**Saint Bernard Green Team**

**St. Valentine’s Day and Fair Trade Chocolate**

A familiar gift for **February 14th**, **St. Valentine’s Day** is chocolate, but are you aware of **Fair Trade chocolate**?

***What is Fair Trade?***

 “Fair Trade is a global movement made up of a diverse network of producers, companies, consumers, advocates and organizations putting people and the planet first. “*(Fair Trade Certified TM)* According to *Business News Daily,* “Fair Trade certification requires passing regular, rigorous evaluations by third-party auditors that track transactions along the supply chain between more than 1200 companies and nearly 500 producer organizations*.*”

From a faith perspective, “Fair Trade represents an alternative approach to trade that is rooted in a commitment to cherish and uphold the sacredness and dignity of every person. The Fair Trade system is built on principles that reflect this commitment.” *[Fair Trade and Catholic Social Teaching] – Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Fair Trade – June 2010]*

**Why Purchase Fair Trade Chocolate**?

1. ***Protects children and promotes good labor standards (Cocoa used in Fair Trade chocolate is not harvested by children.)***
2. ***Promotes more sustainable agricultural practices that decrease the need to use harsh chemicals, pesticides or fertilizers. Additionally, 90 percent of all cocoa imported into North America from which chocolate is made, is Certified Organic.***
3. ***Tastes great and makes people happy!***

**Where Can I Purchase Fair Trade Chocolate?** You can find Fair Trade chocolate in local supermarkets or specialty stores or purchase on the Internet. Scan the QR codes or click on the links below for websites offering Fair Trade chocolate.

[***Hivebrands.com***](https://hivebrands.com/collections/candy-chocolate?gclid=EAIaIQobChMItKaGh--C7gIVEKGzCh11iQYSEAAYASAAEgJbL_D_BwE)[***alterecofoods.com***](https://alterecofoods.com/)

