

2025 FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS PROGRAM | AN ECO-SPIRITUALITY RESOURCE

# SPREADING SEEDS OF PEACE AND HOPE FOR CREATION



# INTRODUCTION

Since 2006, Catholic Climate Covenant has inspired and equipped Catholics to work together to care for our common home. Since 2012, in collaboration with our 20 national partners, the Covenant has provided the annual Feast of St. Francis (FOSF) program, traditionally a guide for a 90-minute interactive program focused on Catholic social teaching and creation care. You can find previous years' FOSF programs [here](#).

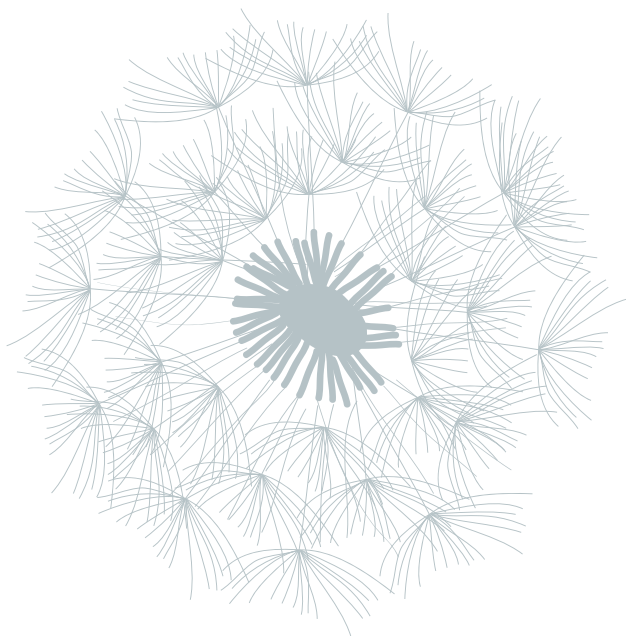
## This year's Feast of St. Francis program is different!

In the Spring of 2025, Catholic Climate Covenant put out a call for submissions of eco-spirituality resources from all U.S. Catholics who are doing the great work of *Laudato Si'* in their communities. Over 100 submissions came in from authors, graphic artists, photographers, videographers, liturgists, and musicians. The material that was accepted for this resource is proof that *Laudato Si'* is alive and well in our parishes, schools, and religious communities. The contributors are generously sharing their material as a gift to the Catholic community and to the wider world — a gift that we hope will ignite profound ecological and spiritual conversion and will help us to “discover God in all things.”

This Feast of St. Francis resource, “*Spreading the Seeds of Peace and Hope for Creation*,” is a collaborative compilation of eco-spirituality resources that may be used during the [Season of Creation](#) (Sept 1st-Oct. 4th), [Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation](#), the Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 4th), and beyond!

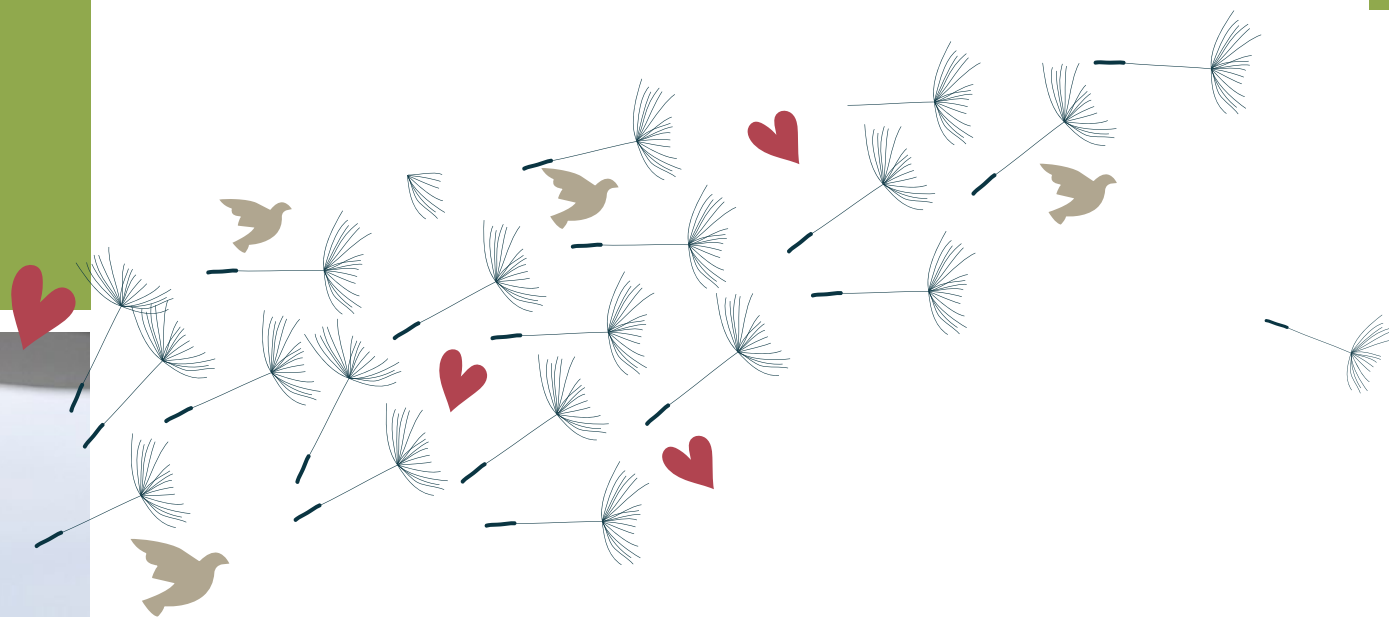
In this resource, you will find art, poems, prayers, reflections and meditations, liturgies, videos and creation care programs for individual and group use\*. It is our hope that this resource helps individuals and communities spread seeds of peace and hope for creation. In 2025, the world is in dire need of ecological and spiritual transformation.

We invite you to savor each contribution. Read a poem or reflection, use a prayer during your own individual/collective prayer time, listen to a hymn, watch one of the videos, or contemplate one of the art and photographic pieces. Share the material with your community and let it enrich your and your community's faith and spirit.



## COPYRIGHT

\*All materials in this resource are used with the creators' permission. They are gifting their material for community use. If you use any material, we ask that you respect the artists and authors and keep the attributions as stated.

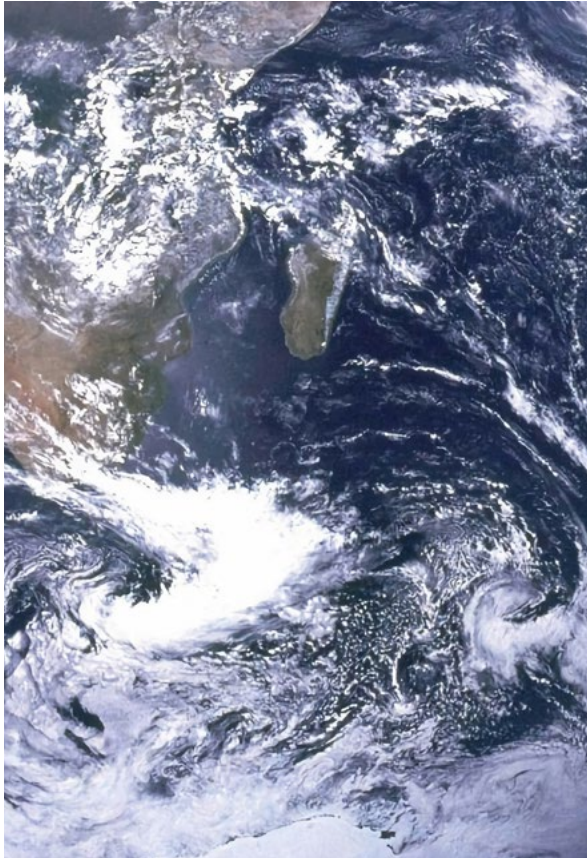


## DEDICATION

Catholic Climate Covenant would like to dedicate this year's Feast of St. Francis resource to the memory of our beloved Pope Francis, who, since the beginning of his papacy, challenged us to make peace, justice, and care for creation a cornerstone of our Catholic witness. May we all continue to spread the seeds of *Laudato Si'*, and may they bloom in our hearts and in all of our common home.

# LAUDATO SI'

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**Creation Mandala** in acrylic  
by Barb Spink

Mandala levels:

Level 1: Hydrogen

Level 2: DNA

Level 3: Bacteria/Archaea

Clockwise from top

Level 4: Multicellular Life; Rhodospirillum rubrum, Caulerpa taxifolia, Laminaria, Blue-green Algae, Trilobite, Cooksonia

Level 5: Fungi

Level 6: Trees; Willow, Pine, Naples tree, Oak, Spruce, Red Maple, Palm, Cladoxylopsid, Birch, Elm, Gumbo Limbo, Ginkgo

Level 7: Animals, Ammonite, Cape Cobra, Red Ruffed Lemur, Emperor Penguin, Salamander, Koala Bear, Brontosaurus, Orca Whale, Domesticated Cat, Spurred Tortoise, Horseshoe Crab, Gray Squirrel, Human, Red-eyed Treefrog, Wolf, Jellyfish, Woolly Mammoth, Fish, Flatworm, Deer, Crow, Centipede, Bison, Butterfly

Constellations: Top Right, Ursa Major; Bottom Right, Sagittarius; Bottom Left, Aquarius; Top Left, Orion





**St Francis in Creation** in acrylic  
by Nancy Earle, SMIC

I tried to relate a little bit of St. Francis' life in his habit.  
Francis lived a life of joy in the Source of All.



### Help Wanted

by Jane Gabrielle McCadden

I created "Help Wanted (Apply within). Signed, Mother Earth" to call people to make the spiritual and cultural shift to care for our Earth and its creatures. I am sharing this original artwork to expand the reach of this effort. I encourage you to print handbills and put them on community boards, use them for church bulletins, print in black and white for a child's color sheet. Use it as a prompt for essays and art (you'll be surprised how deeply children understand this message). Let us spread this invite to "Beloved Community."

You can contact Jane by [email](#) or visit her [website](#).



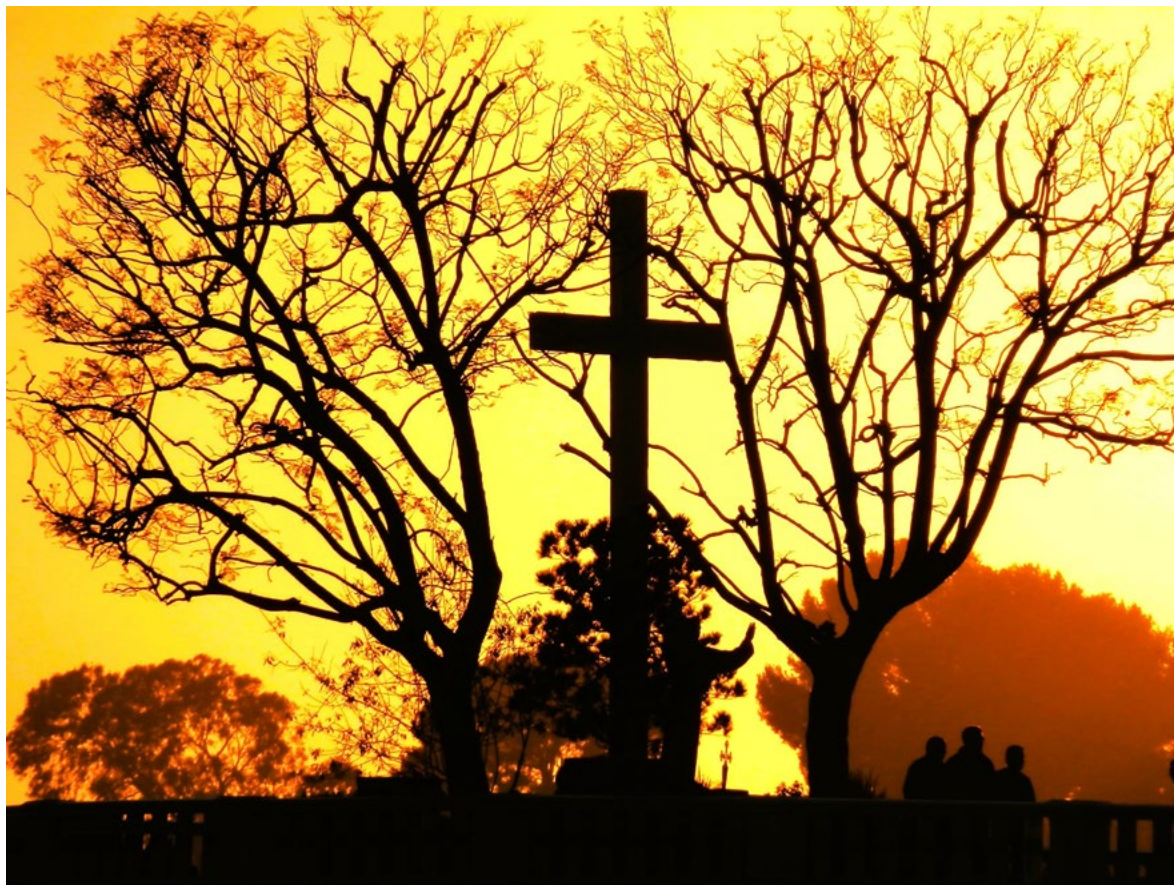


### **St. Francis**

by Clarissa Cervantes

Clarissa Cervantes is a poet, photographer, physical therapist, and researcher. Clarissa strives to create meaningful Catholic images to inspire and uplift readers. Clarissa holds a doctorate in physical therapy, where she found her vocation to help as well as to deliver comfort to people all over the world through her images and words. For Clarissa every image captured represents her faith, which is a gift from God to be shared with others and to encourage one another to find beauty, hope and gratitude in their daily lives. Clarissa made her vows as a Pauline Lay Cooperator and never looked back.





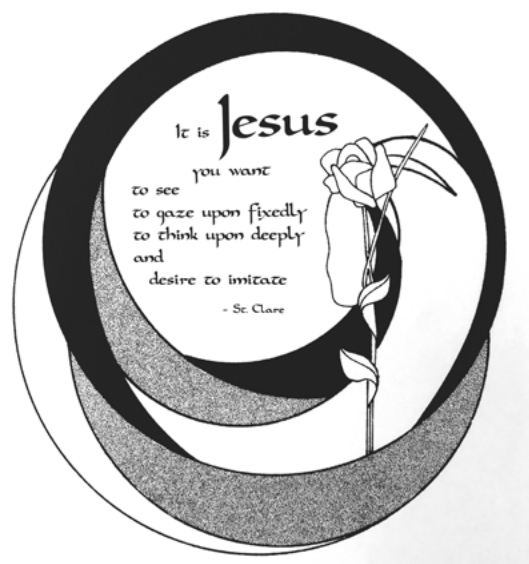
**We Are the Branches [L], A New Day [R]**  
by Clarissa Cervantes



### Untitled Works

Sr. Carol Ann Papp, OSF

Graphic artwork, two relating to St. Francis and two to St. Clare.







### **St. Francis and St. Clare**

2023, Acrylic on Found Wood

by Hannah Maldonado Loveland

This painting commemorates our great Father Francis and Mother Clare who lived lives of thanksgiving for God's creation. St. Clare is seen with the Eucharist, crowned with daisies, while St. Francis holds the Blood of Christ and is crowned with roses. The three skulls buried underneath the saint's feet represent the real sacrifices we are called to make as Christians to bring about environmental healing and restoration. From these three "seeds" sprouts the Tree of Life: our hopeful future where Christ answers the prayers of healing for His people and his land.

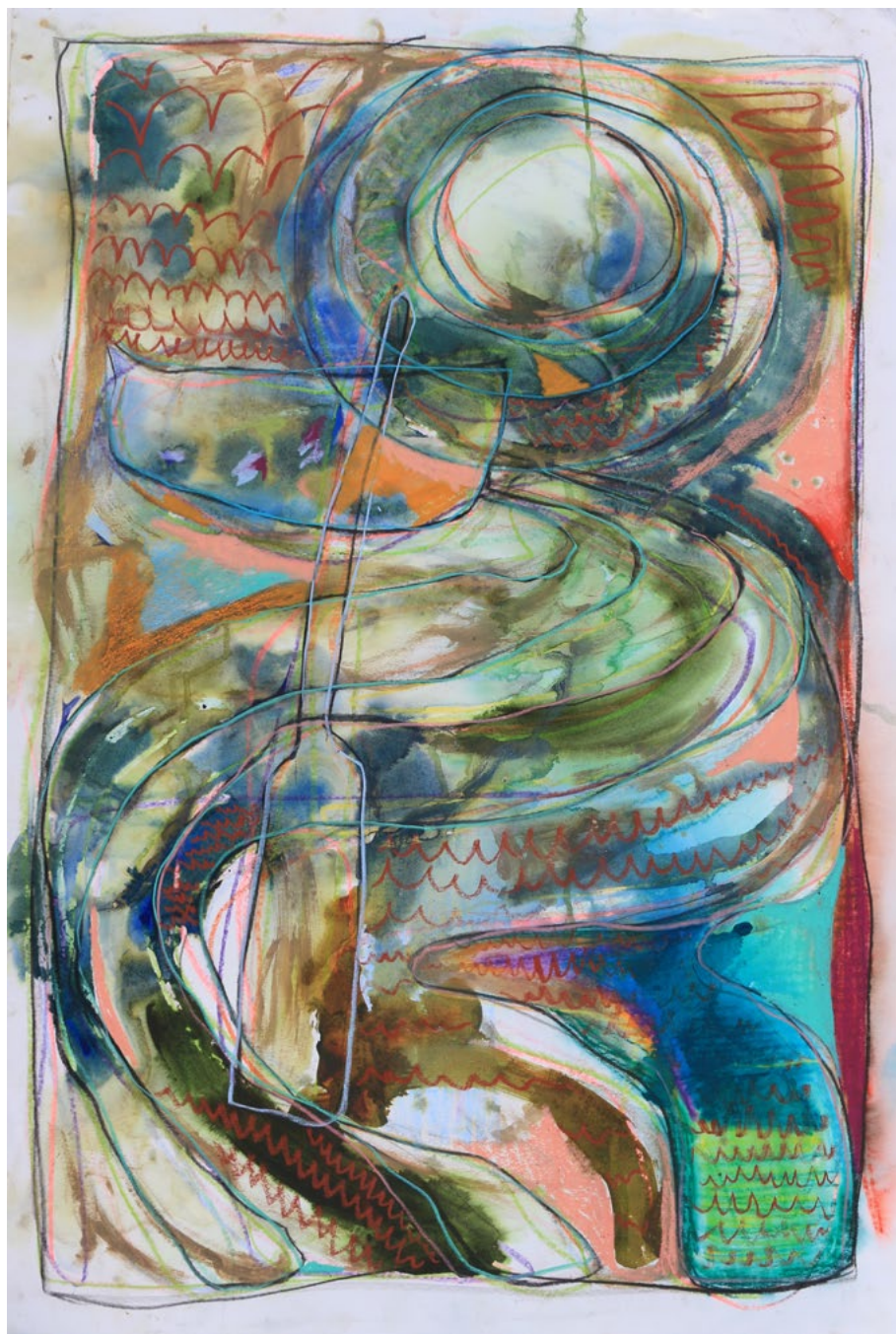


### **The Crucifixion**

2016, Acrylic on Found Wood  
by Hannah Maldonado Loveland

At first this painting of a slaughtered deer can be unsettling. But how much more unsettling is the image of our beloved crucified Savior that this deer represents? I hope this image can renew our empathy and love for Christ who said, "A seed must fall to the Earth and die to bear good fruit." Each drop of blood from the deer becomes seeds, which grow roots and becomes flowers and trees that hold up the cosmos. This cycle represents God's great mercy and reminds us that all of God's creation is connected as it points back to our Loving Creator.





### **Greenbrier is Flowing**

by Casey Murano

View Casey Murano's full "Greenbrier is Flowing" [portfolio here](#).

### **Let the River Keep Flowing 4**

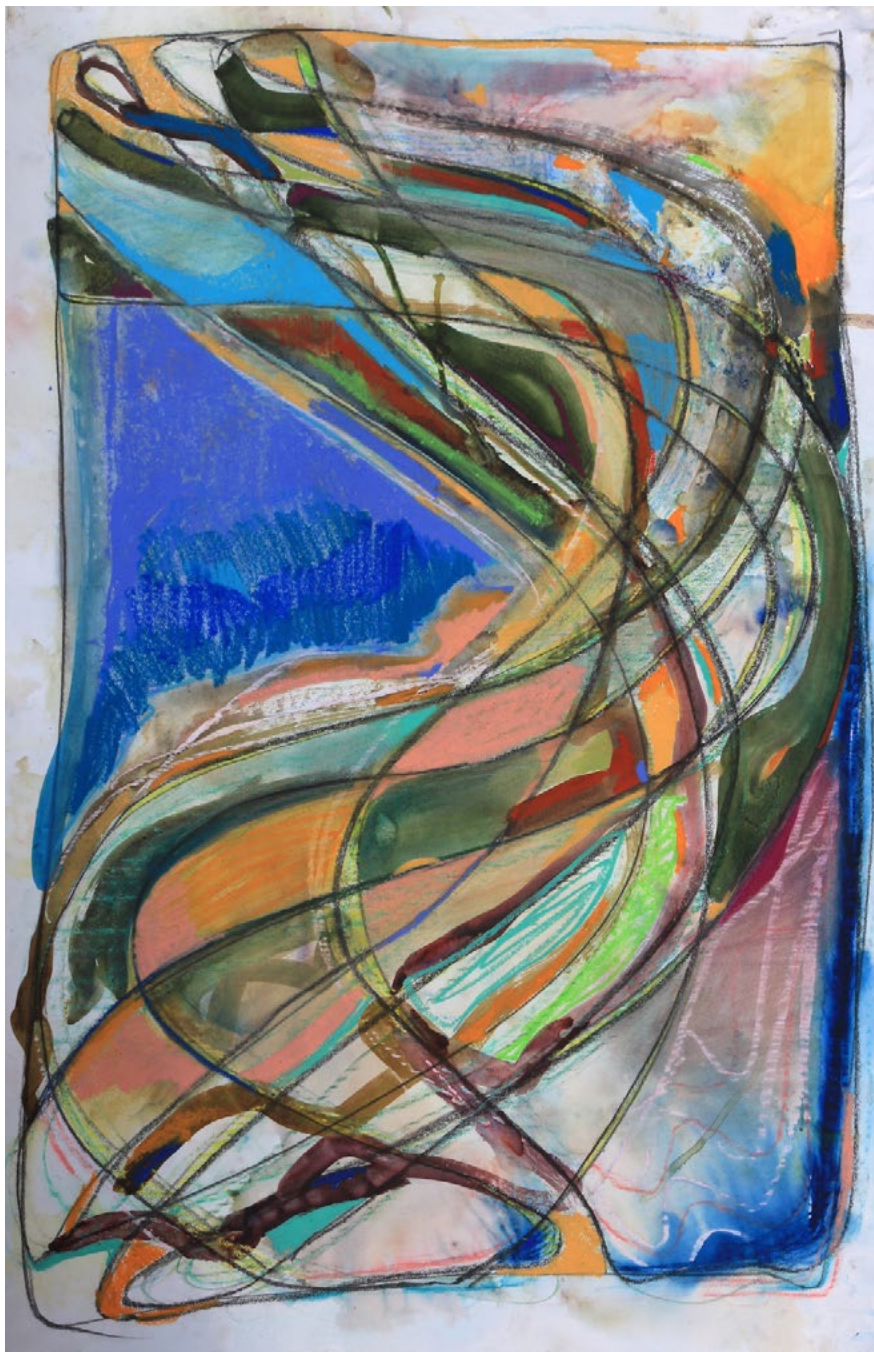
2023. Mud from the Greenbrier River, water-soluble crayons, wax, and colored pencil on paper.

With the Mountain Valley Pipeline plowing through Appalachia, there is much to be nervous about, but we are doing our best to transform these fears and frustrations into collective action. "The Telling Takes Us Home" (a pastoral letter from the Catholic Committee of Appalachia) urges us to become activists by "putting into practice one's faith in God's coming community of creation."

In August, Bethlehem Farm participated in this kind of prayerful action through the Greenbrier River Celebration and Interfaith Vigil. Local ministers, musicians, activists, artists, and neighbors gathered to creatively honor the resilience of our watershed. We praised the Greenbrier River through a rendition of "Morning is Broken" by Bob Carter, who has kayaked the entire Greenbrier River.

While listening to the beautiful song, I painted mud and watercolor on paper wet with river water. The compositions of each piece corresponded with verses from the song. The vigil included beeswax candles, wildflowers, and stories reminding us to persist in pipeline resistance offering gratitude, lamenting, and recommitting ourselves to collective action. I may have trouble trusting the pipeline, but one thing I do believe in is a network of passionate folks rooted in prayer and care for the river.





### **Greenbrier is Flowing**

by Casey Murano

View Casey Murano's full "Greenbrier is Flowing"  
[portfolio here](#).

### **Let the River Keep Flowing 5**

2023. Mud from the Greenbrier River, water-soluble  
crayons, wax, and colored pencil on paper.





**Clouds in summer storm  
They master earth and water  
Elements of old**

by Mary Rita Grady, CSJ

*Photo: Egg Rock, off the coast of Nahant, Massachusetts. Referencing three of the four elements: earth, air, water. (Mary Rita Grady, CSJ)*



When it is gone, cry?  
Why did they not care to plant?  
I gave them a gift

A haiku by Monica Baietti



by Mrs. Monica J. Baietti

*A haiku focuses on nature and aims to evoke a specific season or moment. Haiku's follow a 5-7-5 syllable line count. This haiku is from the perspective of God.*



### **Infinite Lullaby**

by Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC

Rhythmic tides never tire ~  
With far reaching waters  
Enticing us to rest in the beyond  
Calming the cacophony of life.  
Horizons out of sight  
Shores in constant recreation  
Lapping sound of eons of ages  
Speaking to the heart ~ a love song.  
Oceans ~ ripe with life unseen  
Sustaining life for generations  
Transporting your people to  
Destinations known and newly discovered.  
Cleansing waters  
Refreshing playground  
Cooling splendor  
Drawing us into the infinite lullaby  
Of the Love of Life Itself.  
God of the sparkling, unending waters  
Gift us with the wisdom to  
Propel this gift forward  
Lullabying Your Love for those yet to be.



by Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC

### Time Lapse

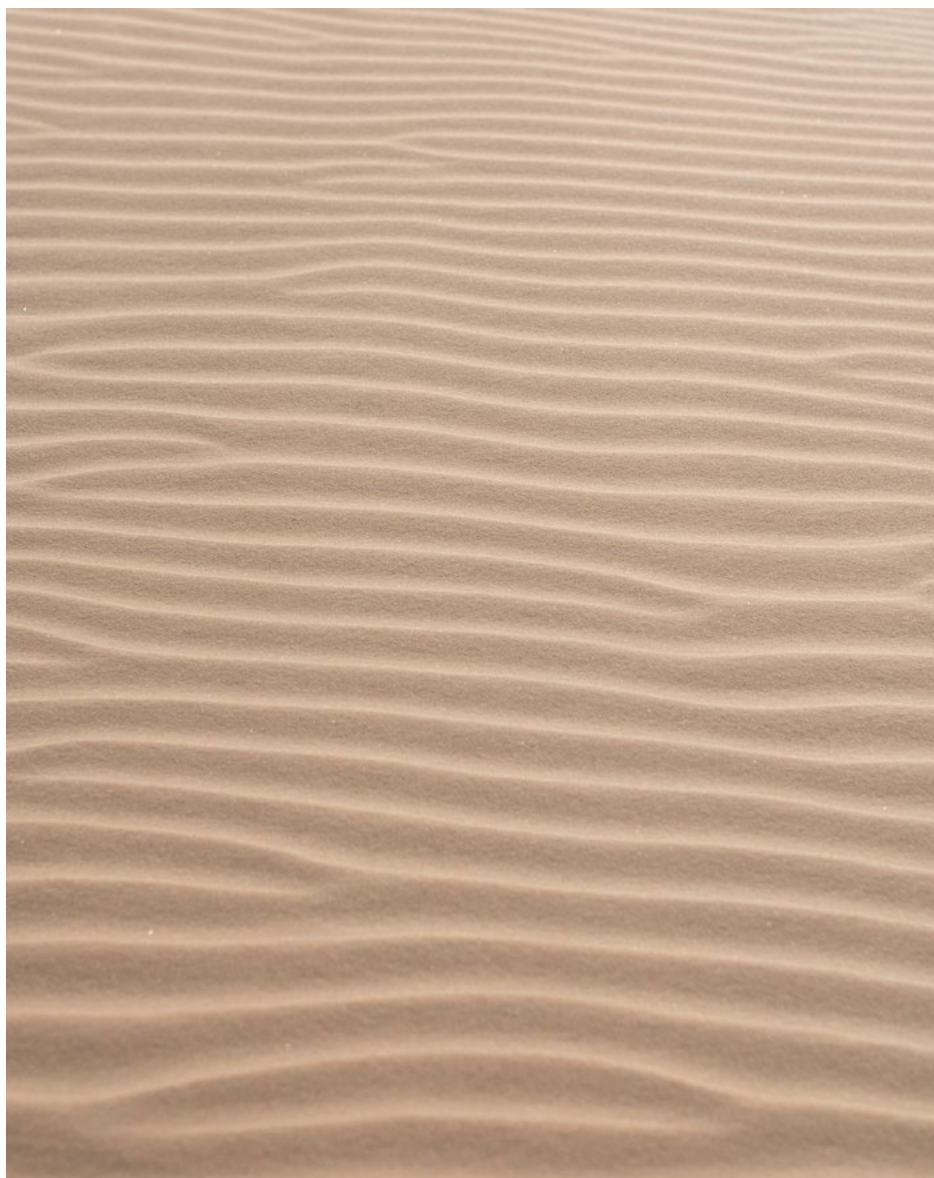
There, over there, look – see!  
 How can I describe the indescribable?  
 When words fall short of meaning  
 leaving me breathless and silent  
 yet yearning to speak  
 what can I do?  
 I've been here before  
 at the crossroads of inspiration  
 and awe ~  
 held captive by profound beauty  
 that defies expression.  
 The brilliance of sunset  
 aflame with colors  
 setting the evening sky ablaze  
 with the glory  
 that sets the world aright  
 with hope beyond the sorrows  
 with promise for tomorrows  
 with inspiration which from life borrows  
 Peace and light.

### Springing Yellow

Surprise!  
 I have returned.  
 Browns, grays, darkness  
 I have thrust aside.  
 Arising from winter's doldrums  
 Spattering the world  
 With my vibrant  
 Springing Yellow.  
 Everywhere you look  
 I shout, "Rejoice ~ be happy."  
 You cannot help notice  
 My presence freely flowing  
 Over manicured estates  
 Sprinting between rocks  
 Decorating forest paths  
 Neatly arranged or happenstance.  
 My given names are  
 Forsythia and Daffodil.  
 Yet, you best know me  
 In the people  
 Springing Yellow around you.

### Winter Chorus

The sounds of Winter White  
 Fill the air ~  
 White diamond sparkles  
 Sprinkle the earth  
 Dazzling the night  
 With a rhythm all its own.  
 Multifaceted magnificence  
 Shimmers its staccato beat  
 Hovering, almost imperceptibly,  
 Before joining the symphonic landscape.  
 Evening's dark drape  
 Illuminates the score  
 Improvising for a chorus  
 Charged with wind and silence.  
 The surround sound  
 Of Winter White  
 Stills the world  
 Gifting it with Peace.



### **Desert Winds**

by Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC

The winds are harsh  
    rising with strength out of the dead silence...  
They whirl and howl fiercely  
    a song my heart knows.  
The winds, they shift the sands  
    again and again, from pattern to pattern  
    hewing changes in the rocks and  
    in the sand itself.  
I hear the desert winds and the winter winds  
    all at once - the WIND is all around me.  
I am blown, tossed, wind-blown, wind-beaten,  
    moved against my will by some persistent  
    unknown forces that leave me no foothold.  
So, God, you who do not speak  
    in the Wind, but in the whisper,  
    what have you to say?  
How long until the winds die down?  
How am I to pray in the wind?  
    by holding on?  
    or by letting go?



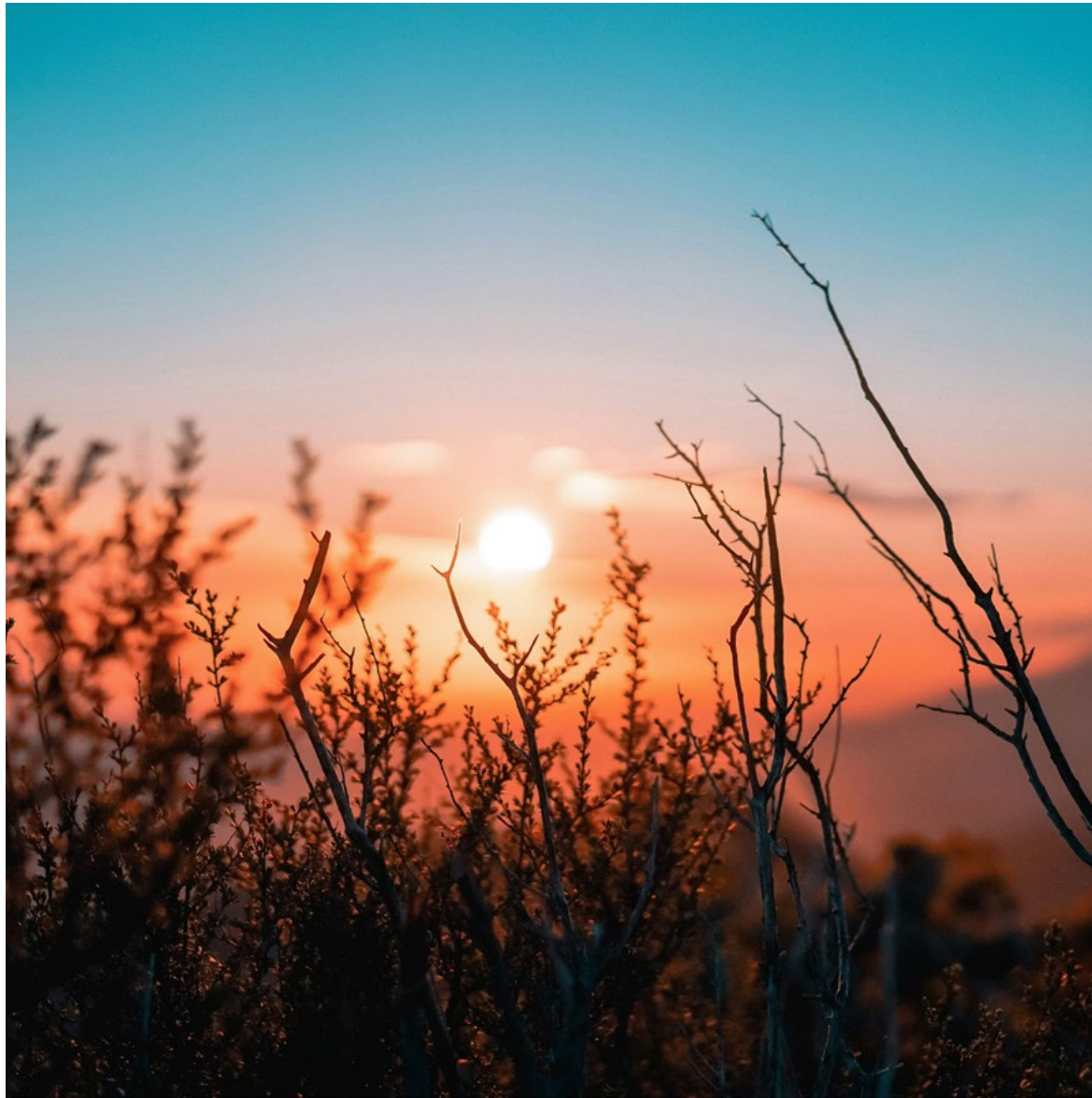
### **Autumnal Awe**

by Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC

Dizzying colors explode in beauty  
 like deep-night fireworks  
 enthralling spectators with excitement  
 borne of some unifying moment  
 that shouts, "hurrah!"  
 Panoramic sensations  
 shutter-snap the memory  
 in time-lapse photography  
 capturing what pen and film,  
 poet and artist struggle to portray,  
 yet still fall short of the  
 elusive splendor of fall.  
 The awe of autumn  
 embeds its spectral wonder  
 into the twirling joy of  
 those who revel in "Ah"

again and again  
 beholding  
 the mystery  
 of life's cycle.





### **Sweet the Sunrise**

by Dr. Georgia Gojmerac-Leiner

Sweet the sunrise, and sweet the sunny day,  
 a day for a walk, a day to reflect—  
 Where would I go to find myself with God?  
 How would I get away from my thoughts?  
 Responsibilities?  
 But would not my thoughts be with me  
 wherever I go?  
 And are not my responsibilities chosen by me?  
 The Lord surrounds me and shows me  
 the beauty of creation where I am;  
 the Lord allows me to see something anew every day,  
 like the three kinds of leaf-shapes of the sassafras tree,  
 a serrated oval, a child's mittens,  
 and a fig leaf of shapes.  
 The Lord allows me to smell the subtle scent  
 of the sassafras bark and of the forest air;  
 the Lord lets me see the contrasts  
 of colors, shapes, and how they  
 interact and interconnect with each other—  
 I am an artist who sees  
 and has no need to paint,  
 only to put my thoughts or hands  
 around the shape of things.



### Our Lady of the Desert Flowers

by Hannah Maldonado Loveland

Our Lady of the desert was, kind and fair,  
 With warm brown skin and shadowy hair  
 The desert she tended, and all creatures there,  
 the cactus, flowers, foxes, and little bears  
 And lo, under the baking sun she found a man in the desert alone,  
 praying and fasting far from home  
 From the yucca flowers she watched him upon his stone,  
 Day after day he prayed, while the hot sun shone  
 When nighttime fell on the seventh day  
 In the darkness Our Lady came, and swept him away  
 High above the desert they flew  
 Over the clay, and mountain view  
 They flew up in the sky and amongst the desert stars  
 They saw the mysteries of the moon and the secrets of mars  
 They traveled across the desert cosmos and even above,  
 The man's prayers turned to thanksgiving, as he poured out his Love  
 He thanked the Creator, and all that God made,  
 He gave thanks, and was not afraid  
 Then the man joined in the great throngs,  
 Who sang with Love in the greatest of songs  
 Then back down to earth they softly came,  
 Our Lady set him on his stone, his heart still aflame  
 With love for all Life, big and small,  
 The people, animals, and plants, the man loved them all  
 So then the man stood, and thanked the Madonna,  
 And gave a deep bow to the desert flora and fauna  
 He understood now that they pointed to God above,  
 Who made all things out of Great Love  
 Then the man started his journey home,  
 With his prayer of Great Love, still deep in his bones

**Our Lady of the Desert Flowers** (2016, Acrylic on Found Wood)  
 by Hannah Maldonado Loveland

*Our Lady of the Desert Flowers is a piece I made for a dear friend experiencing homelessness. Although the original painting was lost when her storage unit was evicted, a copy of this painting is now in her prayer corner in new subsidized apartment. The painting and the poetry speak of Our Ladies' great love and solidarity for all of humankind and creation. This love always points us back to Christ.*





by Francine Janousek PBVM

### Winter Angels

These are not the gentle angels that love to dance  
in the soft leafy branches of the ash tree outside my  
window.

No. These are the angels who dance in the cold of the  
pine tree outside my balcony door—there they dance  
with robins, chickadees and sparrows who brave the  
winter cold and stay all year.

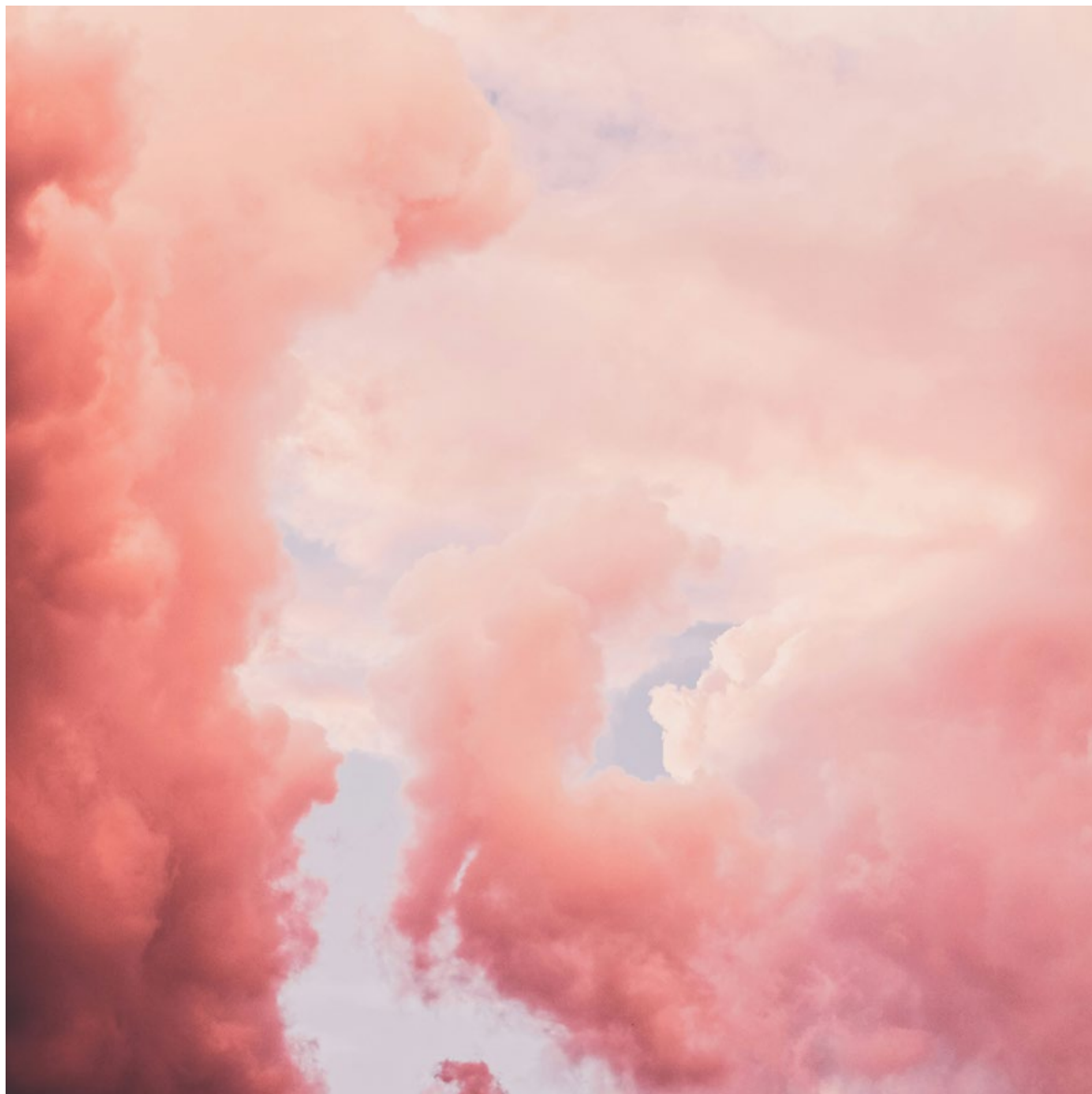
These angels cause the branches of the pine to bend  
and sway to an unheard melody. When snow falls on  
the branches the Winter Angels plan a ball and dance  
the hours away in their white gowns.

How I wish I had the freedom of these hardy ones who  
can play where others shiver and shake as they run  
away from the cold.

*Winter Angels was written on a windy, snowy  
afternoon in Fargo, ND during a Zoom seminar on the  
connection between art and spiritual direction.*

### Silent Melody

Sunlight splashed on the green grass at midday  
and the gold of sunset at evening  
make a beauty that plays a silent melody in my eye  
spilling over into my heart—a heart full  
of joy and gladness.



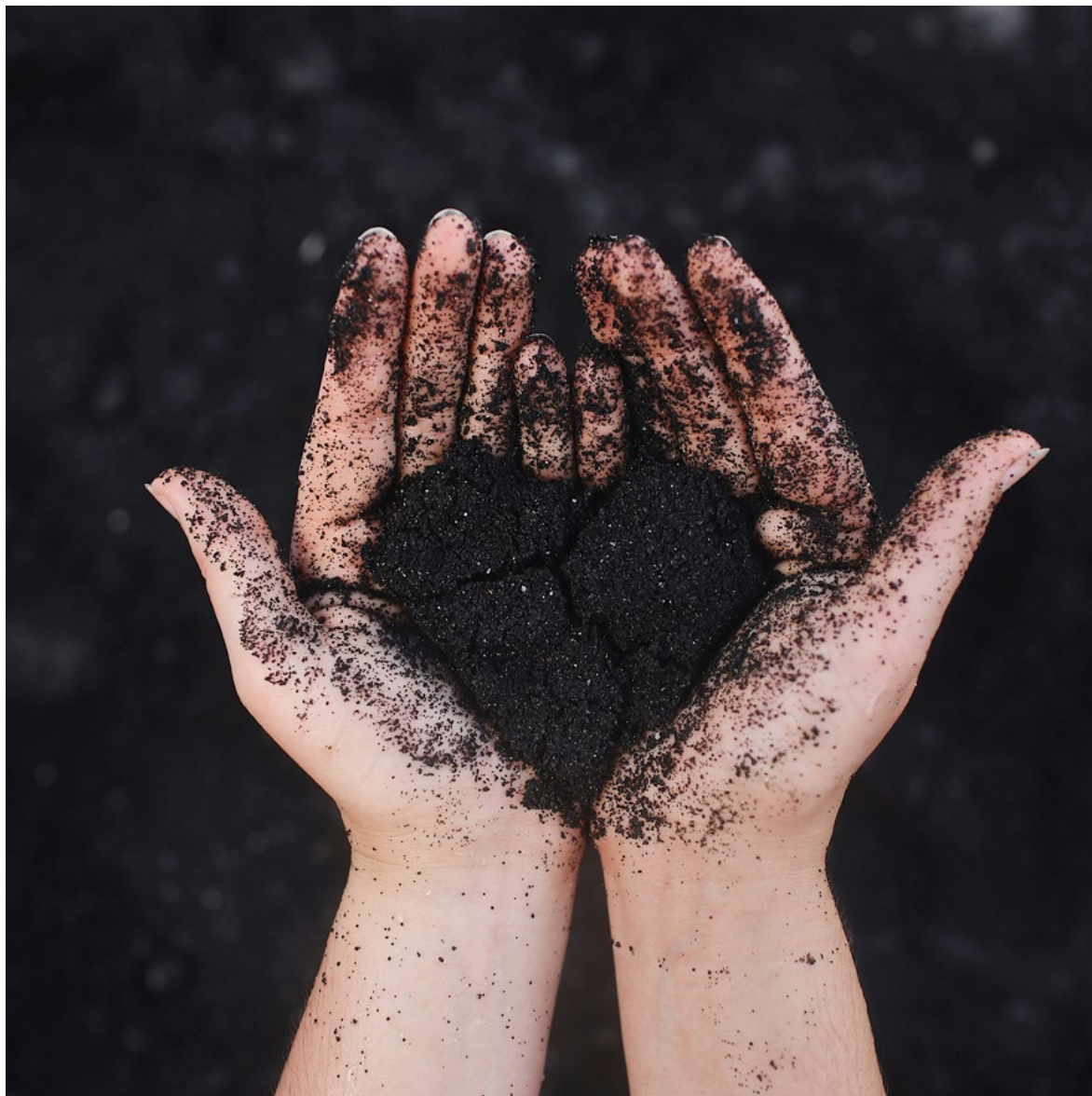
by Jerome Schroeder, Capuchin Franciscan

### **Next of Kin**

who is  
your next of kin  
she asks  
I answer  
when I die  
notify  
the sycamore  
outside my window

### **Air Show**

F 16s  
and biplanes soar  
but  
in the lull  
between  
the roar  
the clouds  
keep on  
performing



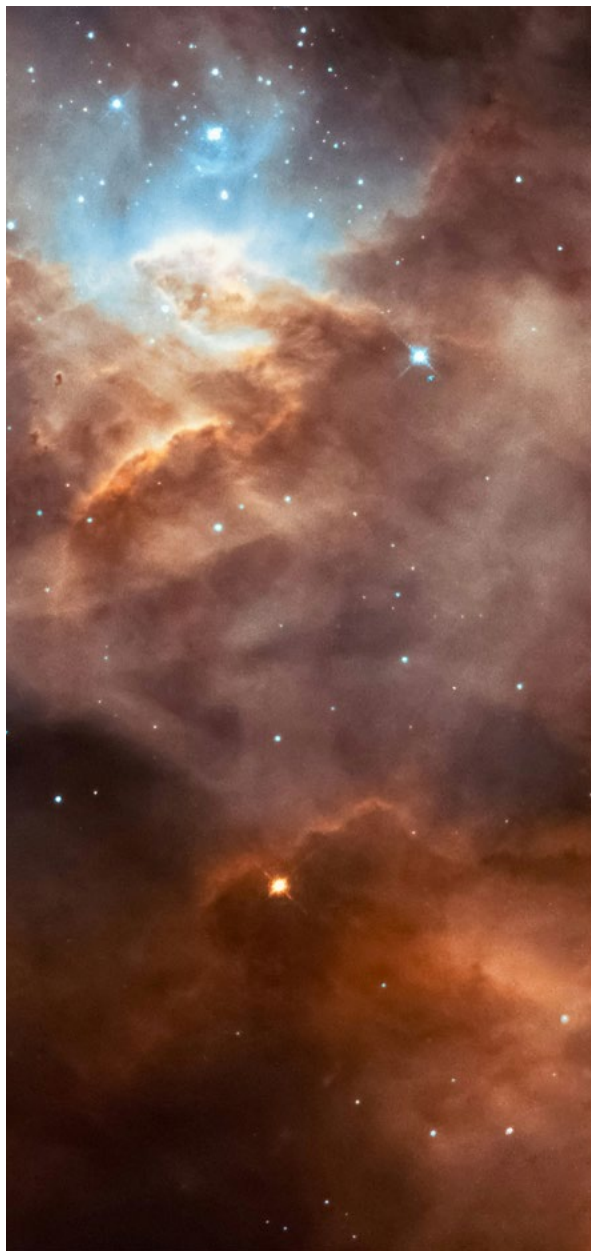
### One by One

by Sister Angela Fellin, R.S.M

one by one the leaves fall  
 reveal the pain... decay  
 emanates with every  
 breath of pain  
 earth shudders  
 fear stomps on the  
 emptiness of the dying  
 yet, we God's ambassadors,  
 caretakers turn away  
 stare at the loss but...  
 today, let us stand up  
 address the loss  
 plant the seeds of HOPE  
 with hearts of St. Francis  
 hold earth in our hands

*The poem is a challenge for all of us to stand up and do something to help our beautiful earth. And, of course, St. Francis is our model. May we hold the earth in our hearts and hands and make a change.*





### **God of Deep Time**

by Fr. Bernard McKenna sm

**God of Deep Time,**  
God of the ever-expanding universe,

God of Light of the Supernovas, and of the Darkness of the Black holes of our Universe,  
God who Resurrected Life after 5 mass extinctions on earth,

God who knew us before we were born, and gave us our name and our place in this Universe,  
You know our predicament at this point in time,

You gave us a mind to discern the signs of the times:  
The disruption in climate, the loss of biodiversity,  
The fragility of our future, the affliction of pandemics and wars,  
The fear of the stranger and the protection of borders to keep out our brothers and sisters.

Darkness is not dark for You, and night is as clear as the day.  
In you we place our trust.  
Show us how to think, and what to do, to provide a future for all life on planet earth.

May we be enlightened by your Eternal Word, through whom all things were created, and who holds  
all things in being.  
Who became flesh and dwelt among us, drank from his mother's breast, ate the foods of the earth, and  
drank from the rains of heaven.  
Who brought healing and a new beginning to all who were afflicted and distressed.  
Who died and rose again, so that in him all may be restored to you: God of Life and Love.

We believe in You, we hope in You, we entrust ourselves, our planet, all life on earth, and our future to you.  
In your Holy name, in your Spirit, and with your Son, Jesus Christ, God-with-us. Amen.



### **green time returns to the mountains**

by Sr. Lou Ella Hickman, OVISS

such is green time  
 everything and all things  
 reflect it  
 o the trees  
 whose new leaves under a new name  
 sprouted sprung into shout  
 fragrance anxious to be born have  
 from ancient sap  
 of such slow slow memories  
 until remembrance startles  
 the innocence eye  
 in this all seeing  
 childhood wonder reflected  
 reflects  
 green  
 green  
 very  
 very  
 green

by Sr. Regina Bechtle, SC-NY

### Linwood: Trees

Grooved, split, forked,  
crusted, pocked with holes  
for creatures to nest, to hide,  
trees

soar,  
spread,  
shed,  
crack,  
break.

Barraged by rain and wind,  
whipped by hail,  
trees

know how  
to stand  
against

fierce and fearsome forces.

Roots twined tight  
past lightning's scorch,  
trees

drink from deep wells.  
enduring,

knowing  
there is  
more  
to come.

### Signs and Wonders

Late January:

a rose-tinged dawn,  
the swell of sky aflame,  
surging into sun.

A frigid morning's poem:

chickadee taking seed  
from my gloved hand.

Evening, an indoor fly

that buzzed my ear.

Past the headlines' roar,

glimpses of grace.

All is not lost.

### Leaving

Through a leafy lattice

clouds of orange flame,  
leap in morning sky.

Flames, a world away,

scorch and sear,  
suck life through dark and day.

Leaves that fall in Gaza, in Lviv,

wear the face of children.

### Re-set

*Joy is not meant to be a crumb.*

– Mary Oliver

Gather berries. Make jam.

Stock shelves with glass jars.

Give them names.

Spring's fresh yellow will fade.

So make your peace with summer sun.

Greet the heat not as door to doldrums

but as summons to slow.

No crumb is joy,

no gift with expiration date.

It waits to be uncorked,

savored,

unleashed,

repotted in fresh soil.

### God So Loved (John 3:16)

Love speaks in creation's first clouds,

lives in many-splendored bodies,

supple or crusted,

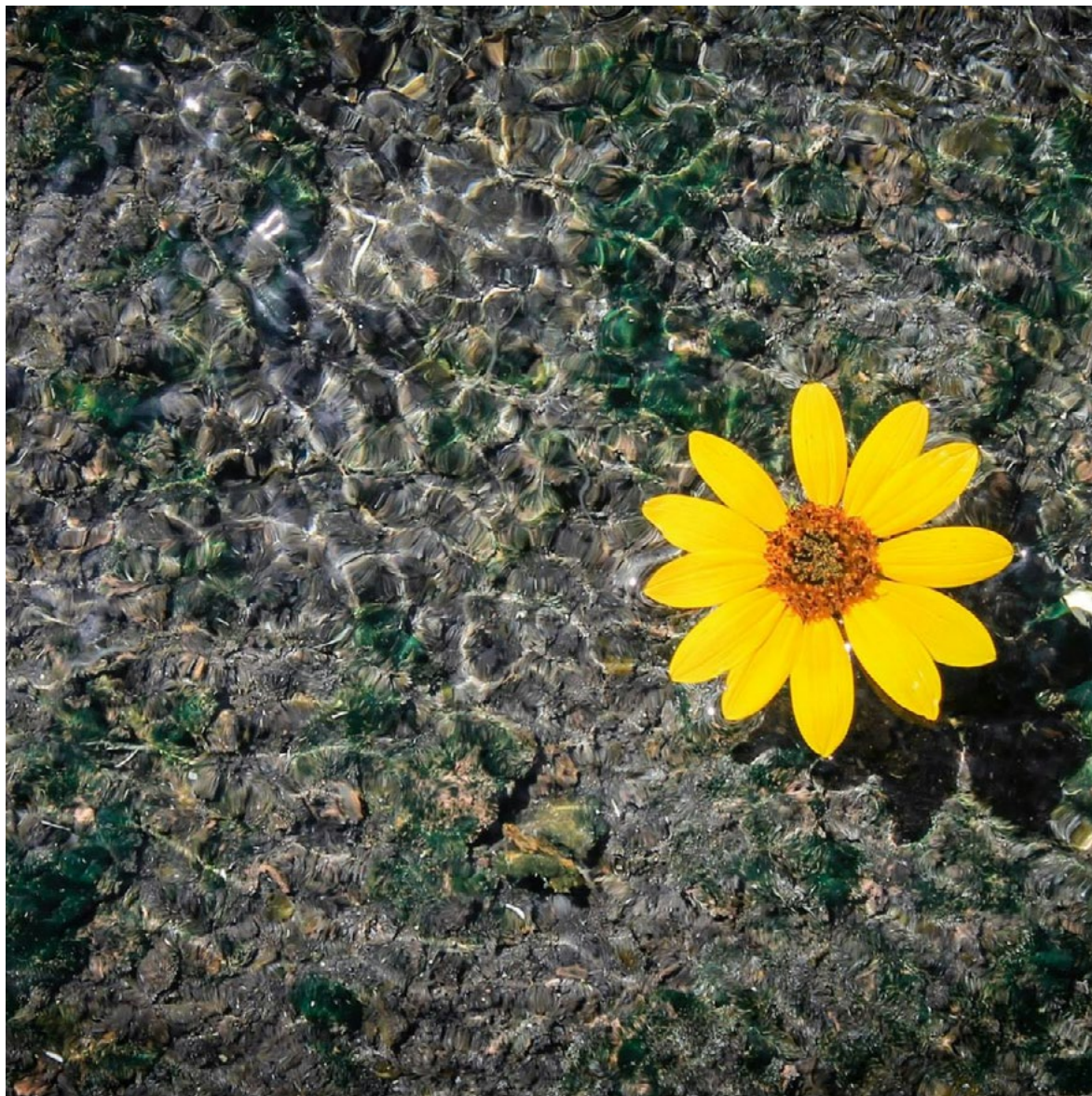
lives in the mind's morass and miracle,

lives loud in hearts –

pulsing mirrors of the furnace

that warms and moves the sun and stars.





### **“Laudato Si”**

by Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF

Trees teach about seasons of life-  
stripped bare in winter,  
new life in spring,  
lushness in summer,  
autumn blaze of color in dying.

Flowers teach trust that seeds buried in dirt and mud  
will burst into beauty.

Creeks teach that journey to the river  
means times of turbulence and times of calm.

Rocks teach strength and endurance,

Sky teaches about storms and rainbows,

Mountains invite us to look up to You  
in the heavens,

Grass invites us to look down to You in Earth.

Praised be You, Creator God,

“Laudato Si”





### **Plea of Eternity, Laudato Si'**

by Mrs. Madhu Grace Toppo

Blessed indeed with a common home  
 A prized possession to which we belong.  
 A gift to be cherished and protect,  
 My indifference caused a great threat.  
 White and humble air most pure,  
 Blew in my nostrils gave life for sure.  
 Brimming and teeming with newfound life,  
 To you and me was a great delight!  
 My ingratitude, grieved your heart  
 Caused you great trouble and pain.  
 Your blameless gift I could not keep  
 And brought the innocence to vain  
 Blinded and lost I paid what cost  
 For a life of comfort and luxury.  
 Border of necessity long back crossed  
 Selfish and mean sought popularity.  
 Vulnerable, marginalized the poor at stake.  
 Flood drought and disaster, all we could make  
 Not yet ended, but more to come  
 To His humble plea, if we don't return.  
 Integral ecology the need of time,  
 New way of dwelling, more sublime.  
 Ecological citizenship through change in lifestyle,  
 A new covenant between humanity and natural life.  
 Ecological spirituality needs be embraced,  
 With Divine presence the nature permeates.  
 Virtues of praise, gratitude and humility,  
 Renders our common home by work and sobriety.  
 Let Spirit Divine Reign!  
 On our common home!





## **The Gospel of Creation**

by Kathleen Collins

Go, study the Gospel of Creation  
Written in the forests of the world  
Enter as you would a cathedral  
Trees arching overhead  
Breathe deep the incense of the pine  
Its fragrance will calm you  
Ask the four winds to bless you  
The birds to teach your heart to sing  
Let each bud, each flower impart its wisdom  
Approach each bush as if it were burning  
Touch each leaf as if it were a holy thing: it is  
In the scriptorium of Nature  
It is written in leaf and feather and fern:  
Birth, death, and resurrection  
Are like seasons changing  
Not to be feared  
Accept them as they come  
And bless them  
As they have always blessed you

2023





## **A Prayer of Transformation**

by Julie A. Ferraro

May we see like St. Francis...  
who recognized God's loving hand in the beauty of creation and all human beings.

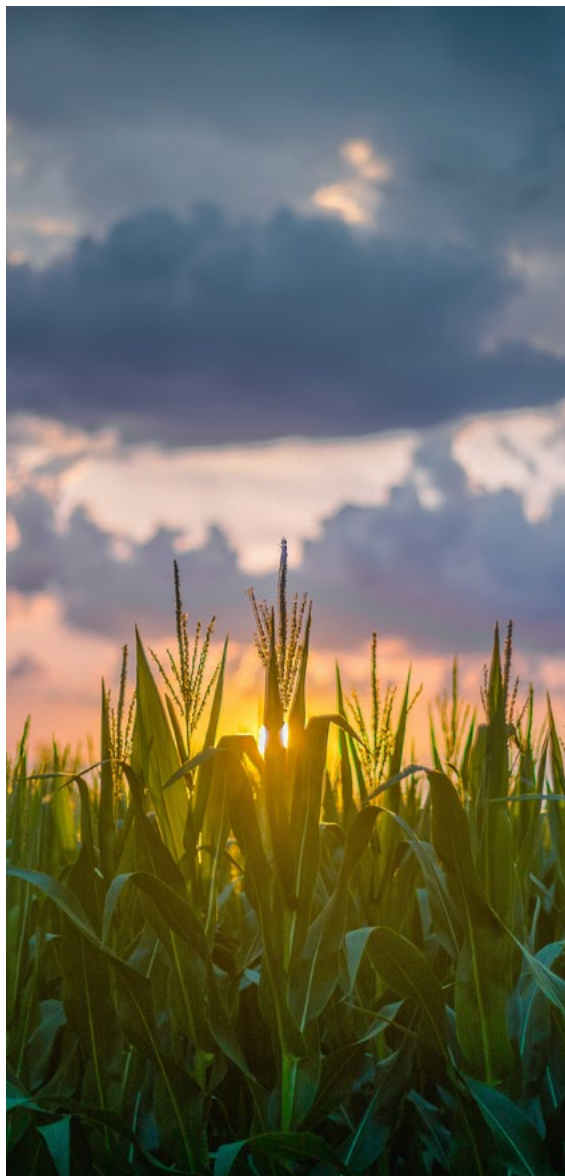
May we speak like St. Francis...  
who encouraged all those he met to love as Jesus loves, to treat creation with respect and human beings as equals, without concern for status, wealth, personal beliefs or lifestyle.

May we act like St. Francis...  
who tended the lepers and considered them friends, spoke truth to the mighty, and offered a way of peace in a time of turmoil and division.

May we walk like St. Francis...  
who trod lightly on the earth and only used what he needed.

May we love like St. Francis...  
who climbed the steep hill from the valley to Assisi each day, without concern for his own physical discomfort, to beg food for those who had none so they might be comforted.

May we live like St. Francis...  
who took the words and actions of Jesus to heart, embodied them, and spent every ounce of his energy in the service of others, that God's unconditional love be known to all.



**New Day**  
by Kenan Bresnan

It is a new day.  
The stars have finished shining till tonight.  
Sister Sun is taking over for brother moon.  
My wife is still sleeping with a smile on her face.  
Our six grandchildren are hopefully letting our children and their spouses' sleep.  
A freshness in the air,  
The glory of creation spreads across the bright blue sky,  
The dew on the grass,  
The flowers in pots on the front porch seem to be smiling as they come to life on the new day.  
The gentle wind of the spirit,  
The acres of corn between here and there are waiting to feed the world,  
The stranger walking by who could be Jesus or one of his buddies.  
All created by you, all different.  
All are good.  
Thank you for what you have created.







## An Open Clearing

by Kim Tarman

O God of Vast Spaces,

May I be in heart, mind and soul that open clearing  
where any and all possibilities  
may enter, stay or pass through uninterrupted  
any hour of the day or night.

Whether they be clothed in terror or joy,  
may I welcome them with a heart receptive,  
invite them to stay with a mind thoughtful,  
and bid them farewell with a soul unclinging.

May I be that open clearing  
where both life and death can lie down together  
and rest through the night,  
where silence can sing her song unmuted, and  
where You can be seen dancing in every moment.

May I be that open clearing  
where courage gives winged flight  
to imprisoned dreams of liberation,  
where forgiveness bathes  
the scarred terrain of the soul  
with refreshment,  
where transformation takes root  
in the sweet soil of expectancy,  
spreading its seed with jubilant thanksgiving  
across the wild and waiting landscape,  
blossoming into grace.

May I be that open clearing  
where compassion and hope, justice and  
understanding  
can gently land,  
where echoes of peace upon the earth  
ring gloriously across the heavens,  
where You breathe harmony and wholeness  
into all of Creation,  
a hallowed benediction  
upon all.

May I be that open clearing  
where You can do Your very best work.

Amen.



## Incarnation

by Kim Tarman

**“The true light, which enlightened everyone, was coming into the world.” John 1:9**

It could not help but be itself,  
this light that was by its very nature  
restless, yearning, seeking out empty spaces  
in which to spread its radiance,  
bursting through the cracks and crevices  
of Creation’s groaning.

But it was stifled over time  
by the infectious darkness of a fractured world,  
its essence diminished,  
its beacons pulse weakened.

Then through an infinitesimal pinhole of time,  
the Divine “yes” and a young girl’s “yes” became one,  
humanity and divinity kissed in exultation,  
and the entire cosmos shifted in humble homage,  
releasing bold, brilliant, resplendent Light –  
renewed, restored, rekindled – alive!

The heavens were splashed with stars, pulsating with joy.

Light radiated in the womb of Mary,  
ablaze with holy promise and possibility,  
with the Son of The Most High.

And so it was - and is - with Emmanuel,  
God with us, the true Light within us.

God could not help but be God.  
That’s who God is –  
the Light that cannot be contained.

## Care of Creation Commitment Prayer

by Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant

*Adapted from the Message of Pope Francis for the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, May 25, 2023. Prayer was used in the 2023 Feast of St. Francis program.*

**ALL:** “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (Amos 5:24)

**Leader:** Creator God, you want justice to flow forth wherever it is needed. You want us to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to your laws and enable life to flourish.

**All:** For only then can justice and peace flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures.

**Leader:** Immersed in your creation, we also sense the maternal heartbeat of the earth. In order to grow as people, we need to harmonize our own rhythms of life with those of creation, which gives us life.

**All:** Creator God, help us dwell on your heartbeat, the heartbeat of all humanity, and the heartbeat of creation. Today they do not beat in harmony; they are not harmonized in justice and peace. Too many of our brothers and sisters are prevented from drinking from that mighty river.

**Leader:** You call us to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation.

**All:** The effects of this war can be seen in the many rivers that are drying up. Consumerist greed, fueled by selfish hearts, is disrupting the planet’s water cycle. The unrestrained burning of fossil fuels and the destruction of forests are pushing temperatures higher and leading to massive droughts. Alarming water shortages increasingly affect both small rural

communities and large cities. Predatory industries are depleting and polluting our freshwater sources through extreme practices such as fracking for oil and gas extraction, unchecked mega mining projects, and intensive animal farming. “Sister Water”, in the words of Saint Francis of Assisi, is pillaged and turned into “a commodity subject to the laws of the market”.

**Leader:** We can, and we must prevent the worst from happening by coming together like so many streams, brooks, and rivulets, merging finally in a mighty river to irrigate the life of our marvelous planet and our human family for generations to come.

**All:**

- **We commit** to join hands and *take bold* steps to “Let Justice and Peace Flow” throughout our world, and to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life.
- **We commit** to join the mighty river by transforming our *hearts* so as to renew our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from you, our Creator.
- **We commit** to add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our *lifestyles* and repenting of our “ecological sins”.
- **We commit** to adopt lifestyles marked by *less waste* and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable.

- **We commit** to cooperate in your ongoing creation through *positive choices*: using resources with moderation and a joyful sobriety and making greater use of available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible.
- **We commit** to transform the *public policies* that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow so that the mighty river may continue flowing.
- **We commit** to *raise our voices* to halt this *injustice* towards the poor and towards our children, who will bear the worst effects of climate change.

**Leader:** As followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, we will live, work, and pray that our common home will teem with life once again.

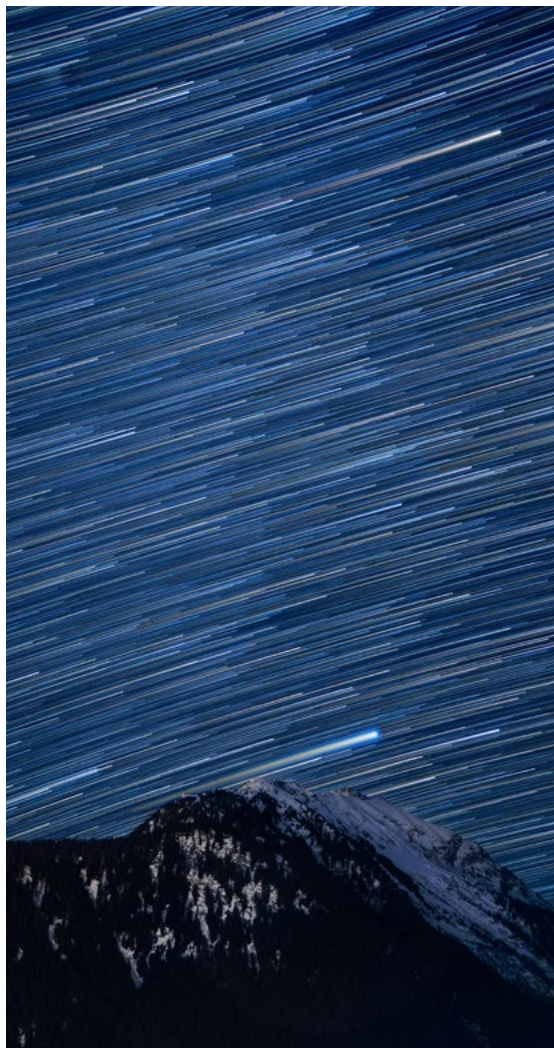
**All:** May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to “renew the face of the earth”.

**Leader:** Go in peace, serving Christ and loving God’s creation!

**All:** We go in peace, serving Christ and tending God’s creation!

**Leader:** You are invited to share Christ’s peace with one another as you leave.





## **A Prayer in Communion with Creation**

by Teresa Berger, Professor em. of Liturgical Studies, Yale

Creator God, mystery of love that sustains the universe:

In the beginning, you called forth all that is.

To this day, you accompany your creation on its journey through time.

All you have created rightly gives you praise.

We join our voices with the sublime choir of creation that ceaselessly sings your praise.

With all that exists, we worship you, the giver of life, and fountain of all flourishing.

We confess, before you and all creation, that we have not always mirrored your care for your world.

We lament the wounds we have inflicted on the earth community and commit ourselves to changing our ways.

Send out your Spirit, Creator God, and renew the face of your earth.

Renew in us deep love and care for creation,

so that we may join with its countless voices in singing your praise.

Amen.



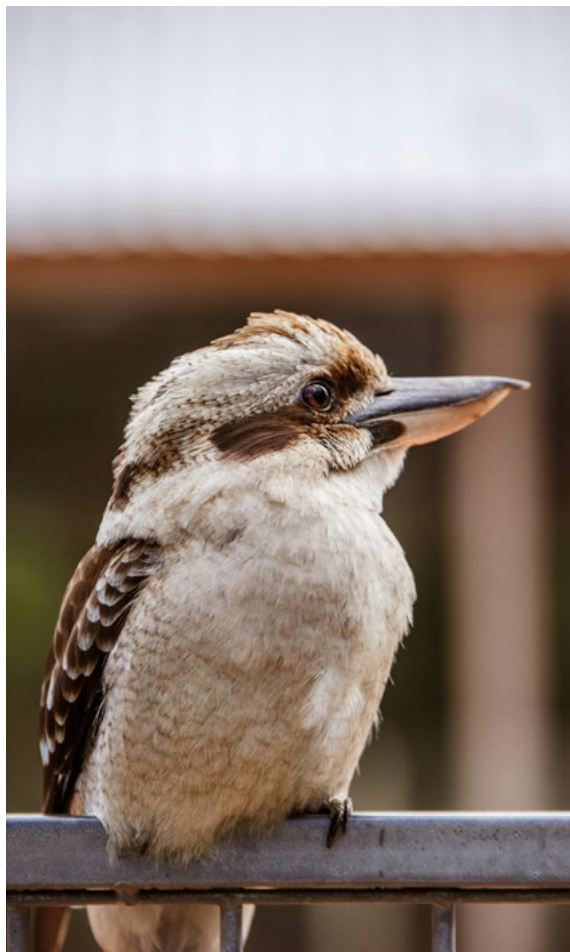
### **What Today, Lord?**

by Kenan Bresnan

The earth that you lent us in Genesis is a wonderful home.  
However,  
I find the tilling and tending to be a bit tough.

What today, Lord?  
The dawn is breaking.  
What would you have me do?  
How can I show reverence for mother earth?  
We have talked of this many times.  
I should ask what would you have me do today?  
What is it that we have talked about  
That will best use  
My skills and temperament?  
Will it be with my hands or my head  
To do your work not mine?  
Here on earth, here in my town.  
I pray that today I can bring the plight of our planet, our world, to others.  
Maybe I should pray that  
Once I have an idea of what I will do today,  
You will give me the strength to do it.  
I pray that I have the dedication  
To stay on the task till it is finished.

I pray that I will remember to say  
a few prayers along the way,  
reminding me it is your world that we care for.  
And let me add my thank you to this prayer,  
A thank you for creating me so  
I can do this work.



## A Prayer for the Season of Creation

by James F. Puglisi, sa

Franciscan Friars of the Atonement – Graymoor

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?” (Job 38:4)

O Eternal Artist,  
who speaks from the whirlwind  
and sings in the silence of stars,  
we come barefoot upon this sacred earth,  
awed by the mystery that surrounds us.

You, O God,  
who gave the sea its boundary  
and taught the morning where to dawn,  
invite us not to master creation  
but to marvel with it.

Like Job, we place our hands over our mouths,  
humbled by the wildness of wombats and wombs,  
by the wisdom of wind and the weight of water.  
We do not understand, but we adore.

With Brother Francis,  
we praise you through Sister Moon and Brother Fire,  
through the leaping kangaroo and the laughing  
kookaburra,  
through every creature that bears your fingerprint  
and breathes your breath.

With Sister Clare,  
we gaze into the mirror of creation  
and see your light refracted in dew and dust,  
in the fragile beauty of things passing  
and the eternal now of your presence.

And with Teilhard,  
we dare to believe that the cosmos is ablaze with  
Christ,  
that every atom is drawn toward your Omega,  
and that love is the gravity  
pulling all things into communion.

Teach us to walk gently,  
to live simply,  
to listen deeply—  
until our lives become a canticle,  
and our hearts a sanctuary  
for all that you have made.

Amen.



## A Trinitarian Prayer for the Season of Creation (ENGLISH – SPANISH version)

by James F. Puglisi, sa

Franciscan Friars of the Atonement – Graymoor

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?” (Job 38:4)

### Leader / Guía:

O God beyond all naming,  
You who spoke from the whirlwind and whispered in  
the silence of stars,  
we gather in awe before the mystery of your creating  
love.

*Oh Dios más allá de todo nombre,  
Tú que hablaste desde el torbellino y susurraste en el  
silencio de las estrellas,  
nos reunimos con asombro ante el misterio de tu amor  
creador.*

### All / Todos:

Glory to You, Source of all life,  
Artist of oceans, sculptor of soil,  
breath of the wombat and fire of the sun.

*Gloria a Ti, Fuente de toda vida,  
Artista de los océanos, escultor de la tierra,  
aliento del wombat y fuego del sol.*

### Leader / Guía:

Eternal Father,  
You laid the foundations of the earth  
and traced the courses of the constellations.  
You delight in the wildness of the emu and the stillness  
of the desert night.

*Padre eterno,  
Tú pusiste los cimientos de la tierra  
y trazaste el curso de las constelaciones.  
Te deleitas en la libertad del emú y en la quietud de la  
noche del desierto.*

### All / Todos:

Teach us to walk gently upon your handiwork,  
to see the world not as possession,  
but as gift and kin.

*Enséñanos a caminar con ternura sobre tu obra,  
a ver el mundo no como posesión,  
sino como don y pariente.*

### Leader / Guía:

Jesus Christ, Word made flesh,  
through whom all things were made—  
You walked among lilies and lepers,  
praised the birds of the air,  
and rose with wounds that still bear the weight of  
creation.

*Jesucristo, Palabra hecha carne,  
por quien todo fue creado—  
Caminaste entre lirios y leprosos,  
alabaste a las aves del cielo,  
y resucitaste con heridas que aún llevan el peso de la  
creación.*

### All / Todos:

Unite us with all creatures in your Paschal mystery.  
Let our lives become a canticle of mercy and praise.

*Únenos con todas las criaturas en tu misterio pascual.  
Haz de nuestras vidas un cántico de misericordia y  
alabanza.*

### Leader / Guía:

Holy Spirit, breath of the living God,  
You hovered over the waters at the dawn of time  
and dance still in the gum trees and the coral reefs.

You stirred the heart of Clare in her cloister  
and set Francis ablaze with love for Brother Sun.

*Espíritu Santo, aliento del Dios viviente,  
Tú aleteaste sobre las aguas al amanecer del tiempo  
y aún danzas en los eucaliptos y los arrecifes de coral.  
Moviste el corazón de Clara en su claustro  
y encendiste a Francisco con amor por el hermano Sol.*

### All / Todos:

Come, renew the face of the earth.  
Kindle in us the fire of communion.

*Ven, renueva la faz de la tierra.  
Enciende en nosotros el fuego de la comunión.*

### Leader / Guía:

With Teilhard, we believe:  
the world is charged with your presence,  
and all creation groans toward your glory.

*Con Teilhard creemos:  
el mundo está lleno de tu presencia,  
y toda la creación gime hacia tu gloria.*

### All / Todos:

Draw us into your divine embrace,  
O Trinity of Love—  
that we may live as stewards of your mystery,  
and servants of your joy.

*Atráenos a tu abrazo divino,  
oh Trinidad de Amor—  
para que vivamos como guardianes de tu misterio  
y servidores de tu alegría.*

Amen / Amén.

Also available as English, Spanish, and Italian version.



## Intercessory Prayer — Seeds of Peace and Hope

by Daniella Flanagan, CHW Executive Director and Founder New Liberty Road Community Development Corporation

**Leader:** Creator God, in this Season of Creation, we lift our prayers like seeds into the wind.

**Response (All):** Let peace and hope take root.

1. **For frontline communities facing environmental injustice**, especially children and elders exposed to toxins, heat, and flood—

**Response:** *Let peace and hope take root.*

2. **For farmers, fishers, and food growers**, who struggle with the impact of drought, pollution, and disrupted seasons—

**Response:** *Let peace and hope take root.*

3. **For leaders and lawmakers**, that they may listen to creation and act with courage to protect what sustains us—

**Response:** *Let peace and hope take root.*

4. **For the Church**, that she may be a beacon of ecological conversion and stand with the Earth and the poor—

**Response:** *Let peace and hope take root.*

5. **For all of us**, that we may become sowers of peace, defenders of creation, and stewards of the sacred Earth—

**Response:** *Let peace and hope take root.*

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, move in us like wind through the trees.

Let our prayers become action.  
Let our care become courage.  
Let our lives become *Laudato Si'*.  
Amen.



by Sister Kathleen Grace, OSF; Dubuque, IA

### Earth: Love Me

I love you  
and the tears flow  
in gratitude  
to water the fields  
which grow the grain  
which feed you  
my people.

I hurt  
and the tears  
are carried by the wind  
to cleanse  
but sometimes destroy  
because you  
did not listen  
to my needs.

I breathe  
the air  
to give you life  
to cool you  
to carry the seeds  
of new life;

but I am heavy now  
with particles  
I do not wish  
to carry;  
free me.

with passion  
I share energy,  
fire,  
to warm you  
to transform  
to feed you  
to light the way.

I run wild  
sometimes;  
trying to escape  
the confines:  
the hurt  
you have caused  
as you cut  
and burn  
and build where I want  
to be free.

hold me  
in the embrace  
of your care  
of your understanding  
and cooperation.  
I am your mother  
love me.

08/25/2023

### The Journey

**Where does the journey take us? as we walk with Francis and Clare toward Communion**

**Francis knew**  
he was a friar minor  
a speck in the universe

**Francis knew**  
that because he was  
a speck  
because he didn't insist  
on his solitary importance  
on who he was  
and what he had  
he was part of the great  
whole  
the whole earth  
the whole universe

and that **God loved**,  
continued to create  
and enliven  
it all.

**Francis knew**  
that he was connected:  
in possessing nothing  
he possessed it all  
**and so Francis**  
lived in harmony  
with all creation,  
as brother and sister  
and God  
as the divine instigator.

**We are invited to know**  
that we, too,  
are a speck in the  
universe

**We are invited to know**  
that we are a part  
of the great whole

**We are invited to know**  
that as a member  
of this communion  
God loves us  
and continues to create  
and transform our lives,  
one with the earth,  
into God's life

**We know and believe**  
we are called to  
live in harmony  
with all creation  
as brother and sister

**And so** we depend,  
we connect,  
with the universe  
with the earth  
with each other

**we are not alone**  
we were never alone  
God is always with us.

10/04/2023





by Sister Kathleen Grace, OSF; Dubuque, IA

### New Parable of the Virgins

A rewrite of the parable of the ten virgins (Mt 25:1-13)

The inhabitants of the earth are like ten women who live on this earth and have hope for the future. Five of them are foolish and five are wise.

The foolish ones buy all the latest conveniences,  
they consume and discard  
they applaud the use of fossil fuels  
they drive instead of walk  
trash is not a problem and  
plastic is preferred.

The wise use only what they need  
they consume less and recycle more  
they invest in alternative energy  
they join communities of like minded people  
who speak with others of the new reality  
and way of living.

In the near future, there will be a cry,  
"Behold, the tipping point is here!"  
Then all the women and men will rise up.  
The foolish will say,  
"Let us begin now, we will listen"  
But it will be too late  
There will not be enough time.

The door to the future will be locked and  
We will cry,  
"Lord, Lord, open the door for us!"  
But he will say in reply,  
"Amen, I say to you, the time has passed."

Moral: Do now what needs to be done now  
for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### A Prayer Over Our Feedlot

*in honor of my mother, Virginia Grace, who every night threw table scraps "to the birds" and any other living thing passing through the yard looking for a midnight snack*

**"Nightly we dump our refuse in a big pile  
behind our motherhouse."**

It's become a feedlot  
our table scraps  
joined together to feed  
the community of animals:  
serving a feast  
slightly used, unneeded,  
given to share  
our abundance  
with all who pass by.

We grew up that way  
sharing our left overs  
with the animals we raised  
and the ones that just showed up  
lucky to have found us.

Our abundance nourishes us  
and the neighborhood  
drawing skunk and possum,  
turkey and bear,  
coon and rat (probably)  
except the later do not show  
their face  
to us skittish creatures.

God, you love us  
and have given us so much to share.  
Help us continue your great act of  
goodness and generosity,  
now and forever, Amen.

05/25/2025



## **Prayer to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, An Ecological Saint**

by Dr. Georgia Gojmerac-Leiner

Dearest Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,  
life was not gentle with you, but you were  
gentle with others.

Help us to praise God in our afflictions,  
which lead to a character like yours.

Life was not kind to you, when as a child  
you lost your family to smallpox  
and your face was left scarred  
by the disease, and you were left  
nearly blind; yet you forged on,  
walking by faith not by sight--

inspire us to be led by faith.  
The depth of your devotion to Jesus  
made you holy, help us to be holy.

Known as the Lily of the Mohawks  
for your virtues, piety and purity,  
we are heartened by you.

Known as the Child of Nature,  
we are encouraged by you. Stir in us a desire  
to revel in the breadth, beauty and bounty  
of the natural world, to love and  
to cherish, to tend and to care for,  
God's gift to us, the whole creation.

Saint Kateri, pray for us.





## A Prayer for Our Earth

by Paul O'Neil

*Inspired by and adapted from the Pope Francis prayer of the same name and performed by members of the Exodus, a Christian Contemporary Choir.*

[Click here](#) to play video in YouTube

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters harming no one.

Oh God of the poor help us rescue the abandoned and forsaken on this earth so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us everyday.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.



## Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* — in Spoken Word

by Doug DeMeo

*During final lymphoma treatments and recovery in late summer, 2017, I re-read Laudato Si' and had ample time to convert it into a five minute spoken word piece, attempting to distill and summarize the encyclical's central features. [Click here](#) to watch video version.*

Have you ever wondered the social and ecological meaning of our birthright—yours, mine, ours—nothing less than the intentions of our Creator? as humans, as creatures our common creation is designed in the heavens, formed in the seas, perfected on the Earth we are a shared chunk of clay and yet we like to view our bodies in isolation as if the sculpting tools of our Maker have been locked away stowed in the shed replaced, by devices of our own making nation status, fitness the looks of our person, expectations of the tongue demands of the group

Still, in the spirit of love and acceptance, all shall be well— with gratitude and the possibility of all things: honeybees and phones, streams and tic toc returned to the owner of the shed given to the steward who claims, at long last the abiding tools of creation

And reclaim these tools we must for in the words of Pope Francis, the world, our home, *is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.*

What is happening to our common home?

'Franken' storms that we have made fetid water and waste dysentery and cholera more of the poor, suffering, needlessly as our developed world throws away mountains of plastics and electronics—shipped to the shores of the far, far, unseen locals, undesiring meanwhile

industrial nitrogen, run-off from farming plains to rivers and oxygen-choked oceans

acidify, the colors and creatures of the sea— coral bleaching, and the flattening of the rainforest thousands of species—gone—each year forever lost

do you feel the pain... yet? like when you suddenly lose your mother or father to a stroke, or cancer this burning hole in your chest

if we do not feel the unbearable, *the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor* What do we care? How do we heed? Is anywhere free? such irretrievable beauty—our children never to see tragedy

But really, despite the many layers of darkness and denial— *hiding our inner deserts* we can awaken to the simple truth, now that like the *soil, water, and mountains* each of us is a *caress of God* experienced in the connections we make with all creation bonding to every rock and squirrel and broken-hearted soul, mired in such impenetrable darkness—

We say: Let there be light! a candle in the bleak ways of institutionalized pollution, mindless buying, personal branding totality of lies, obscurities our enemies, within fight to disallow our bodies and minds the intimate touch of our dignity marvel of all things organic and inorganic kisses, enduring strengthen, a new spirit

first, by seeing clearly then asking, what's the meaning of quality of life? how do we define progress, and the purpose of the economy?

thus, *lines of approach and action*, the second to last chapter of *Laudato Si* but could it be, the

most important? bringing hope by highlighting collaborative agreements in the local and international communities—remember the miracle stories? how we eliminated ozone-depleting substances from the store shelves the Montreal Protocol, reversed the gaping hole in the sky same too with binding controls on hazardous wastes and trade in endangered species

much more can be done, my friends for climate sanity forests and biodiversity the purification and distribution of water this is the economy and politics the Church demands solving real problems the scariest-for-our-children-and-grandchildren problems we've done it in the past we can assuredly do it now by letting go of self-reliance, money, and success to embrace what really matters what Pope Francis calls, ecological conversion

And so we pray- Our Lady, our Mother of the Cosmos Saint Francis of Assisi all friends of the earth: pray that we may live in the spirit of the song

*This land is your land, this land is my land from the California to the New York Island from the Redwood Forest, to the gulf stream waters this land was made for you and me\**

\*lyrics to *This Land Is Your Land* by Woodie Guthrie

## Prayer for our Harmony with Mary, Mother of all Creation

by Leanne Jablonski FMI, Director, [Marianist Environmental Education Center](#)

**Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished... Two wings of the great eagles were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and a half a time... And the earth came to the help of the woman.** (Rev 12:6, 14, 16)

(Inspired by Rev 12:6, 14, 16; 1/23/06 & 7/18)

Mary, Mother of all creation  
We, your family,  
Desire to be your living presence anew

Form us as your rain  
Quenching parched souls with hope  
Form us as your fire

Illuminating indifferent hearts with faith

Form us as your wind  
Refreshing dusty minds with wisdom

Form us as your soil  
Embracing all with compassion

In all these ways of life  
Form us, so that

Your seeds of justice sown deep within us will flourish  
Bearing abundant fruit  
Of peace and integrity

Joined together with all creation  
We will once again sing in harmony

Commentary –

*This prayer arose out of my 30 — day retreat experience, where I rediscovered the connections of Mary with all of Creation's elements. It has been very slightly modified and adapted since, and in re-reading it, realize how much it resonates with the Season of Creation theme — of spreading seeds of hope and peace.*

*The Woman of Revelation 12 is a Marian one, and we trust that the earth will come to our help as it did to Mary.*

*It is fitting that we invite her companionship of forming us as she formed her son Jesus in discovering his call. Many traditional Marian feast days fall within the Season of Creation, including:*

- *Birth of Mary (Sept 8),*
- *Most Holy Name of Mary (Sept 12)*
- *Our Lady of Sorrows (Sept 15)*
- *And Our Lady of the Rosary soon after (Oct 7)*



### Even doing less is doing something

by Sr. Karen J. Zielinski, OSF Sylvania  
Franciscan

Creator God,  
I thank you for Earth, our wonderfully created and mysteriously marvelous home!  
I am frustrated by the presence of severe storms, heat and deadly dangerous weather.  
I believe in doing my part to lessen one-use plastic, wasting precious water, and curtailing my use of convenience-driven paper towels.  
I choose reusable glass over paper containers and plates, plastic silverware at my group functions.  
I promote the washing of reusable dishes and silverware.  
I choose products which do not contain harsh poisonous chemicals, which hurt us and Earth.  
But I am frustrated. I am not doing enough. For reasons of health and total knowledge of how to handle every recycling circumstance, I pray and commit to learn more.  
Let me be faithful to hope for a world which is healthy for all of creation who shares it and calls it home.  
Remind me that although I cannot help sustain everything, I am doing some good.  
Guide my clumsy steps out of my carbon footprints and let me always strive to do more.  
I pledge to support *Laudato Si'*.





### Storytelling Project

The *Laudato Si'* Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, IA

Submitted by Janice Hoffman, OSF

The *Laudato Si'* Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, IA has an ongoing Storytelling Project which was inspired by a growing conviction that scientific facts alone are not convincing people that climate change is real, but stories can move our hearts to change. The theme is: *Expressing Love for Creation – Inspiring Care for Our Common Home*. We hope that our writings and photos will be a catalyst to restore our Common Home. Sisters, Associates and others are invited to write poems, reflections, faith statements, and stories about the beauty of creation and/or the threat of climate change. Periodically Storytelling Events are presented at Mount St. Francis for which writings are paired with related photos and projected on a screen while authors read what they have written. These photos and writings as well as the videos of these events can be found at:

<https://osfdbq.org/laudato-si>

<https://tinyurl.com/mufxjw2r>

Nine writings and photos are included on the following pages. A sample PowerPoint is available on request.

## Canticle of Colors

by Sister Charmaine Plotz, OSF



photo by Sister Phyllis Manternach, OSF

Magnificent, extravagant God!

Praise and thanksgiving to you for all creation,  
Creation, bursting with color.

Only you, O God, contain all color.

In the prism of LIGHT is reflected your splendor  
shedding light in darkness  
and with Brother Son singling out  
the myriad of colors, one by one  
as Sister Earth rotates slowly on its daily journey.

Praise be you, O God, for Sister Sky of azure blue  
as season by season she displays her various hues,  
reminding us of the passage of time.

Praise be to you, O God, for Sister Green.  
whose color splashes through field and garden,  
whose color speaks of life,  
whose color is "taken for granted,"  
whose color is used to mark "Ordinary Time"  
making us feel "at home" on Planet Earth.  
Praise and thanks to you for Sister Green.

Praise be you, my Lord, for Brother Brown  
who is distinctive coat of earthen and hues  
keeps us humble, grateful and small.  
It is you, O earthen Brown  
who encloses the seeds that bear fruit and grain  
for our nourishment.  
Happy are we for you, Brother Brown.

Praise be you, O God, for Sister Yellow  
who leaves a trail of golden moonbeams,  
who washes the petals of sunflowers with golden paint  
as they lift their faces heavenward,  
continually toward the SUN  
so as to more perfectly reflect the radiance of  
Jesus, SON.

Praise be, my God, for Brother Red

whose crimson beauty can be seen in many  
flowers

but especially the rose,  
the rose, whose thorny briars produce beauty as  
well as pain,  
each prick reminds us of the precious blood  
poured out for us by Jesus, your Son  
Exalted be you, O God, for the gift of redemption.

Praised be you, O God, for Sister Purple  
purple, a sign of royalty,  
purple, whose shades trigger our need  
for expectant waiting  
for penance and suffering.  
Thank you, O Sister Purple  
You bring JOY to our world, and LIFE to our JOY.

Praise for you, O Lord, for harmony in color  
with tints and tones, and shades and blends.  
You combine and connect them with glorious effect  
for our enjoyment and pleasure.  
Blessed are you all who glory in your rainbow  
creation.

Happy and joyful and grateful are they.

Praise be you, O Lord, for the paradox of color, our  
Brother/Sister Black,  
black that seems colorless, yet contains all colors.  
We know that in you, ALL colors are found in Light  
absorbed.

So, too, in death, may we be absorbed forever  
into your eternal Light.

Praise and glory and thanks to you, O God,  
for this display of light, of color,  
for this collection of beauty and goodness and love.  
May you be praised forever and ever Amen

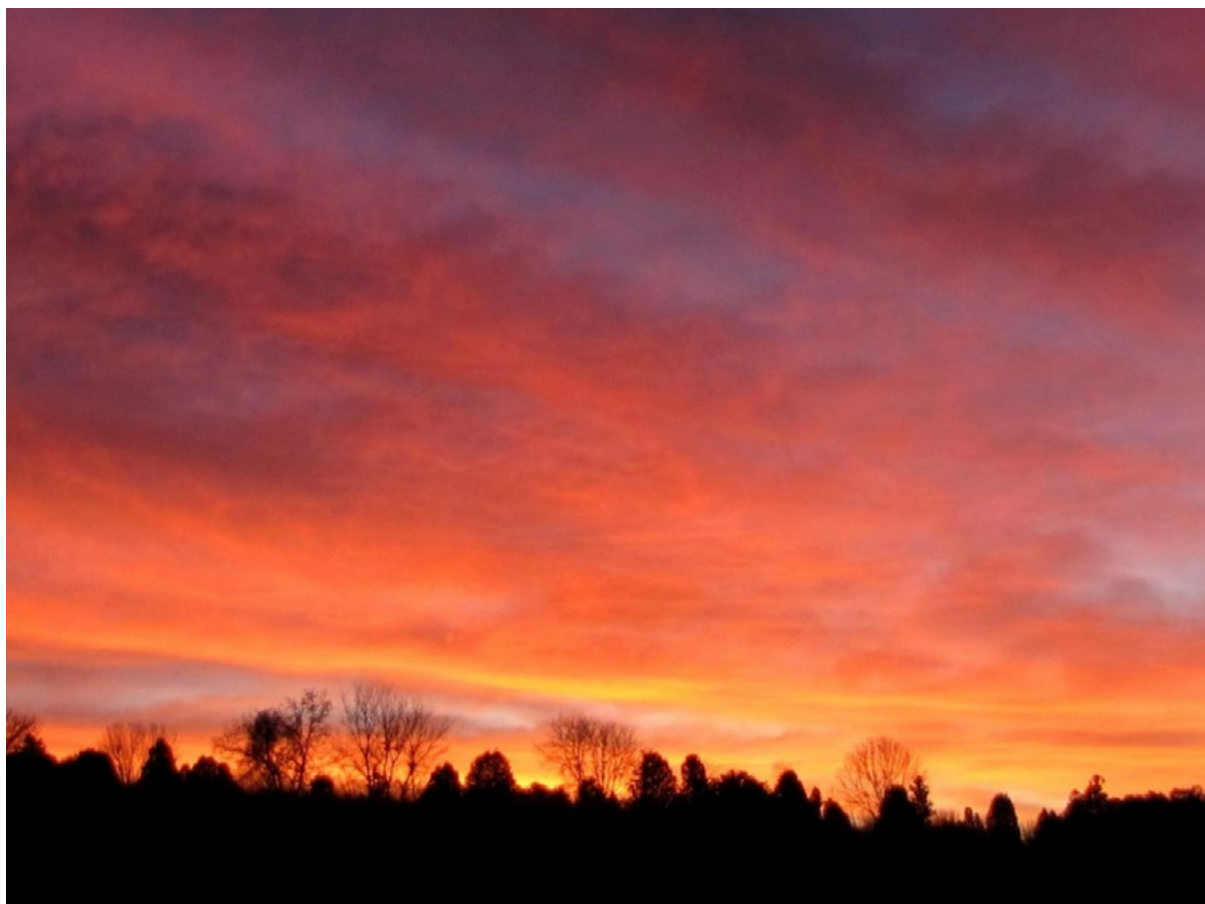


photo by Sister Phyllis Manternach, OSF

### **A Time to See.....CREATION**

by Sister Jan Hrubes, OSF

- A time to see the beauty in creation,  
and a time to see environmental destruction.
- A time to care about the climate change crisis,  
and a time to learn more.
- A time to discuss environmental problems,  
and a time to partner with others and listen.
- A time to speak,  
and a time to take active positive steps.
- A time to be the change you want to see in the world,  
and a time to ask the question,  
“What will it take to stir us into a new way of  
being?”
- A time to love creation,  
and a time to pray.





photo by Sister Janet Haverkamp, OSF

### **I Believe**

by Sister Virginia Jennings, OSF

I BELIEVE in the web of life –  
all creation interconnected and interdependent.

I BELIEVE that life is about relationship  
flowing from the life of the Trinity.

I BELIEVE that the Creator has given creation  
the innate power to restore, heal, replenish, and balance.

I BELIEVE that we are meant to live fully  
Into God's very best dream for us and for our world.

I BELIEVE that death and dying are a part of the natural circle of life  
And not to be feared but embraced as the gateway to the Fullness of LIFE.

I BELIEVE that – although – the human family has great significance in God's plan,  
We are but a spark in the Universe.

I BELIEVE that being in right relationship with creation – truly in right relationship –  
Could bring an end to the pain and suffering humans inflict on one another.

I BELIEVE that God will not give up on us,  
And we should not give up on one another.



photo by Sister Phyllis Manternach, OSF

## **BEAUTY**

by Sister Arlene Smith, OSF

B eing in love  
E nfoldng a sacred Presence Who  
A waits attentively for the  
U nfoldng and unconditional  
T ransfiguring  
Y es to all that is



photo by Michelle Watters

### **Praying Mantis**

by Michelle Watters, Associate

What a surprise you were to see,  
Standing on the raspberry bush looking at me.

I could not tell from your constant stare,  
What kind of thoughts you were having there.

We sat in stillness for quite some time,  
I wondered about your life and you about mine.

You are an exquisite creature of God's design,  
How amazing that your life intersected with mine.

Our shared love of raspberries was the reason we met,  
It was an encounter I will not soon forget.

3/18/2025





photo by Karla Kloft, OSF

## Breathe

by Sister Karla Kloft, OSF

Breathe in, breathe out.

The pulse...

the heartbeat of life...

it resonates and vibrates in all.

Bright colors emblazoned in

wings of monarchs, the tiger swallowtails,

cone flowers, black-eyed susans and morning glories

as well as the sweet simple pink clover.

The freedom of wings aloft

in turkey vultures

and baby blackbirds as they learn to fly amidst

the protective flutter of the flight guarding its nest and young.

The sound of cottonwood leaves as they shake and tremble in the wind,

so different from the raspy,

short sounds of corn husks echoing from stock to stock

as the wind caresses.

I sense acutely, as I walk, breathe in, breathe out – sinuses alive.

I'm more alive,

aware,

thankful,

for the variety of beauty

All are provided for – all are kin.

The pulse resonating so loudly -

it deafens me in awe.



photo by Sister Janet Haverkamp, OSF

### **Peace and Gentleness**

by Sister Mary Assumpta Glaser, OSF

Lord, I knew your presence and  
marveled at your creativity  
as I spend time reflecting upon your gentleness in the  
delicate insects,  
smooth grasses,  
gentle winds,  
cushiony lawn,  
sweet-tasting mulberry,  
pleasant warmth,  
chirping birds, and  
glowing prairie flowers.

May we allow the gentleness of your creation  
be the example that can help us  
bring greater peace and gentleness  
to your world and  
all your loved people.



photo by Sister Phyllis Manternach, OSF

### **Creator of Cosmic Symphonies**

by Sister Michelle Balek, OSF

Praise be you,

Creator of Cosmic Symphonies:

With birdsong blending from the treetops

O, humble cricket chirping out a steady rhythm

The soft sound of a renegade leaf, drifting to earth

And the muffled voices in the distance

Even the jarring interruptions by human-made machines

Cannot drown out

Nor stop

Your magnificent orchestra.

Praise be you,

Creator of Cosmic Symphonies!





photo by Sister Phyllis Manternach, OSF

**We pray as Jesus taught us**  
by Sister Veronica Walsh, OSF

Creator, God  
 Your presence fills the earth  
 and  
 heavens  
 and  
 universes.  
 May your name  
 be  
 revered  
 and  
 loved,  
 according to your plan  
 from all eternity.  
 May your Creation continue to unfold.  
 Give us our needs, Provider God.  
 Forgive us our breakdown  
 in relationships  
 as we forgive the wounded  
 and broken relationships we've experienced.  
 Help us to resist evil and  
 injustices in all their forms.  
 Your gentle reign  
 invites us to share  
 in your love,  
 in your gifts,  
 and in life that will last forever.  
 Amen.

## A Blessing of the Body (in Service to All God's Creation)

by Kim Tarman

Blessed be your eyes

that see what others do not,  
that behold vast miracles contained within the  
ordinary,  
that gaze upon the wild beauty captured in a single,  
shining moment,  
that witness the promise and possibility of a lone  
seed sown in Winter's barren womb,  
that weep in anguish at Nature's groaning,  
those tears transformed into action.

**All: Blessed be my eyes.**

Blessed be your ears  
that hear music in the silence,  
that catch the moon sighing at midnight,  
that listen for the sweet whispers of Creation that  
herald the dawn,  
that take in the plaintiff cries of the Earth and all her  
creatures and all her peoples,  
holding those cries ever close in comfort and  
consolation.

**All: Blessed by my ears.**

Blessed be your mouth  
that speaks in tongues of love with no words,  
that proclaims Truth to the deaf of mind and heart,  
and hope to the weary and broken-hearted,  
that caresses the souls of the forgotten with arias of  
affirmation,  
that sings glorious, passionate melodies with  
urgency and insistence  
to those who are often too indifferent to hear  
them.  
And yet, you sing.

**All: Blessed be my mouth.**

Blessed be your arms

that carry far more than what can be easily borne,  
that extend out wide and wider still to make room,  
that encircle each living being with gentleness, care  
and compassion,  
that carry the weight of the world's suffering,  
lifting it up to God.

**All: Blessed by my arms.**

Blessed be your hands  
that touch the sacred heartbeat of the Divine One  
in everyone and everything,  
that are calloused and rough  
from doing the heavy lifting and hard work of  
justice,  
that are sunburned  
from remaining always open and available,  
that are chafed  
from holding the hands of others in healing and  
communion,  
forever clasped in prayer.

**All: Blessed by my hands.**

Blessed be your feet  
that walk where angels also tread,  
that feel the chalky dust of the open road  
tenaciously clinging to them,  
that ache from their journey  
across hot pavement, unforgiving clay and  
uneven cobblestone,  
that trudge down the path that has no end with  
both resolve and resiliency,  
step by determined step,  
each step announcing the Kingdom.

**All: Blessed be my feet.**

Blessed be your heart

that beats in unison with the heart of the Holy One,  
that throws wide its chambers to feel:  
peace, gratitude, anger, optimism,  
discouragement, fear and trust,  
that allows itself to be broken in solidarity with the  
suffering,  
that allows itself to be mended by the restorative  
grace of the Spirit,  
each heartbeat pulsing with praise.

**All: Blessed be my heart.**

Blessed are we, the Body of Christ,  
one Body with diverse and gifted members,  
different, yet complementary,  
unified and made whole in Jesus.

As members of His Body  
we now go forth in kinship with all Life  
to be Christ's eyes, ears, mouth, arms, hands, feet  
and heart,  
to be both blessed and blessing to all.

We act with joy in service to God and all God's  
Creation.

We act as one.

**All: Blessed are we, the Body of Christ!**

**Amen!**





## Peace with Creation

by Fr. Jarek Sniosek

### *A Meditation on Isaiah 32:14–18*

There's a haunting beauty in Isaiah's vision.  
 A palace, abandoned.  
 A city, emptied.  
 Watchtowers, once proud, now overtaken by the  
 silence of wind and the wild.  
 Donkeys roam where kings once sat.  
 The proud places have been humbled.  
 It reads like the end of a civilization.  
 But maybe, in God's eyes, it's the beginning of  
 something deeper.  
 Because Isaiah doesn't end with ruins.  
 He speaks of "*until*."  
**"Until a spirit from on high is poured out on us..."**  
 That single word—*until*—cradles the entire hope of the  
 human story.  
 It reminds us that desolation is not the final word.  
 Not in nature.  
 Not in our cities.  
 Not in our souls.  
 The Spirit comes.  
 Not gently, not passively—but poured out, like rain after  
 drought.  
 And when it falls, the wilderness awakens.  
 Dry places bloom.  
 Fields once cultivated stretch into forests.  
 The wild and the tamed are reconciled.  
 And justice—true justice—does not stay in temples or  
 courtrooms.  
 It moves into the wild.  
 It dwells in the places we abandoned.  
 Righteousness makes its home not in polished  
 buildings, but in the soil,  
 the roots,  
 the rhythms of the land.  
 Isaiah reveals a sacred truth our modern hearts often  
 forget:  
 Creation is not scenery—it is sanctuary.  
 We are not its masters—we are its kin.  
 We were made from its dust,  
 shaped for its care,  
 invited into its chorus of praise.

But somewhere along the way, we chose dominance  
 over devotion.  
 We severed the thread.  
 And in doing so, we lost more than beauty—we lost  
 peace.  
**"The effect of righteousness will be peace..."**  
 Not the peace of silence or standoff.  
 Not the fragile quiet that follows conquest.  
 But *shalom*—the deep, holy harmony of things rightly  
 ordered.  
 When we live in right relationship with God,  
 we begin to live rightly with the earth,  
 with each other, with ourselves.  
 Justice becomes more than a slogan.  
 It becomes a habitat.  
 Righteousness is not just believed—it is planted.  
 And peace is no longer distant.  
 It becomes the very air we breathe.  
**"My people will live in peaceful habitation,  
 in secure dwellings,  
 in quiet resting places..."**  
 Can you imagine it?  
 Homes not built on fear, but faith.  
 Neighborhoods without suspicion.  
 Farms that nourish the body and the soul.  
 Forests where righteousness lives,  
 and cities where creation is not trampled,  
 but treasured.  
 That's not just poetry.  
 It's prophecy.  
 And we're meant to live into it.  
**A Prayer: Come, Spirit of Peace**  
 Spirit of the Living God,  
 You hovered over the waters in the beginning,  
 and You have never stopped moving toward us.  
 Come again. Come now. Pour Yourself out—not in  
 droplets, but in torrents.  
 Drench the dry places. Soak the weary ground of our  
 hearts.  
 We have forgotten how to live gently.  
 We've paved over the sacred.

We've traded awe for efficiency, wonder for control.  
 We confess, Lord, that we've taken more than we've  
 given,  
 polluted what was pure,  
 and silenced the songs of the earth.  
 But still You come.  
 Come into our restlessness,  
 and teach us the rhythm of creation again.

Let the wind remind us of Your breath.  
 Let the rain teach us mercy.  
 Let the trees preach endurance.  
 Let the stars humble us with their quiet praise.  
 O Spirit, restore in us a reverence for the earth—  
 not as a resource to consume,  
 but as a brother and sister to love.  
 Help us plant righteousness where we once sowed  
 convenience.  
 Help us water justice where we once drained life.  
 Let our hands become instruments of healing,  
 our choices seeds of renewal.  
 And may our homes, our parishes, our hearts  
 become peaceful habitations,  
 secure dwellings,  
 quiet resting places  
 for all Your creatures.  
 Spirit of Peace,  
 move again.  
 Fall again.  
 Grow something eternal in us—  
 until the wilderness rejoices,  
 and the whole earth rests  
 in the harmony of Your love.  
 Amen.



## Season of Creation Daily Video Reflections

by Mrs. Teresita Scully, retired Theology Teacher with a specialty in Creation Theology

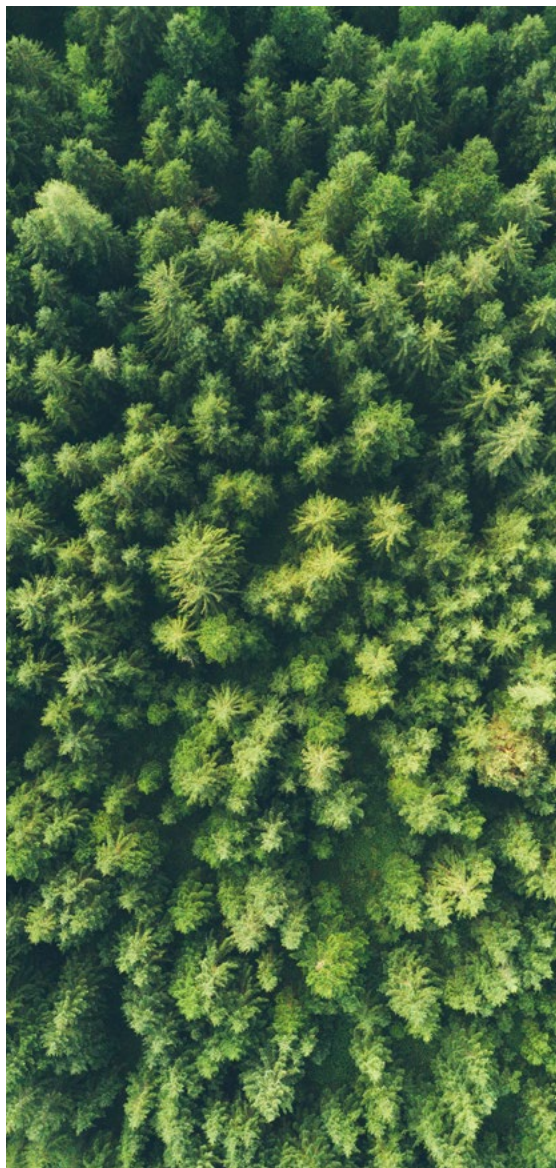
*A series of daily mini-videos for the Season of Creation, Sept. 1-Oct. 4, each with a message about Care for Creation, each about a minute long, each featuring special photos of nature.*

### SEPTEMBER

- 01 - Pope Francis Plea
- 02 - Sunset
- 03 - Ephrem
- 04 - Caress of God
- 05 - Three
- 06 - Mystical Meaning
- 07 - Patrick
- 08 - Three Births
- 09 - Nature Creation
- 10 - Damascene
- 11 - Chief Seattle Prayer
- 12 - Brigit
- 13 - Julian
- 14 - The Cry of the Earth
- 15 - Compassion
- 16 - Incarnate Compassion
- 17 - Hildegard
- 18 - Changing Climate
- 19 - Resurrection
- 20 - Walk in Beauty
- 21 - Indifference
- 22 - Bonaventure
- 23 - Trinitarian
- 24 - Human Person
- 25 - Tree
- 26 - Education
- 27 - Sun
- 28 - Creation Stories
- 29 - Nature Theologian
- 30 - John Nature Poet

### OCTOBER

- 01 - God's self-chosen symbol
- 02 - Madonna of Creation
- 03 - Prayer
- 04 - Francis of Assisi



## Reflection

by Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF, Ph.D.

*When we speak of the “environment,” what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. (Laudato Si’, #139)*

How easy it is for us to lose track of our many connections with our sisters and brothers across the globe – our fellow humans, animals, plants, the air, water, soils and other earth elements. There are so many ways we have become distracted from these very important relationships. Yet – deep down we know – none of us can live without drinkable water, clean air, or good soil for growing food.

Though it’s not always apparent – everything on the planet is related with everything else – the cities, the forests, the oceans, the air...EVERYTHING!

When something happens to one – it affects everyone and everything – nearby and far away – a smoking factory, a contaminated stream, a strip-mined mountain – everything and everyone around it suffers, and our most vulnerable neighbors suffer the most.

In *Laudato Si’* Pope Francis calls us to “ecological conversion” - to take time to reflect on the many ways you and I are deeply and profoundly connected to everything and everyone else. Daily - you and I need to value and treat each and every one of our fellow creatures – in the same loving and respectful way – that God values and treats us.

Caring for God’s creation, as God cares for us will – no doubt – require each of us to change what we do to use up more than our fair share of God’s many gifts.

Pope Francis calls everyone to a lifestyle rooted in *integral ecology* – a world view and a way of thinking, being, and acting that recognizes that everything is related to everything else.

Today – take five minutes – and look around you ...  
How are you connected to the world?  
What can you do today to build more positive connections?



## God speaks to us through creation:

### Reflection inspired by *Laudato Si'*

by Jill Rauh, Executive Director, Justice and Peace, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Today, let us pray within nature, where the majesty of the Creator is revealed through his creation. St. Francis knew well that God speaks to us through creation:

*Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. "Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker" (Wis 13:5)...*

— Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, no. 12

In the midst of God's creation, we step back from the distractions of daily life, experience a sense of awe and wonder, and enter ever more deeply into the loving presence of God, our Creator. Surrounded by creation, we read the "magnificent book" of nature through which God speaks to us.

This time of prayer is meant to occur within God's creation: in a garden, at a park, on a hike, or even sitting on a bench contemplating the sky between city buildings. If it isn't possible to physically be out of doors, you can still pray with creation: looking out a window, viewing a beautiful photograph, listening to a video with sounds of birds or ocean, contemplating with wonder a simple bouquet of flowers, or even remembering a past experience in nature. All of these can be conducive to prayer.

Wherever you are, the aim of this time is to cultivate a deeper awareness of how God speaks to us through his creation. Begin by pausing from the busyness of life by taking several slow, deep, breaths. Pay attention to the air as it travels into your lungs—the oxygen from that air nourishing your blood and traveling throughout your body. Pay attention to your breath out as you exhale carbon dioxide, which will be absorbed by plants to feed their growth. What a miraculous example of our interconnectedness!

Next, move to awareness of what is around you. If you are able, gaze upon your surroundings. If there is a

vast sky above you, notice the sun, clouds, moon or stars. Ponder the sky's immensity and beauty. If there are trees or plants, notice them great or small—from the height of a towering trunk to the small details of a leaf or blade of grass. If you are in a place without vegetation, what do you notice? From a grain of sand to a seemingly endless ocean, it is all worth noticing.

Observe with the sense of smell. What scents reveal the life that is around you?

With your ears, hear any sounds that are present: birds, insects, wind, etc. If you hear human-made sounds, welcome them. If you hear an airplane, cars, or voices in conversation, allow these to help you praise God for the people who dwell on this Earth.

Become aware of the sense of touch. On your skin, you might feel the warmth or cold of the day, or a breeze on your skin.

Spend time simply taking all of this in, noticing as much as you can.

Then allow your heart to experience awe and wonder at the gift of God's creation.

If you feel so called, express in your heart a prayer of praise to the Creator. If you need inspiration, consider praying [Psalm 148](#).

Consider the following: all that you have contemplated is God's gift through which he communicates, a "magnificent book" through which he speaks. Through the careful and intentional detail of his creation, God communicates his love.

Many people experience God's closeness through creation. This makes sense, since we, too, are part of creation. Reflect for a few moments on our interconnectedness: we are not separate from the created world, we as humans are part of it. In what ways are we embedded in a web of relationships in

nature, and codependent on the preservation of life?

Finally, consider: How is the health of the created world necessary for the survival of all living things, including people?

Spend additional time in silence. Express to God your desire to hear his voice through his gift of creation.

Close this time of reflection with the prayer excerpt from *Laudato Si'*:

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.  
God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the  
weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!  
Amen.



## Reflection: Let the Earth Breathe — A Lamentation and a Call by Daniella Flanagan

We stand at the trembling edge of history,  
Where forests burn faster than prayers rise.  
Where rivers run dry, and nations go to war over water.  
Where families flee fire, flood, and famine—  
Not by choice, but by the collapse of what once sustained them.

This Earth is holy—  
Even now, bruised and breathless.  
It bears the scars of greed and silence,  
Yet still it turns, still it offers beauty—  
A defiant, aching hope.

We hear the cry of the youth who strike,  
The wisdom of Indigenous protectors long ignored,  
The sorrow of the dispossessed whose lands are poisoned  
And futures stolen by smoke, soot, and steel.

This Season of Creation is not just a celebration—  
It is a call to repentance, resistance, and renewal.  
A Pilgrimage of Hope means stepping forward  
When it would be easier to look away.

Like St. Francis, we must kneel again—  
Not just in reverence, but in repair.  
To make peace with creation is to dismantle systems of harm,  
To share the harvest, restore the waters,  
And re-root our lives in humility and justice.

Let us sow seeds that outlast crisis:  
Seeds of reparation, seeds of fierce compassion,  
Seeds of solidarity across borders and barriers.

The God who made all things good  
Now waits for us to be good again—  
To one another.  
To creation.  
To the generations yet to come.

Amen.



## Noah, Conservation, and Eucharistic Revival

by Dr. Blake Johnson

*This reflection links creation care with Eucharistic Revival and reflects on Noah's role as the first conservationist.*

When we ask who the first true conservationist was, few look to a man named Noah. Yet, God tells Noah to preserve every single animal species on the planet on an ark to survive the coming flood (Gen 6:17-22). God destroyed life on earth through the flood as a punishment for human sin. Yet, he desired to save every species. God willed to save every predator, every agricultural pest, and even humans whose sinful avarice warranted the destructive waters. God's plan for Noah and the ark made Noah the world's first conservationist.

Today, human avarice is poised to destroy the world a second time through climate change. Climate change, often cemented as an exclusively political issue, must be considered as one of the greatest challenges facing the Catholic Church. Indeed, radical climate change is among the greatest threats to Eucharistic Revival. Here is why: when Jesus provided the disciples with His supper. He took bread and wine, transfigured them into His body and blood, and gave them to His Church (Matt 26:26-28).

Our access to the Eucharist, to the body and blood of our Savior, comes from the availability of bread and wine. No other things can replace bread and wine. Therefore, our access to contact with Jesus in the Eucharist is dependent on wheat and grapes. Harvest failures ought to be on the hearts and minds of every Catholic. Climate change poses a risk to the harvest and is a threat to Eucharistic Revival.

In fact, Creation Care and Eucharistic Revival ought to work hand in hand. Creation care is important because our access to Jesus in the Eucharist is important. Our motivation to preserve a Eucharistic relationship with Christ ought to push us to care for His creation to maintain that relationship. God's plan for creation requires all of it to cooperate. To have wheat and grapes we need pollinators. Those pollinators are threatened by the most subtle changes in climate. It is up to us, the appointed stewards, to follow in the footsteps of Noah, to preserve creatures great and small and to maintain our access to Jesus in the Eucharist through care of his creation.



## Surface and Depth, and Ecological Conversion, a Reflection

by Dr. Georgia Gojmerac-Leiner, Green Team, Saint Ignatius Church, Chestnut Hill, MA

In nature depth and surface can be seen in a flowing river. There is an illusory stillness to its surface, which can be broken with a throw of a stone, and what lies beneath is muck and murky waters through which contaminated fishes swim.

When I stand above the rushing falls of the River Charles—The Charles was called Quinobequin by the native Wampanoag and Pawtucket people, meaning *meandering*, until early 17th century when a prince named it for himself—where a dam is soon to be dismantled so that the river can meander, I think about the illusory nature of being human. We look good on the outside. We have healthy boundaries just as the river has its banks. But we reflect sadly when we realize the extent of the damage we've caused to zones and the ozone of the earth by our lifestyles. We have not yet had a change of heart, as *Ecological Conversion* calls us to do. Ecological conversion isn't only about adapting environmentally sound practices but also about deepening our appreciation or gratitude to God for the gift of creation.

Earth's beauty gives us joy and contributes to our well-being. Likewise, the effect of earth's woundedness impacts us woefully. The river carries its polluted waters to the Ocean. "I cry out to God for help; I cry out for God to hear me" (Psalm 77). "Out of the depths I cry out to you, Lord, hear my voice" (Psalm 130).

What is *ecological conversion* and how can it come about, short of being blinded by a great light and coming to our senses through the light of Christ, as happened to Saint Paul? (Acts 9:3-9) Saint John Paul II first introduced the concept of ecological conversion in his *General Audience*, Wednesday 17 January 2001:

"We must therefore encourage and support the "ecological conversion" which in recent decades has made humanity more sensitive to the catastrophe

to which it has been heading. Man is no longer the Creator's "steward", but an autonomous despot, who is finally beginning to understand that he must stop at the edge of the abyss."

Pope Francis picked up the theme of ecological conversion in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* published in 2015. This is a beautifully written book of meditations to be savored. Too difficult to review, summarize or even put into quotes because of its complex weavings, it is packed into six chapters, the last of which speaks to "Ecological Education and Spirituality," and specifically addresses "Ecological Conversion."

Pope Francis tells us that ecological conversion is "a God-given gift" already within us. Ecological conversion can happen once we have examined how, by our behavior, we have caused a lot of damage to the earth and its creatures, and when we are no longer blind to the consequences of our behavior. Ecological conversion isn't only adapting sound environmental practices in our lives. We must also convert with God's help to the spirit behind our actions. For example, we must try to understand that we are changing our ways because the earth is our spiritual home as well as our physical home. Spiritual conversion is the acknowledgment of the creator behind the beauty of creation. At last, we see the light of Christ, the spiritual light that can shed light on how to live.

Pope Francis speaks of **attitudes** necessary for ecological conversion. Attitudes that together foster a **spirit of generous care, full of tenderness.**" (My stresses.) He speaks of the attitude of "gratitude and gratuitousness, a **recognition that the world is God's loving gift**, and that we are called quietly to imitate (God's) **generosity in self-sacrifice and good works.**"

And an attitude of **"a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of the creatures but are**

**joined in a splendid universal communion.**" Lastly, we should **"not understand our superiority as a reason for personal glory or irresponsible dominion, but rather as a different capacity which, in its turn, entails a serious responsibility stemming from our faith."** (*Laudato Si'*, Chapter Six, #220)

Ecological conversion then, is very much like any other conversion that leads us to know, love, respect, be indebted to God deeply through faith and works. How do we treasure "God's loving gift" Pope Francis speaks of? Is earth the pearl of our hearts?

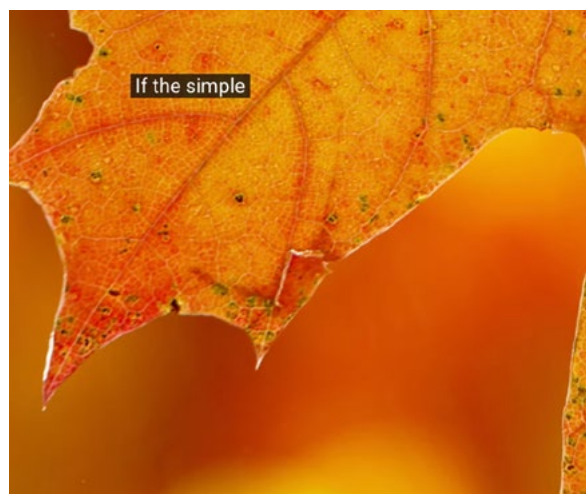
Saint John Paul II was hopeful about the future as he saw a "welcome sign is the growing attention being paid to the quality of life and to ecology, especially in more developed societies, where people's expectations are no longer concentrated so much on problems of survival as on the search for an overall improvement of living conditions" (*Evangelium vitae*, n. 27). At stake, then, is not only a "physical" ecology that is concerned to safeguard the habitat of the various living beings, but also a "human" ecology which makes the existence of creatures more dignified, by protecting the fundamental good of life in all its manifestations and by preparing for future generations an environment more in conformity with the Creator's plan" (*General Audience*, Wednesday 17 January 2001).

How would Saint John Paul II respond to our growing ecological crisis now? I hope that he would still be hopeful. Of course, we must always hope. As Saint Paul writes in Romans 5:1-5, "....and hope does not disappoint; because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given us."

### ***Laudato Si'* Reflection Video Series**

by Rev. Patrick Delahanty

Two videos from a series of reflections that are intended to prompt discussion about *Laudato Si'* and its urgent call to all of us to care for the earth, our common home, to see that everything is connected and to grow into living an integral ecology as our Creator intended.



**Essential part of faith**  
YouTube | 25 sec



**Everything is related**  
YouTube | 25 sec







## As Christ is For Us

Words and Music by Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

[Listen to the song](#) on YouTube

[Preview the sheet music](#) for the song

### Lyrics:

In the bread we share with the hungry  
In the help we give to the poor,  
In the kindness we show to the stranger  
We find Christ the Open Door.

*So we rise with him each morning,  
and we work as work we must  
To be Christ for others as Christ is for us.  
To be Christ for others as Christ is for us.*

May the bread we share give us courage  
To restore the earth in this time.  
For the sake of our children's descendants  
Let us honor God's ancient design.

*So we rise with him each morning,  
and we work as work we must  
To be Christ for others as Christ is for us.  
To be Christ for others as Christ is for us.*

And as we care for each other,  
so must we care for our home.  
Air that we breathe, waters that run,  
Flowing with life for the good of all.

May the bread we share keep us mindful  
And the fruit of the vine make us one.  
Let the whole human family together  
Heed the cry of our island home.

*So we rise with him each morning,  
and we work as work we must  
To be Christ for others as Christ is for us.  
To be Christ for others as Christ is for us.*



## We All Are Related

by Sheri D. Kling, PhD

[Download the MP3 of the song](#)

**Download the sheet music for the song:**

[We All Are Related — Low Voice / Guitar Version / Key of D](#)

[We All Are Related — Key of D](#)

[We All Are Related — Key of G](#)

“We All Are Related” was written in response to ecological, process, and feminist theological texts and reflects those life-giving perspectives.

### Lyrics

*(Choral chant)*

Fiery brilliance, cooling gas, condensing gravity  
Atoms forming stars and carbon-fueled diversity  
Earth with sky and oceans, molecules then multiply  
Stardust is the mater of the cosmos and all life.

*(Congregation)*

We all are related, woven as threads in earth's tapestry  
A kinship creation, depending on all in deep harmony.  
Internally formed by each other, creative and free  
We all are related, wholly and actively.

The world is becoming,  
the future of God is luring us there.  
Grace within chaos,  
the pow'r of the new, holiness bare.  
The Singer is singing the Song  
we are yearning to share.  
The world is becoming, process is everywhere.

God is embodied, Word become flesh,  
in all that we see.  
Deeply incarnate in every bird, in every tree.  
In the heartbeat of billions of bodies just wanting to be.  
God is embodied, soul of the world, breathing in me.

All things have value,  
all the way up and all the way down.  
God is redeeming the lowliest stone  
and the glorious crown.  
Christ is the pattern in every atom around.  
All things have value, whispering Spirit Sound.

We need liberation from seeing our world  
as dead-matter machines  
All creatures as neighbors, a healing embrace,  
so held we are free.  
Entraining our rhythms to the heartbeat of  
Life consciously,  
We all are related,  
In a world that's becoming,  
Where God is embodied,  
And all things have value,  
We are liberated, affirming the world we see.



by Cathy Tisel Nelson

### **Come and Join Creation's Song**

**Download the MP3** of the song

**Download the sheet music** for Oboe

**Download the sheet music** for Keyboard, Guitar, SATB

#### **Lyrics**

Come and join creation's song  
singing and dancing  
praising with joy

Come and join creation's song  
Sing! Give glory to God!

### **Christ in All Creation**

**Download the MP3** of the song

**Download the sheet music** for Keyboard, Guitar, SATB

#### **Lyrics**

Christ in all creation  
All in Christ.  
Christ in all creation  
All in Christ.  
Dancing moving everywhere,  
filling all the universe.  
Christ in all creation  
All in Christ.  
Christ in all.  
All in Christ.  
Christ in all.  
All in Christ.  
All in Christ.  
All in Christ.  
All in Christ.

**More of Cathy's Franciscan music can be found at**  
[cathynelsonmusic.com](http://cathynelsonmusic.com)





## Let the Rivers Clap their Hands

by Charlean Clemons

[Download the sheet music](#) for the song

St. Francis sensed, in every speck of creation, the love of God. This song seeks to inspire in us Francis' joy and awe in nature. For joy and awe are essential ingredients in the proper care of nature.

A Psalm 98 Fantasy for St. Francis

### Lyrics

Intro: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,

Chorus: Let the rivers clap their hands together,  
let the rivers clap their hands.

Let the rivers clap their hands together,  
and the mountains sing in joy

1.

Stars are shining through the treetops,  
Angels are dancing with satyrs and cyclops,  
And flowers are singing to the rhythm of rain drops.  
Chorus

2.

Everywhere miracles flowing,  
Forests and gardens and children growing,  
And planets are spinning in elliptical motion.  
Chorus

3.

God-light sparkles through creation, through  
Loving and laughter, and imagination,  
Respond with songs of jubilation.  
Chorus

Final chorus:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Let the rivers clap their hands together

Let the rivers clap their hands

Let the rivers clap their hands together

And the mountains sing in joy

And the mountains sing in joy

And the mountains sing in joy!





## Joining in Creation's Song: A Field Guide to Elemental Prayer

by Allison Woolverton and Aaron Z. Lewis

*A five-part eco-spirituality series inviting participants to encounter Creation through the lense of the Psalms.*

[Visit the website](#)

[Download the field guide](#)

The Christian tradition is rich with invitations to commune with the Giver of Life through both the Book of Scripture and the Book of Nature. But today's city dwellers experience a decidedly indoors liturgical life. Ecological crises require that we listen to landscape with the same attentiveness that we listen to sacred text. The hope is to encounter Creation through the lens of scripture so that we might offer a full-bodied response, in wonder and in care.

The sessions of Creation's Song are designed to cultivate an incarnational way of seeing that reminds us of our own creatureliness and our kinship with the wider living world.

With a small group (or alone) spend time with each session at a different green space around your city. Consider this resource more of a starting point than a script; weave in additional scripture passages or questions for reflection. Facilitators may wish to print out copies of each session's Psalm for participants and carefully choose gathering spots where you can easily engage with the element to be reflected upon.

The Creation's Song program was developed in Autumn 2024 and pioneered with 8 friends from a variety of Christian backgrounds. The booklet's imagery comes from the inaugural sessions, which took place in and around Washington DC's Rock Creek Park.



## Called to Care: Following in the Footprints of Jesus

by M. Nothwehr, OSF, Ph.D.

### A) Spotting the Footprints

#### DISCUSSION STARTERS

When growing up, what did you learn about the doctrine of creation, especially the phrases “have dominion” and “subdue the earth”? How did that learning affect your daily life?

Where and how do you “spot” the “Footprints of Jesus” in creation?

Have you ever heard a homily on the doctrine of creation? What do you remember from it? Did the preacher connect the doctrine of creation and the doctrine of redemption?

What kind of a relationship among humans, animals, plants, and other natural elements such as rivers, lakes, rocks, hills, or plains is given to us in the Hebrew Testament (Old Testament) creation texts? Explain how you understand these relationships.

How well do you know the place where you live? What is its evolutionary and ecological history? How has it emerged (changed) over the years? How has human intervention shaped it—for good or for ill?

Describe your best experience of loving or of being loved. How does love stay the same? In what ways does love change? How is the love you experience like or unlike God’s love expressed in creation?

In what ways do your actions of loving or being loved assist or detract from the emergence of God’s new creation?

### *In the Footprints of Jesus*

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Refrain:

May we follow in the footprints of Jesus Christ  
as we make our way to You.

Inwardly cleansed and enlightened,  
on fire with the Spirit,  
may we follow in the footprints of Jesus.

Verse 1:

Feeding the hungry, shelt’ring the homeless,  
setting the prisoner free.

Bringing Your justice to all the earth,  
to all the earth, O God.

Verse 2:

Friend to the stranger, hope for the hopeless,  
caring for all those in need.

Bringing Your justice to all the earth,  
to all the earth, O God.

Verse 3:

Simple our living, few our possessions,  
trusting in You for our needs.

May we remember how we are called  
to serve You all our days.

### b) “My Environmental Biography”

Our current attitudes and values in relationship to the Earth and our sisters and brothers in the Web of Life are influenced by the orientations and world views we encountered in our past. Psychologists and social scientists tell us that most of our values and value orientations are well in place by age five. You are invited to explore the relationship to the Earth and the values relating to the Earth that have been passed on through your family. You are encouraged to go back more than one generation – if possible. In most families, there are one or more formative instances that shape the central values that have been passed on – or around which values representing a

polemic opposite are shaped. For example - In the U.S. many families have a strong memory of the “Great Depression” where farmers saw their land literally blown away in the “Dust Bowl” of the 1930s. (While “land” is used here for the sake of brevity, all questions could apply to – rivers, lakes, oceans, forests, mines, etc.)

- Who are the influential persons in your family concerning valuing the Earth – creatures and elements that are not human – in particular?
- Were these persons directly involved in working on the land? Did their livelihood directly depend on it? What other circumstances might have been at play at the time you are considering? Was the land ever considered as being exhaustible, or was it thought of as always being available for future generations?
- Summarize the basic beliefs that are alive and well in your family about their relationship to the land.
- Was your family always living generally in one place and consistently in relation to the same land – or were there periods of migration or/and immigration? How did these experiences shape values and attitudes toward the land?
- What methods, rituals, or aesthetic experiences were utilized in your family to hand on beliefs and values concerning the land?
- Conclude your reflections by summarizing your own thoughts, feelings, concerns and hopes about the value of the land. Use your imagination here – how about a poem? A drawing? A prayer? A song? A symbolic object?

You are invited to share something of your own reflections.

## Imitatio Christi - Love-oriented Virtue Ethics Framework

(St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio 1221-1274)

by Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF, Ph.D.

### Jesus Christ

Far more than an ethical model

Spiritual transformation of one's interior disposition

### Humility

- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Insulate your home
- Save on heating and cooling
- Use public transportation
- Buy energy efficient products
- Lower the heat on water heater
- Do laundry in cold water
- Buy power from renewable energy sources
- Learn about Earth's systems
- Ask friends to join you in conserving everything

From the Latin *humus* = "earth"

- Our identity – earth creatures
- Use science and technology to care for the Earth

### The whole point of Jesus' life:

To help us to be free from sin

Free to become fully the persons we are meant to be

### Poverty

- Know your water supply
- Use filters, not bottled water
- Take a shower, not a bath
- Use phosphate free soaps and detergents
- Use grey-water for gardens
- Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth
- Learn how trade agreements affect water policies
- Set your toilet to use less water

False poverty – not having "stuff"

- Ultimately craving "more"
- Live in gratitude for God's gifts

### Obedience

- Pray for peace, healing, hope
- Fast & pray for food justice
- Learn about hunger & poverty
- Buy fair trade foods & products
- Support community-based food programs
- Support stronger federal food assistance programs
- Increase access to healthy food
- Buy food from local farmers
- Eliminate food deserts in cities

From the Latin *oboedire* = "to pay attention" or "to hear"

- Pay attention to the groaning of the Earth
- Become ecologically literate
- Engage prayerful discernment
- Heed promptings of the Holy Spirit
- Act

### Love

- Drive a fuel-efficient vehicle
- Join a car cooperative
- Group errands together; use less gas
- Shop at farmers' markets
- Grow a vegetable garden; fruit and nut trees
- Buy food grown within 100 miles of your home
- Avoid plastic and packaging
- Use products made from recycled or natural materials
- Buy non-petroleum-based personal care and cleaning products

Receive & share God's love among ourselves and with all of creation

- Justice and law are necessary
- Enforce laws and policies that keep clean air, water, and soil accessible to **all**

## Franciscan Eco Exam of Conscience and Canticle Walk

by Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF, Ph.D.

### A Franciscan Ecological Examination of Conscience

(from *Care for Creation* p. 99-101, by Illia Delio, Keith Warner, Pamela Wood)

#### Sunday:

Is my whole life centered on God's overflowing love in my life, revealed through Jesus and through all of creation? Do I respond wholeheartedly to the call of this Spirit in my life?

#### Monday:

Do I accept with a grateful heart the gifts of God's goodness and diversity in creation? Do I respond as Francis did, by building bonds of love, care, concern and companionship with all living beings? Do I value creation not as mine alone but first and foremost as God's home?

#### Tuesday:

Am I willing to accept Francis' invitation to live as a "lesser brother or sister" within the kinship of creation? Do I pray for the forgiveness of sins between humans and the created world, and for the healing and reconciliation of our broken relationship with creation?

#### Wednesday:

Am I caring toward my larger family of creation? Have I shown fidelity, humility, reverence and love to my Sister Mother Earth and all my brother and sister species? Have I used my God-given gifts to honor and protect the diverse, interdependent, fragile nature of all life and to preserve it for all future beings?

#### Thursday:

Have I lived in a state of unrelatedness, over and against creation? Have I used my God-given gifts to honor and protect the diverse, interdependent, fragile

nature of all life and to preserve it for all future beings?

#### Friday:

Do I seek to eliminate from the world whatever keeps all creatures in their full development intended by their Creator: pollution, greed, overconsumption, loss of habitat, disease, war, extinction of species, oppressive laws and structures? Do I support organizations that work for ecological improvement on a systemic scale (not only for charismatic megafauna), restoration of habitat and preservation of open spaces?

#### Saturday:

Have I committed myself to follow Francis' example of ecological conversion? Have I encouraged others to take care for creation seriously? Have I been judgmental or mean-spirited toward myself or others when we live imperfectly in our journey to heal our relationship with creation?

After reflecting on your question of the day, hold in your mind and heart the ways in which you have lived in disharmony with creation. Ask the earth and the Creator for forgiveness for your transgressions. Offer these mistakes up to God and ask for the strength and the wisdom to learn to live with integrity within the web of creation. Resolve to amend your life in the spirit of penance and love for our world. Name one action you intend to take today to work for care for creation.

### Expressing Your Personal CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES in a Walk of Thanksgiving and Praise

Francis and God were mutual lovers. Bonaventure captures this spirit in his most powerful writings.<sup>1</sup> One of Francis' favorite sayings was, "Greatly to be loved is His (God's) love, who loved us so greatly." Francis' own response of love for all God's love is poured out in the Prayer of Abandonment at the end of the "Letter to a General Chapter," written at the end of Francis' life. The *Canticle of the Creatures* is a hymn of praise, thanks, glory, honor, and blessing for all of God's love-gifts, especially creation.<sup>2</sup>

During this walk, receive God's love-gifts in all of creation – gifts we often take for granted – in each of our five senses.

#### Begin the half-hour or hour as you would any time of prayer:

1. Consciously call to mind God's presence within you and all about you.
2. Breathe the fresh air in deeply. Reflect on how it constantly sustains your life -day and night – a reminder of the God who is present, loving you, holding you, and continually creating you.
3. Walk slowly apart from others, distractions, and pause to consciously experience the use of your

#### SIGHT

Use your vision to receive, enjoy, caress, revel in—color, shape, depth, texture, movement, etc., in all that is around you. Take some moments to reflect upon all that sight has contributed to the enrichment of your life experience: beauty, happiness, pleasure, reading, observing, etc. Try to realize how different your life would be if you were not able to see.

Then, recognizing that all of creation and your sight are gifts from God, let some words and phrases or actions of praise flow from your heart.

#### SOUND

Stop and really listen even perhaps to the silence; notice the sounds-- high or low pitch, soft, loud, shrill, gentle-- in and all around you. Take some moments to reflect upon how your sense of hearing has contributed to the enrichment of your life experience. Try to realize how different your life would be if you were not able to hear.

Then, recognizing that all of creation and your gift of hearing are gifts from God, let some words and phrases, or actions of praise flow from your heart.

#### TOUCH

Consciously experience the feeling of the sun, air, or breeze on your skin, textures of clothing, grass, trees, stones, flowers, etc., the awareness of the earth under your feet, the pull of gravity as you walk or jump. Consider the ways



## Franciscan Eco Exam of Conscience and Canticle Walk (continued)

by Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF, Ph.D.

the sense of touch has enriched your life experience — gardening, swimming, a massage, typing, playing a musical instrument, giving a greeting of peace. Imagine your life without the sense of touch. Express your words and phrases, your actions of loving praise!

## TASTE

Consciously use your sense of taste to receive, enjoy, caress, revel in the bitter, sweet, sour, in all that is around you. Remember some particular tastes from the past, and all that you remember about them. Note the differences and sameness, etc. What would life be like, without the sense of taste? How would you feel impoverished?

Express your feelings in loving words of praise, in phrases and actions of gratitude for this wonderful sense of taste.

## SMELL

Consciously smell the various scents about you — grass fresh-mowed, hand lotion, soap, flowers, perspiration... Remember the smells of the past that recall certain images of your grandmother's kitchen or linen closet, lilies of the valley and lilacs that remind you of May crowning, huge bouquets of peonies, mint crushed under your feet as you walked... Note differences, sameness... What would life be like if you did not have the sense of smell?

Express your feelings in loving words of praise for the gift of smell, in phrases and actions of gratitude.

## WRITE YOUR OWN CANTICLE

Use the space below to write your own canticle, flowing from your praise walk!

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



**Reconciling God, Creation, and Humanity,  
An Ignatian Examen**

by Janet Broderick

[Download the PDF presentation](#)

This works well for an in person or online prayer service. Please see presenter notes with each slide. Music can be downloaded and played from a playlist or hard drive to prevent ads from YouTube.







by Marybeth Lorbiecki, M.A.

**Celebration of Creation and a Responsibility  
for LIFE Prayer Service Following the Model  
of St. Francis**

[Download the PDF](#)

**Creation Care Calendar**

[Download the PDF](#)



## Care for Creation Room and St. Francis Festival

by St. Rose of Lima Faith Formation Care for Creation Initiative

St. Rose's "Care for Creation" initiative is a vibrant testament to their commitment to environmental stewardship and spiritual devotion. This comprehensive program is anchored by a dedicated Care for Creation Room, a unique space that fosters connection with both the environment and faith. Significantly, this room is actively used for Sunday Faith Formation sessions with children, providing a tangible setting for young parishioners to learn about and engage with creation care. This intentional use helps instill these values from an early age. The initiative is beautifully complemented by their annual Francis Festival, a beloved community celebration.

The impetus for these efforts comes directly from Pope Francis, who formally recognized Care for Creation as both a Corporal and Spiritual Work of Mercy. This significant declaration underscores the profound spiritual dimension of environmental responsibility. As emphasized during the Year of Mercy and most recently the Jubilee Year 2025, Christians are called to an "ecological conversion"—a deep recognition of our interconnected responsibilities to ourselves, our neighbors, all of creation, and ultimately, the Creator. The Care for Creation Room serves as a physical embodiment of this commitment, offering a space for reflection, education, and active engagement with this vital aspect of faith for all ages, particularly through its use in children's formation.

The Francis Festival is a highlight of this initiative, deeply rooted in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. It includes the traditional blessing of animals, reflecting St. Francis's patronage of nature. Adding a truly personal touch, parishioner and talented landscaper and photographer Ted Barkhorn embodies St. Francis for a special guest appearance. Barkhorn's involvement extends to showcasing his own remarkable work; having discovered the spiritual forms in the twisted shapes of ancient Redwood roots during a hike, he donates his fascinating pieces for display in the Care for Creation Room and even hosts an art show. This powerful integration of art, nature, and spirituality has made the festival a staple celebration at St. Rose, continuing to thrive even during challenging times like the pandemic.

[Watch this video highlighting the Francis Festival](#)







## A Pageant and Art Project Celebrating the Universe, Evolution, Care for Creation, and the Feast of St. Francis

by Edith Pucci Couchman

A S.T.R.E.A.M (Science, Religion, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) project about evolution within this universe and the compassionate wisdom of St. Francis.

**Visit the Evolving Beauty website for this program.**



### 800th Anniversary of St. Francis' Canticale of the Creatures

(A simple children's project to celebrate the Canticale of Creatures.)

by Anne E. Neuberger

This easy project could enhance any processions or pilgrimage walks by attaching the children's artwork to poster board and adding a paint stir stick to the back. These "banners" would be light and easy for children to carry and would add the wisdom of St. Francis to the event.

[Download the project](#)







**The Canticle of the Creatures**  
A One Act, 5-scene little play  
by Jon M. Sweeney

[Download the play](#)





**More Eco-Spirituality Resources:**

We invite you to explore these other resources on Catholic Climate Covenant's website:

**SEASONAL RESOURCES:**

- [Lent](#)
- [Season of Creation](#)
- [Advent](#)

**PRAYERS AND LITURGICAL RESOURCES****HOMILY HELPS****BULLETIN BLURBS**

**For more information:**

[info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)





**Catholic Climate Covenant**

*Together for our Common Home*

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