Nearly 75% of the world's fisheries are fished to capacity, or overfished.
- ✓ Learn more about fish you plan to eat – is the species threatened or endangered?
- ✓ Download a sustainable seafood guide at www.MontereyBayAquarium.org

7. Donate to charities assisting those hardest hit by the Gulf Coast oil spill.

- ✓ **Catholic Charities** 1-800-919-9338 or www.catholiccharitiesusa.org
- ✓ Catholic Charities in the diocese in the Gulf area:
 - Archdiocese of New Orleans: <http://www.ccano.org/>
 - Diocese of Lafayette Louisiana: <http://www.diolaf.org/>
 - Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux: <http://www.htdiocese.org/>
 - Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi: <http://www.biloxidiocese.org>

8. Advocate for

- ✓ better safety standards for offshore oil drilling rigs,
- ✓ more liability for companies that fail to meet safety requirements, and
- ✓ long-term economic aid to help the communities on the Gulf Coast to rebuild.
- ✓ Tell your senators that now more than ever we need to pass comprehensive legislation that provides America with cleaner and safer energy choices.

