

You can promote environmental and social justice through your congregations palm purchasing decisions!

How?

Promoting **Social justice**

- ✿ Harvesting palms is an important source of income but gatherers receive a low price
- ✿ **Gatherers will receive a higher price for their “fair trade” palms improving their income.**

Promoting **Environmental stewardship.**

- ✿ Palms protect valuable natural forests because they provide income to forest communities.
- ✿ **Palms will be “sustainably” harvested and managed protecting the palms and the forests they need for shade.**

Why a “**Fair Trade**” Palm?

- ✿ To improve income and living conditions for the communities gathering the palm.
- ✿ To protect the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs.



Palm Sunday Celebration

Did You Know?

- ✿ Approximately 308 million palm fronds were consumed in the United States in 1998.
- ✿ **Palm purchases for Palm Sunday may be worth up to 4.5 million dollars/year.**
- ✿ A congregation of 1,100 to 1,500 members will order approximately 700 palm fronds for Palm Sunday services.
- ✿ **Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests.**
- ✿ At least half of the farmers in the Central Peten of Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting fronds
- ✿ **and, more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.**
- ✿ Each palm plant produces 2 to 5 harvestable leaves over a 2 to 4 month period.



Chameadorea palms bundled from the forest ready for sorting



Sorting palms provides income for women in the Guatemalan Peten



Palms in the forest. Palms require shaded forest conditions to grow.



Sorting Palms prior to shipping



Children playing while their mothers sort palms



In “Uaxactun” – One of the communities where palms have been gathered for years

