

**A Proposal to Feature Organic and Fair Trade Products  
at the Hospitality Table One Sunday this Spring  
(perhaps Mercy2Earth Sunday)  
or perhaps in the Fall during the Season of Creation**

In the spirit of ‘Caring for Our Common Home,’ I wondered if it might be possible for our Parish to serve special refreshments at the Hospitality Table on April 23? That Sunday, which this year happens to coincide with both Divine Mercy Sunday and the weekend of Earth Day, is being called “Mercy2Earth Sunday” in an initiative sponsored by the Global Catholic Campaign Movement, [catholicclimatemovement.global](http://catholicclimatemovement.global). The coffee, tea, and cocoa that would be offered that day would have been produced on small scale family-run or cooperative farms, purchased according to fair trade practices, and raised without harmful synthetic pesticides or herbicides. This would provide parishioners with an occasion to reflect upon two important practices (organic production and Fair Trade) that benefit farmers, eaters, and the Earth Community in general (to use Fr. Thomas Berry’s vital phrase). That day, we would use compostable paper cups with a vegetable polymer-lining – in contrast to those made of environmentally- destructive styrofoam. There would be pre-approved literature on the table explaining the social and environmental benefits that can result from making certified organic, fair trade products significant components of our lives. This literature would include 25 copies of a pamphlet that highlights Catholic Relief Services’ partnership with Equal Exchange, ([equalexchange.coop](http://equalexchange.coop)), a workers’ cooperative in Canton, MA which would be the principal source for the day’s beverages

The purpose of this project is to offer parishioners refreshments that are not only welcoming, enjoyable, and pesticide-free, but which also illustrate, (as St Teresa has taught us) that even little gestures can have positive, life-affirming effects. By purchasing / valuing organically-grown, fair trade products, we can vote with our dollars for a different sort of food system, one that avoids the exploitation and environmental destruction associated with industrialized agriculture. We can actually help develop trade networks that support small scale farmers in their efforts to raise their families and crops in healthy and sustainable ways, through dignified and rewarding work on ancestral lands that they themselves own. As we realize that even through small actions, such as our choice of coffees or coffee cups, we can actually contribute to the healing of this troubled planet, we can all begin to feel less discouraged, less overwhelmed, and more empowered. In the work that we ourselves do and in the products that we purchase through our labor, we have

opportunities to put our spiritual commitments into practice. Little by little, by becoming ever more socially aware and health-conscious in regard to the products that we buy (not only in terms of our personal health but in terms of the health of the people who make the things and services that we are using), we can help make our planet more just, sustainable, and beautiful. It is my impression that by supporting Fair Trade and small scale, organic agriculture, we can help bring more of Christ's compassion into our lives and into the world.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all that you're already doing!  
Jane Doe, 111-1111, janedoe@gmail.com

### **Proposed Supplies & Costs for Organic and Fair Trade Products for the Hospitality Table**

#### **A possible day? April 23, 2027 Mercy2Earth Sunday**

##### Regular Coffee

2 pots of regular coffee (prepared with a 60 cup coffee-maker)  
(3 c. of actual ground coffee produces 60\* servings)  
2 x 3 c.= 6 c. of ground coffee required per Sunday  
One 1# bag of wholesale Organic Fellowship Blend  
contains 6 cups of coffee  
There will 4# extra left for other occasions  
Wholesale cost of 1 case of 5 1# bags of Organic Fellowship  
Blend..... \$37.50

##### Decaffeinated Coffee (basic supplies for 1 pot)

2 11 oz. bags of Organic, Fairtrade Decaf.  
(retail).....\$20(approx.)

1 box of Equal Exchange Organic Black Tea bags (24 servings) (retail).....\$5 (approx.)

1 container of Equal Exchange Fair Trade, Organic Hot Chocolate mix (retail).  
There will be quite a bit left.....\$11 (approx)

1 case of Ecotainer vegetable-polymer lined paper cups (1000 count)  
Many will be left for later events (wholesale from Equal Exchange)

.....	\$69.51
3 Quarts of Organic Juice (retail) @\$4.50 per qt. .....	\$13.50 (approx.)
1 Quart of Organic Half and Half (retail) .....	\$10. (approx.)
Table Display Materials and 25 Catholic Relief Pamphlets (From Equal Exchange) .....	Free
Total.....	\$167 (approx.)

Jane will take care of ordering, purchasing, and costs as a donation.

(This does not include the cost and supply of donuts. Someone else can take care of that! 😊)

\*Equal Exchange recommends 6 cups of their ground coffee for brewing 55 cups. Following those proportions, 6 cups and 5 teaspoons of ground coffee would be needed to brew 60 cups. Whichever recipe is selected, sufficient ground coffee would be available.