

Action 11 asked me to create what I would consider to be a green and just recovery from Covid-19. And this is what I decided to create.

To me, a green and just recovery would, symbolically, look like this. The trees are both figurative and literal, since we **do** need to plant more trees and decrease deforestation in order to help nurture our world after the continual damages caused by climate change. More green spaces in cities and more protected forested sanctuaries would be a great step in the right direction to resuscitating the lungs of our world. Not to mention, it is suggested that being around trees and other plants can help improve emotional well being, which could help people feel more content and also help communities and families come together and build stronger bonds. The trees are figurative in a way though, since they are there to represent the years gone by. 2020 is the trunk of the largest tree, the beginning of it all, when everyone realized what was truly important - our loved ones, the environment, the health and integrity of the greater community (including those marginalized in our country and around the world), and toilet paper...for some reason. Not important. What is important though, is that I hope this will lead to lasting changes for the future, symbolized by the leaves of the 2020 tree being labeled as 2021 - when the true change can start to take place. As the years progress, I hope that the global community as a whole continues to plant these trees, year after year, and that the roots of these trees intertwine with one another, signifying our connectedness and growth into a family without borders. I did take inspiration from St. Paul for this aspect, since I really loved what he put forward when he said "...and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in amongst the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree...". I know he was specifically speaking about Christianity and its relationship to Judaism, but I feel it could be applied to far more things than just that. Even though we are all separate entities, all working different jobs, living through different years and experiences, we all are from the same race - the same root. So if we all realized this, and truly connected to one another, perhaps our roots would be strong enough to keep us upright no matter what storm came our way.

I also hope that all of this will continue year after year, so that maybe in the future this good and stewardship can come naturally without even needing to be planted by us, as shown with the little 2031 sprout growing all by itself.

The peace dove, while also there to symbolize peace, is there to represent the respect we have for God's creation, the Earth. I feel that the catholic social teaching: stewardship of creation is very important, since it is not only within our faith to care for all of God's creations, but also needed if we all want to live in true solidarity. Without Earth, we could not live, and so could not have communities to begin with.