

Catholic Sustainability Champions

June 23, 2021

CatholicClimateCovenant.org



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

In Solidarity with All Creation

Oh how beautiful are your ways, O God, the works of your creation. Raise our consciousness to know and feel deeply in our hearts our connectedness to all that is.

Instill in us the gift of being co-creators and sustainers of life. Teach us new and unsuspected ways of living so that current and future generations can walk humbly in beauty, love all compassionately, and live justly in solidarity with all creation.

Loving and gracious God, give us the courage to seek this transformation of self and society and the strength to see it through. Amen



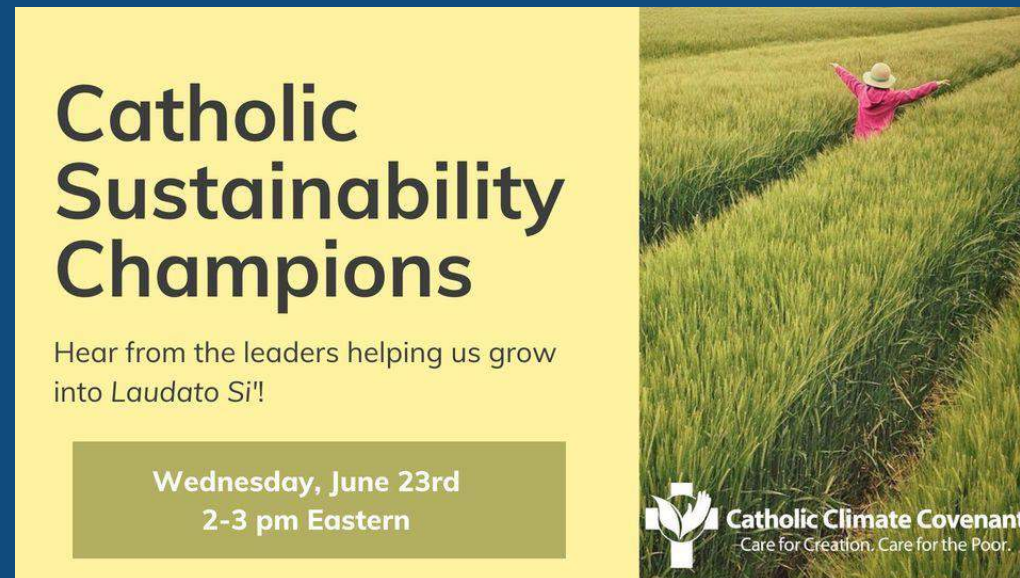
~School Sisters of Notre Dame Green Team



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- 1) The webinar is being recorded and will a link to the recording will be sent to everyone who registered within the next 24-48 hours.
- 2) Please type your questions in the Q/A box



Catholic Sustainability Champions

Hear from the leaders helping us grow into *Laudato Si'*!

Wednesday, June 23rd
2-3 pm Eastern

 **Catholic Climate Covenant™**
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The graphic features a yellow background on the left with the event title and date, and a photograph of a person in a pink shirt and hat standing in a field of tall green grass with arms outstretched on the right. The Catholic Climate Covenant logo is positioned at the bottom right of the graphic.

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LAUDATO SI'
AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH
A Conference Series on Our Common Home

<https://www.creighton.edu/catholicclimate/>



<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>



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Molly Sutter
Bethlehem Farm



Lorrie Heber
White Violet Center for Eco-Justice



Matt Jones
Little Portion Farm

Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant



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White Violet Center for Eco-Justice

*A ministry of the Sisters of Providence
at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods*

Catholic Climate Covenant Webinar
June 23, 2021



Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

“What was our astonishment to find ourselves still in the midst of the forest, no village not even a house in sight...” 1840

“Finally...I saw once more my Indiana. I would have loved to kiss its soil...the beauty of the forests of Indiana...surpasses all description...”



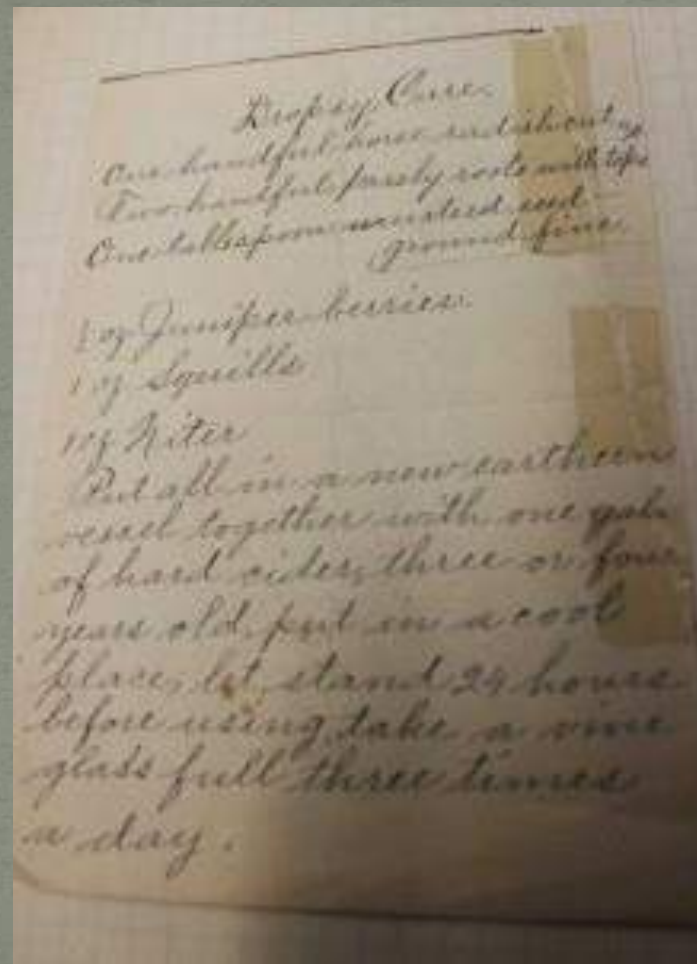


“This land was no longer for me the land of exile; it was a portion of my inheritance and in it I hope to dwell all the days of my life.”

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

Daughters of the Forest

- “We have gone out several times this summer to gather simples and linden blossoms...”
- “We are now in sole possession of the farm.”
Nov. 27, 1841
- “We are shucking the corn, work which takes seven days. We have about 600 bushels.” Nov. 18, 1844
- “I give wool to be spun at 18 cents a pound.”



The White Violet Center for Eco-Justice

Teaching, caring, inspiring for all Creation

Teaching...

- Interns
- Volunteers
- Students
- Adults



Caring...

- Forestry
- Farmland
- Pollinator Habitat and Bees
- Gardens
- Alpacas
- Chickens
- Earth!
 - Climate Change Task Force

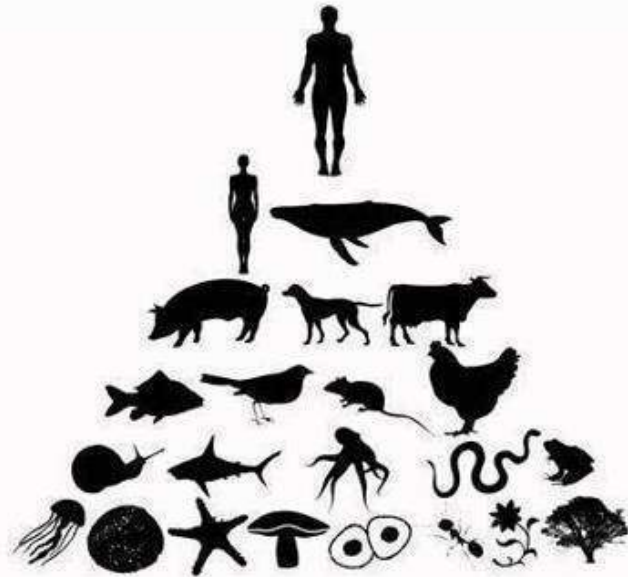


Inspiring!

- Donors
- Visitors
- Prospective Sisters and Providence Associates



EGO



ECO



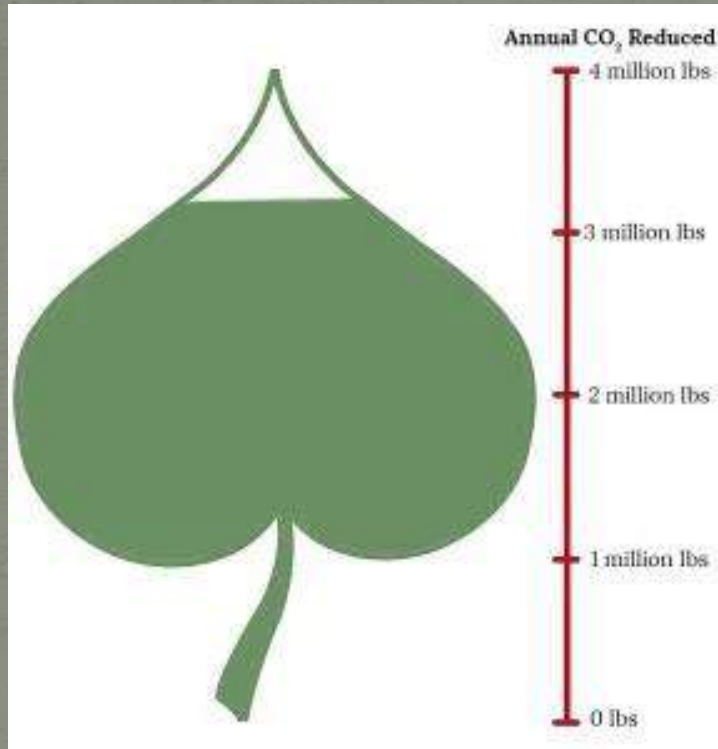
“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” -Aldo Leopold

Justice Focus: Environment and Climate Change

- Focus determined at General Chapter 2016
- Climate Change Task Force established
- Climate Change Manifesto 2017
- Providence Climate Agreement
- Communication Efforts
- Political advocacy



Providence Climate Agreement



- Meet people where they are
- Commitment forms
- Based on “Low Carbon Diet”
- Original goal: 2 million pounds
- New goal: 4 million by July 1, 2021

Laudato Si Action Platform

A Renewed Direction

A Spiritual Grounding...

“... Christians in their turn ‘realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith.’” (Laudato Si paragraph 64) and

“Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity.” (Laudato Si paragraph 240)





LITTLE PORTION FARM

- 3 acre farm located in Ellicott City, MD
- Ministry of Franciscan Friars Conventual
- 100% of produce is donated to those in need in Baltimore
- Dedicated to regenerative farming practices to care for our land
- First vegetables planted June 2019
- Volunteer-run, all done by hand

“Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

– Laudato Si’, par. 49





LITTLE PORTION
FARM



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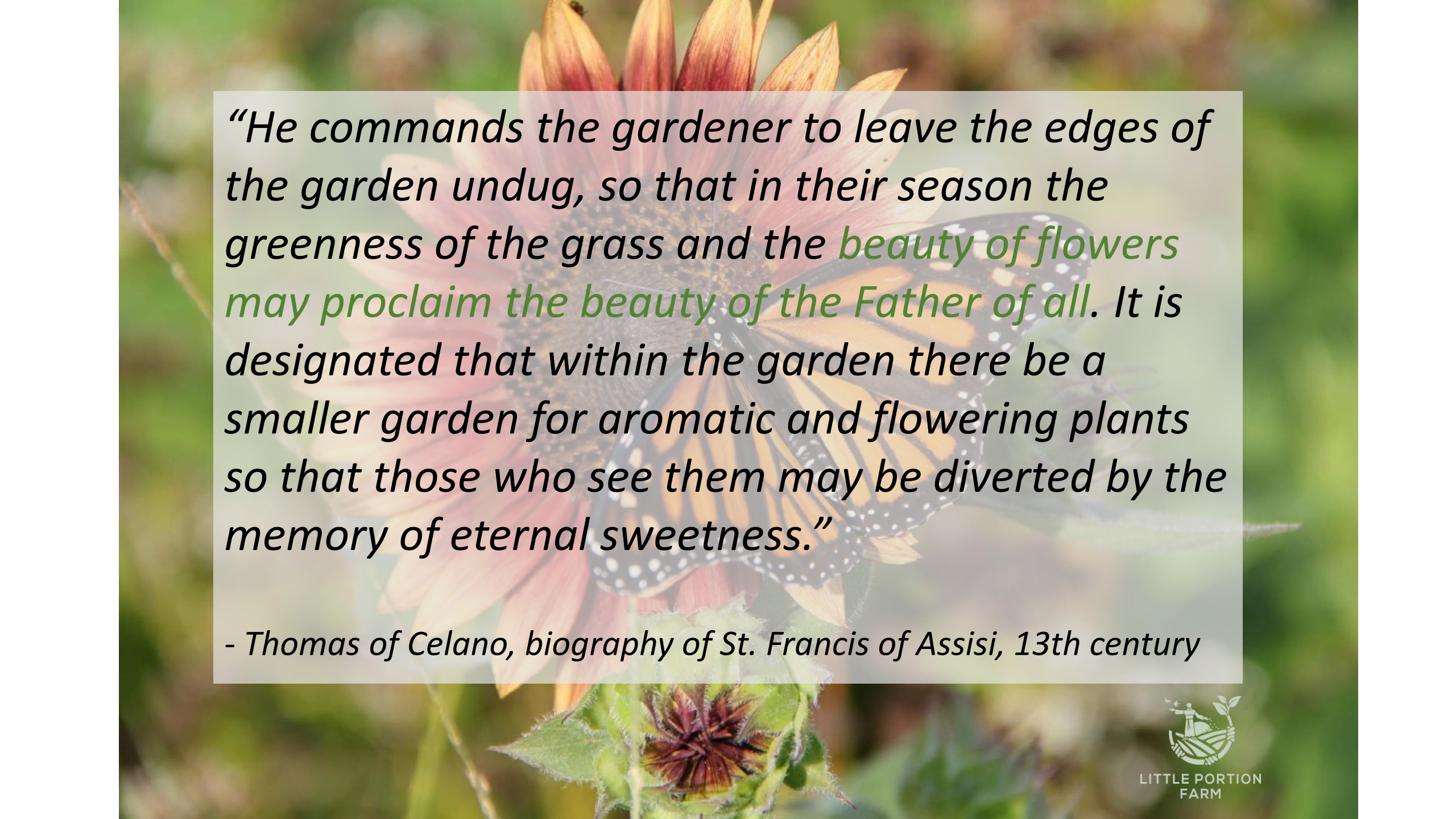
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LITTLE PORTION FARM



LITTLE PORTION
FARM

A monarch butterfly is perched on a sunflower. The sunflower has vibrant orange and red petals. The background is a soft-focus green field. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the image, containing a quote in black and green text.

*“He commands the gardener to leave the edges of the garden undug, so that in their season the greenness of the grass and the **beauty of flowers** may proclaim the **beauty of the Father of all**. It is designated that within the garden there be a smaller garden for aromatic and flowering plants so that those who see them may be diverted by the memory of eternal sweetness.”*

- Thomas of Celano, biography of St. Francis of Assisi, 13th century

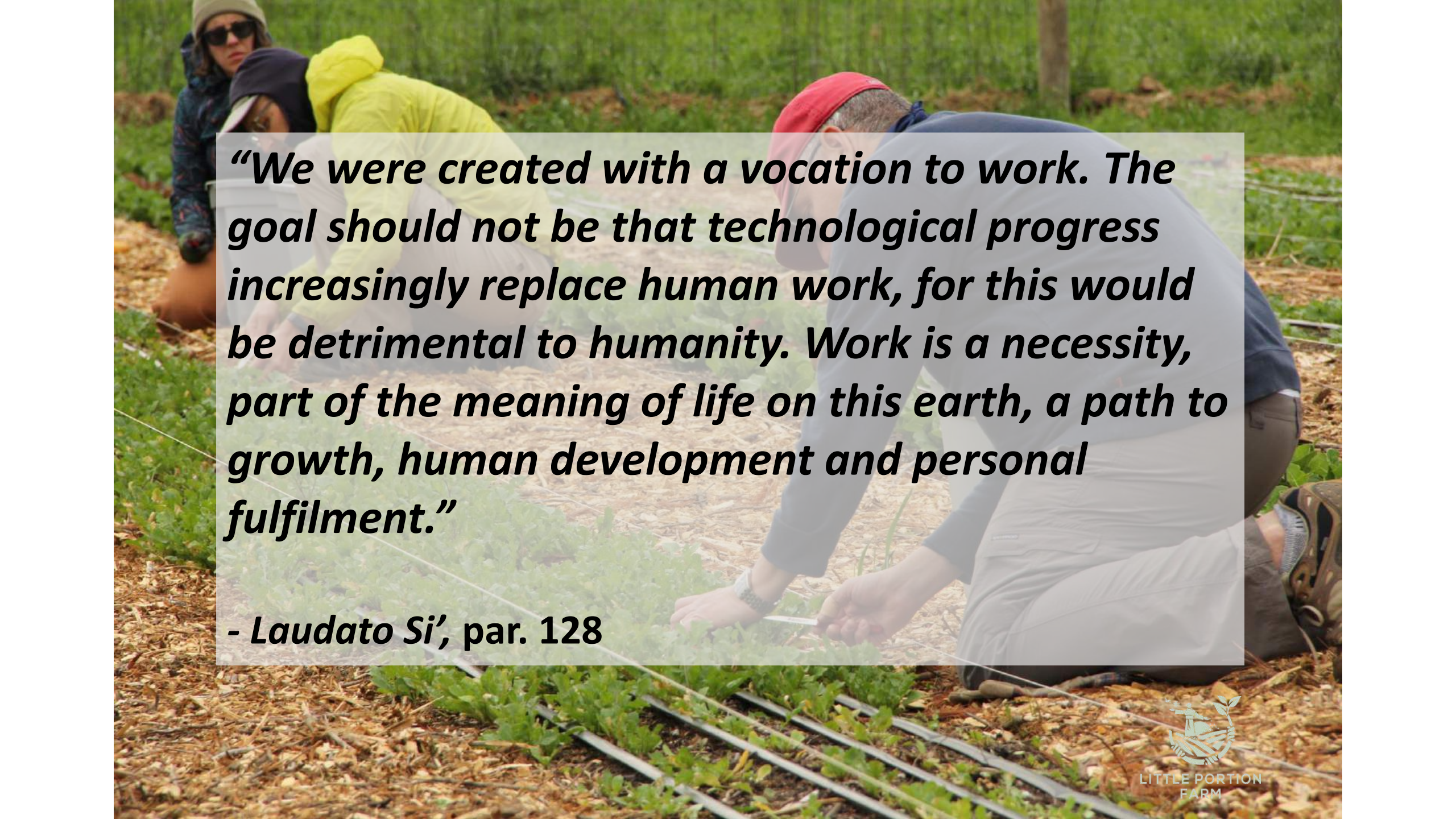


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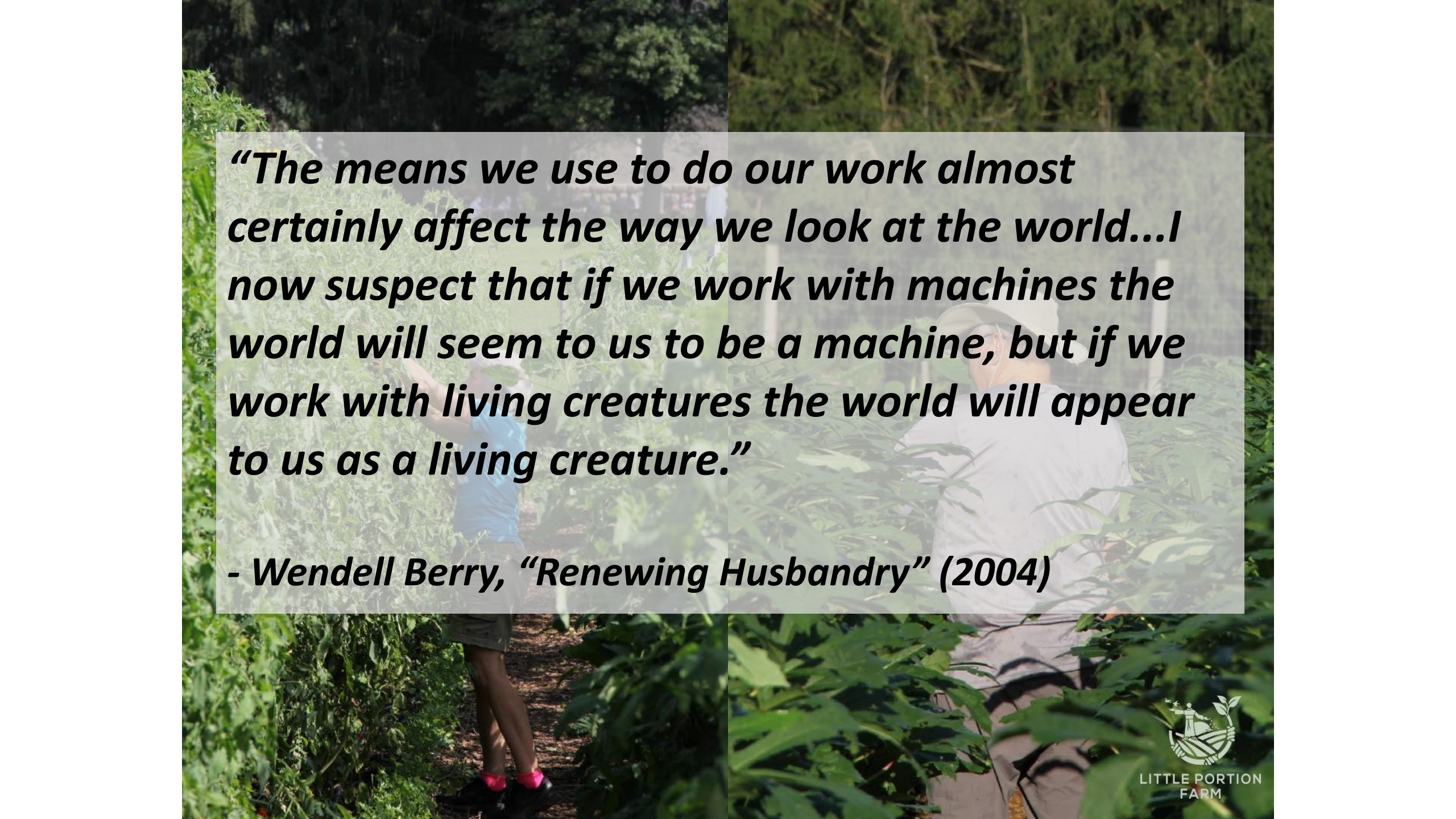


“We were created with a vocation to work. The goal should not be that technological progress increasingly replace human work, for this would be detrimental to humanity. Work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfilment.”

- Laudato Si’, par. 128



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“The means we use to do our work almost certainly affect the way we look at the world...I now suspect that if we work with machines the world will seem to us to be a machine, but if we work with living creatures the world will appear to us as a living creature.”

- Wendell Berry, “Renewing Husbandry” (2004)



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***“It is good for people to realize
that purchasing is always a moral
— and not simply economic — act.***

– Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, par. 66



LITTLE PORTION
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“I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom. That moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation; it acknowledges those who by their labours provide us with these goods; and it reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need.”

– Laudato Si’, par 227



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BETHLEHEM FARM

Molly Sutter, Caretaker

Care for Creation

The goods of Earth are gifts from God and are intended for the benefit of all. We have a responsibility to care for resources as stewards and trustees, not as mere consumers and users. To that end, we are called to be co-creative with God in returning and restoring to Earth that which we take from her.





Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. The poor have the most urgent moral claim on our collective conscience. A community can be healthy only if its members give special attention to those with special needs, to those who are on the margins of society.

Peace and Disarmament

Catholic teaching promotes peace as an uncompromising, action-oriented concept. In the words of Pope John Paul II, “Peace is not just the absence of war.” Peace, however, cannot be achieved absent of justice. Peace is the fruit of justice.





The economy must serve people, not the other way around. All workers have a right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to safe working conditions, and to join unions. No one should be allowed to amass excessive wealth when others lack the basic necessities of life.

Economic Justice



Common Good

The human person is both sacred and social. We realize our dignity and rights in relationship with others, in community. Human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in community. Human dignity can only be realized and protected in the context of relationship with the wider society.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all Catholic social teaching. Human life is sacred, and the dignity of the human person is the starting point for a moral vision for society. This principle is grounded in the idea that each person is made in the image of God. Our dignity does not come from what we have or what we do; it comes from God. We don't need excess material goods to achieve self-worth; similarly, people's actions or situations do not change their worth.



Time

- How are you responding to your call to care for creation?
- Ideas: volunteer locally, observe a weekly electricity fast, come visit the farm!

Talent

- Where are you situated to make change in your community?
- Ideas: volunteer to lead a Laudato Si' book club, teach your family about CST, encourage your place of work or parish to go solar

Treasure

- How do you steward your resources?
- Ideas: begin with one food to only buy organic or local, include environmental organizations in your charitable giving

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Questions ?



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For more information:

info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

and

www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org

