

***“Hear both the cry of the earth and  
the cry of the poor”***

***Pope Francis (#49) Laudato Si***

### ***Fair Trade -***

Our Lady of the Fields has been selling Fair Trade products at hospitality Sunday since 2007. Fair trade products guarantee a fair wage, upstart loans, community involvement for safe and clean water and sanitation, and compliance with child labor laws. OLF Fair Trade products are organic and the coffee beans are shade grown. We are farmer and environmentally friendly.



As a result of the industrial revolution, our world culture changed. In the farming industry, smaller farms were consolidated into large conglomerates, higher mechanization reduced the need for costly labor, economies of scale became the buzz word, and the primary focus was the bottom line. With coffee farms, the coffee farmers became among the poorest people of the world forced to supply the major coffee companies at a low price so that the coffee companies could maximize their profit in selling the roasted beans to the world market. Catholic Relief Services is one of the organizations recognizing this problem and urges participation in the Fair Trade Association. With Fair Trade coffee, the coffee roaster builds relationships directly with the coffee grower contracting for a fair price for the coffee beans. The fair trade roaster contracts only with small coop coffee bean growers eliminating the middle man which enables the funds to go directly to the farmer.

The fair trade coffee roaster will front a portion of the contract. This will enable the small coop coffee bean farmer to have funds for the production period of his crop. The fair trade coffee roaster will also partner in community projects such as improvement in clean water availability and sanitation and education. The fair trade coffee grower agrees to abide by all labor laws. This is particularly important for the compliance of child labor laws as there are many child slaves, where one is too many.

There are many fair trade items produced throughout the world. They are available through the Catholic Relief Services web site and also at Ten Fold, a Fair Trade retail store in Harpers Ferry, WV. At Our Lady of the Fields we sell fair trade coffee, chocolate and tea. The coffee products; beans, ground, recup for Keurig, hot chocolate, baking chocolate, dark chocolate java drops, and UFO chocolate discs are purchased from Dean's Beans located in Orange, MA. The chocolate bars are purchased through CRS by Serv and/or Equal Exchange. The tea is purchased from Equal Exchange. All of our

items for sale at cost are organic, which means we strive to partner with the vendors whose resources are free from insecticide, pesticide, and herbicide as part of our efforts to protect the watershed throughout the world. Also, keeping the water table free from contaminants assist the poor in their right for healthier water. Besides being organic, the coffee beans are shade grown assisting in the protection of the rain forest; home to thousands of animal species, natural CO2 eaters, and natural water filter for the watersheds throughout the world.

In 2016 Holy Beeswax Honey from the OLF bee hives and Our Lady of the Fields Cares for Creation totes and travel mugs were also sold at hospitality with the Fair Trade. Check out our “A Honey of a Story” in the “BEE” section of the Care for Creation web page. In 2016, faith formation partnered with Care for Creation running a picture contest, and the two winning pictures were placed on the tote. At Christmas Fair Trade Gift Baskets are sold.

