**EXPLANATION OF BIODEGRADABLES**

**The Creation Care Ministry** of the Office of Life, Peace and Justice of the Diocese of San Diego has produced a 6 ½ minute video promoting the use of BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCTS.

These Eco-friendly products are made from natural materials, such as corn starch or left-overs from sugar cane production,

-**T**he **advantages** of biodegradable products are: They have no petroleum base chemicals, which are harmful to our environment, including the oceans and marine life,

 These products can help us rid ourselves of one time use **plastic & Styrofoam**, which leave harmful chemicals in our soil and water and contaminate our oceans.

 These products **disintegrate** more quickly in landfills and do not give off the harmful methane gas.

-According a study that we have conducted, biodegradable products are **comparable in cost** to their equivalent plastic and Styrofoam products (with the exception of one item, the food carry out box).

-Plates and bowls are **made from** Bagasse, which is the fibrous matter that remains

 after sugarcane or sorghum stalks are crushed to extract their juice.

-Paper HOT cups lined with PLA instead of Poly lining and wax.

-COLD cups are made from PLA = Polylactic acid a plastic substitute made from

 fermented plant starch (usually corn).

-Bio forks, knifes and spoons are made from potato starch.

 (See ***ajewel@appinc.com)***

**We encourage** all of our parishes, schools, groups and families to investigate and implement the use of these products in all the activities that use products or utensils to serve food and drink.

***If you would like a COPY of the VIDEO please indicate so on the sign-up sheet stating the email you would like it sent to!***

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