

JANUARY 9, 2021

**SPIRITUALITY AND CARE OF CREATION**  
**RETREAT**



# RETREAT OVERVIEW

## Guide for Our Time Together

8:45 Hospitality

9:00am Opening Prayer & Introduction

9:20 - 10:00: A Story of Alienation and Awakening

10:00-10:20: Reflective Pause and Gatherings

(Break Out Rooms)

10:20 - 10:50: Theological Gems from Laudato Si'

10:50 - 11:00: Living Laudato Si' - A Living Spirituality (Break  
Out Rooms)

11:00 - 11:15: Meditation in Main Space

11:15-11:30: Refreshment Time - Q and A in main space

11:30 - 12:00: Panel

# RETREAT OVERVIEW

## What I hope you take away...

- An understanding of our disconnection from the environment and how this causes us to think creation care is an 'add' on or optional part of our faith life
- An awakening to how care of creation is derived from core Catholic teachings - or the deepening of this truth
- An appreciation of how a robust Christian spirituality can reconnect us with nature, our fellow humans and our Creator
- A chance to chat, pray and meditate with fellow pilgrims on this journey -- and perhaps take away some practical ways to care for creation!

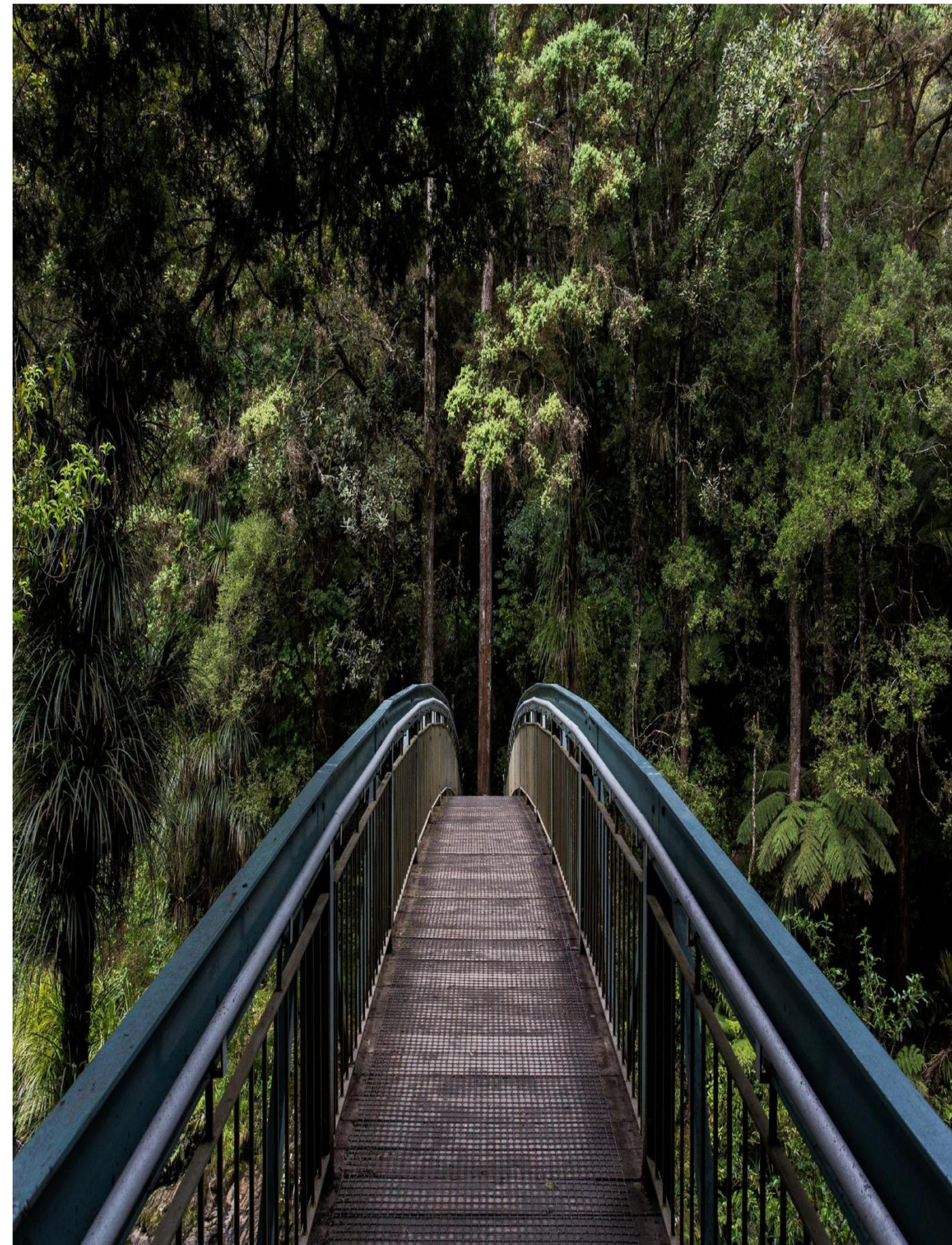


# ALIENATION FROM NATURE

## Why? Fear, Searching & Control

- Fear that we are not special enough for God; fear in the fragility of the human condition and our searching for a savior in science
- Our need to extract large amounts of natural resources to power new ways of living and excessive consumerism
- Gaining the power to insulate from natural world
  - The cost? The loss of our visceral and spiritual understanding of interdependence

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A photograph of a person with long, wavy blonde hair, seen from the back, looking out over a vast ocean under a cloudy sky. The person is wearing a light-colored, textured sweater. The image is framed by a teal border.

# **The Cost of Our Alienation**

**WE HAVE PUSHED MANY LIFE FORMS TO  
EXTINCTION**

**WE HAVE POLLUTED THE AIR, SEAS AND LAND**

**WE ARE WARMING AND ACIDIFYING THE OCEAN**

**WE FORCE PEOPLE TO LIVE IN POVERTY**

**WE HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF THE EARTH  
AND HER LIFE FORCES**

**HOW IS THIS LIVING IN **SOLIDARITY**,  
AS THE LIVING BODY OF CHRIST?**

Thank you Celia Deane-Drummond and other historians for their work outlining this story



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF CREATION CARE THREADS IN OFFICIAL CHURCH DOCUMENTS



### 70S THEOLOGICAL WISDOM

Connecting creation Doctrine & Incarnation  
 Connection of groaning Earth (Rom 8) and human exploitation  
 Connection of Image of God and right relationship with creation



### 80S THEOLOGICAL WISDOM

Cosmic Christ  
 Solidarity rooted in Christology  
 Genesis connects humanity with creation  
 Creation's divine likeness  
 Relationality of human existence  
 Tarnishing Image of God if not in right relationship with creation



### 90S THEOLOGICAL WISDOM

Responsible and fair use of Earth  
 Beauty and goodness of creation glorifies God  
 Dignity of human person extends to creation  
 Nature is caught up in redemption  
 Creation gift from God; foundation for common good  
 West consumes resources in disordered way  
 Till and look after the garden is human purpose

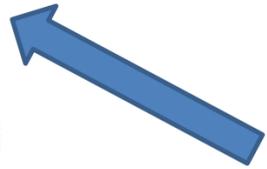
### Theological Wisdom in the 21st Century

Right relationship God includes creation care  
 Clear relationship between peace, poverty, and environment  
 Links gratuitousness and fraternity  
 Creation - wondrous work of Creator  
 Limits to human activity  
 Human life depends on nature, a gift from God



# Theological Categories:

- DOCTRINE OF CREATION
- CHRISTOLOGY
- ANTHROPOLOGY (IMAGE OF GOD; RIGHT RELATIONSHIP; SOLIDARITY; GARDENER)
- ESCHATOLOGY (REDEMPTION)
- CST (COMMON GOOD; RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES; DIGNITY)
- PNEUMATOLOGY (HOLY SPIRIT)
- TRINITY
- SACRAMENTAL LIFE



## 2001 & 2003 Ecological Conversion:

FUNDAMENTAL AWARENESS OF THE CONNECTEDNESS OF HUMANITY TO ALL FORMS OF LIFE AND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT GROWS FROM THIS INTERCONNECTION

# Small Group Reflection: Hospitality and Hope

Take a moment to get to know one another -- try to make your 'hello' no more than a minute -- maybe start with your name, where you reside, and one fun fact about yourself. Here are some good guidelines to remember as you get to know your new creation care friends:

**Be open to newness and otherness**

**Your experience and input is valuable**

**Share the time so all can participate**

**Seek first to understand then to be understood**

**Challenge Ideas not people**

**Be completely present - avoid interrupting**

**Respect like you want to be respected**

## **Reflection Topics**

a) What have you heard that feeds your spirituality? What from Catholic theology, tradition and experience feeds your spirit and offer hope during our dark times?

b) Who in our human family is crying out for healing? justice? love? dignity? Why? Can you see a connection to those in our planetary family who are crying out? Give it a try together!



# THEOLOGICAL GEMS FROM LAUDATO SI'

## Doctrine of Creation & Christian Anthropology

Soil, water, mountains; everything is, as it were, a caress of God (LS 84).

From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine (LS 85)

The entire material universe speaks of God's love, [God's] boundless affection for us (LS 84).

Our openness to others, each of whom is a 'thou' capable of knowing, loving and entering into dialogue, remains the source of our nobility as human persons (LS 119)





# THEOLOGICAL GEMS FROM LAUDATO SI'

## Incarnation, Sacramental Life, Gardener/Garden, and Redemption

Christ has taken unto himself this material world and now, risen, is intimately present to each being, surrounding it with his affection and penetrating it with his light (LS 221)

The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ, the measure of the maturity of all things (LS 83)

# THEOLOGICAL GEMS FROM LAUDATO SI'

## The Trinity

The divine Persons are subsistent relations, and the world created according to the divine model, is a web of relationships (LS 240)

When we contemplate with wonder the universe in all its grandeur and beauty, we must praise the whole Trinity (LS 238)

We can know something of the Creator when we recover and respect the “rhythms inscribed in nature by the hand of the Creator” (LS 71)

All of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect (LS 89).





# **THEOLOGICAL GEMS FROM LAUDATO SI'**

## **HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit can be said to possess an infinite creativity, proper to the divine mind, which knows how to loosen the knots of human affairs, including the most complex and inscrutable. ... The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge (LS, 80)

The Spirit, infinite bond of love, is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways (LS, 238)

# Spirituality in Action - From Laudato Si'

**CREATE A DIALOGUE WITH MANY STAKEHOLDERS AT ALL LEVELS (LS 139, CHAPTER 5, 201)**

**CULTIVATE A HOLY NOTICING OF OUR COMMON ORIGIN, MUTUAL BELONGING, AND SHARED FUTURE (LS 202)**

**PROMOTE ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION, A CHANGE OF HEART, MORE GRATITUDE, AND LIFESTYLE (LS 217, 218, 220)**

**AWAKEN A NEW REVERENCE FOR LIFE, RESOLVE FOR SUSTAINABILITY, AUGMENTED STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE,  
AND THE JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF LIFE (LS 216)**

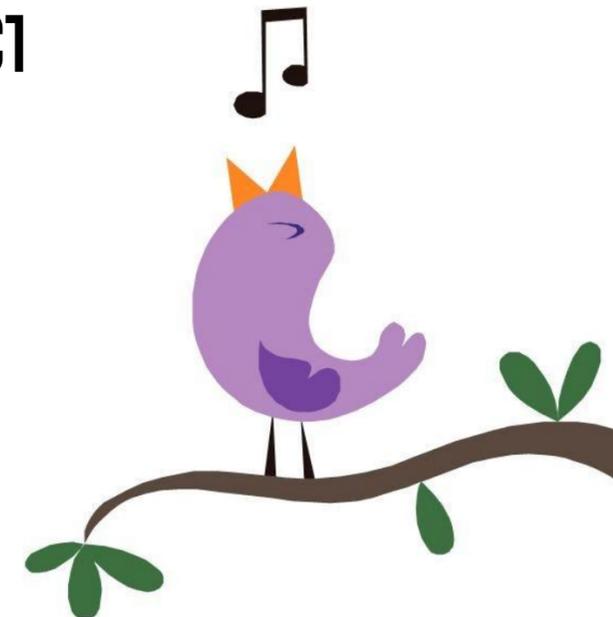
**RESTORE ECOLOGICAL EQUILIBRIUM AND SOCIAL COMMON GOOD AS A ROAD TO INNER PEACE (LS 225)**

**ENGAGE NATURE DIFFERENTLY THROUGH YOUR SACRAMENTAL LIFE AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH (LS 235)**

**CONTEMPLATION OF NATURE CONCERN FOR THE POOR AND PROTECTION  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN OUR FAMILIES AND SEMINARIES (214)**



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# Refresh Moment: Mind, Body and Spirit

Be aware of what your mind, body or spirit need at this moment

## Break Out Room Conversations

Practical Implications



## Main Room Meditation

Relaxation and Spiritual Meditation



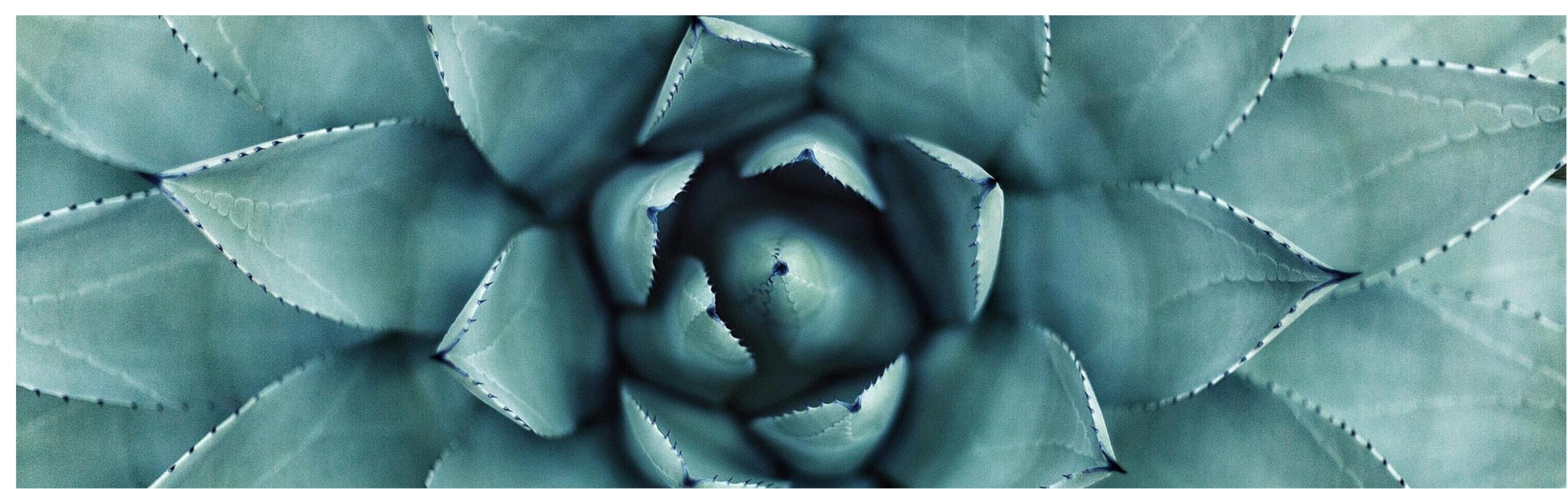
## Tune Into your Body

Move around, Refresh your drink, Use the washroom





**PANEL : SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION**



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# CLOSING PRAYER