



*Walking with the Spirit  
in the World*

# CATHOLIC CREATION CARE AT THE HEART OF SERVING THOSE IN NEED

A CONFERENCE TO LEARN ABOUT THE CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR SO THE SPIRIT CAN WORK IN AND THROUGH YOU TO ADDRESS POVERTY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WITH GREAT LOVE



**CONFERENCE HOSTED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES & SISTERS OF MERCY**

CONFERENCE MEDIA SPECIALIST: ANESU SIMANGO CONTACT: BRIANANESU@GMAIL.COM 704 698 8139

# Keynote Speakers



**Bishop Michael T. Martin,  
OFM Conv.**

Bishop Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv., was ordained a Conventual Franciscan, a religious order founded by St. Francis of Assisi on June 10, 1989. He began his ministry as admissions director and teacher at St. Francis High School. From 2010 to 2022 he served as director of the Duke Catholic Center in North Carolina. In 2022, he was assigned to the Archdiocese of Atlanta, where he was the pastor of St. Philip Benizi Parish until his episcopal appointment by Pope Francis. He was installed as the fifth Bishop of Charlotte on May 30, 2024. Many speak to his deep love of the poor and reaching out to those who are marginalized. His dedication and leadership in Catholic education and community service reflect his deep commitment to faith and ministry.

Dr. Catherine Wright is a Christian ecotheologian at Wingate University who engages science, Catholicism, spirituality, and ethics. Her award-winning book, "Creation, God, and Humanity," delves into the mystery of suffering in our sacred cosmos, while "Caring for Our Common Home" (2020) offers a vital roadmap inspired by Pope Francis' urgent call to action. In 2023, she published an interdisciplinary ebook "Food and Faith: From Dirt to Dessert." Known for her compelling public speaking, Dr. Wright challenges audiences to rethink their relationship with God, creation, and the ethical implications of their choices as biospiritual planetary citizens. She offers joy, gratitude, and storytelling as acts of resistance to the darkness facing our world today.



**Dr. Catherine Wright,  
PhD., Ecotheologian**



**Sister Rose Marie Tresp,  
RSM**

Sister Rose Marie, RSM, is currently the Mercy Justice Team Organizer/Educator. With degrees from Fontbonne College and Boston College, plus advanced studies in ethics at Georgetown, she channels over 20 years of experience into impactful advocacy for immigration, environmental sustainability, women's rights, and the fight against poverty and racism. A true embodiment of the Mercy charism of hospitality, she makes everyone she encounters feel welcome, cared for, and valued. Passionate about creating a more just world for all, she utilizes her voice through lobbying, speaking, writing, and inspiring action to make justice a reality.

## Panelists

Larry Baldwin serves as Waterkeeper Alliance's Pure Farms, Pure Waters (PFPW) Coordinator in North Carolina. He works with the 15 licensed Waterkeeper Alliance groups in North Carolina in their efforts to reform the current polluting practices of the industrial meat producing facilities, known as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs. Larry writes this about his vocation as a Waterkeeper:

"It is said in many different ways that 'Water is Life', which couldn't be any more true. For me, though, water is the essence of life. It was not created for us to destroy or consider to be a commodity. It is a God-given resource that we have been given the responsibility to protect for everyone"



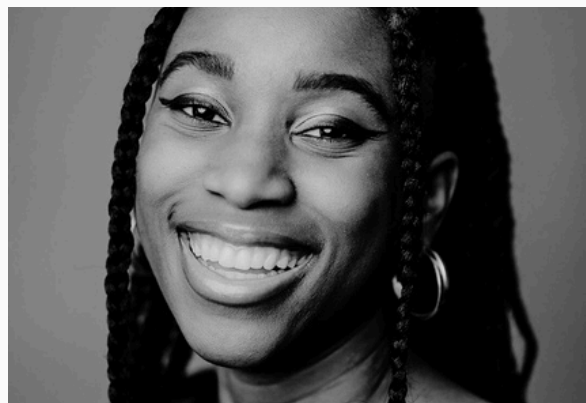
**Larry Baldwin**  
Waterkeeper Alliance



**Mara Fenn**  
Refugee Employment Case  
Aide, Catholic Charities

Mara is a Refugee Employment Case Aide at Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte, supporting refugees in their journey towards economic self-sufficiency. With an International Business degree from UNC Charlotte and a year of service as a Salesian missionary in Bolivia, Mara brings a global perspective and a deep commitment to social justice to her role. A unique educational journey, spanning public, private, religious, international, and home-taught schools, has instilled in Mara a strong sense of adaptability and a profound appreciation for diverse cultures.

Erica Grace Lubamba is the Refugee Employment Specialist at Catholic Charities, where she connects refugees with new employment opportunities. She graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in Global Studies and a minor in French. Her passion for refugees and immigrants stems from growing up in a household of immigrants. Her parents emigrated to the United States from the Democratic Republic of Congo, a country still grappling with significant conflict and violence. Erica Grace is passionate about staying informed about global conflicts and is always eager to learn about new topics.



**Erica Grace Lubamba**  
Refugee Employment Specialist,  
Catholic Charities

# Conference Itinerary

## Walking with the Spirit in the World: Catholic Creation Care at the Heart of Serving Those in Need



CONFERENCE OPENING	Destination	:	Curtin Hall, Sisters of Mercy, Belmont
	9:00am	:	Registration
	9:30am	:	Opening Prayer & Welcome Sr. Rose Marie Tresp, Sisters of Mercy Mr. Joseph Purello, Catholic Charities

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SESSION <b>01</b>	<b>Walking with the Spirit in the World</b>		
	9:45am	:	Keynote Address Dr. Catherine Wright, PhD "Walking with the Spirit in the World"
	10:30am	:	Refreshment & Networking

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SESSION <b>02</b>	<b>The Spirit's Call: Confronting a Planet in Pain</b>		
	10:45am	:	Creation Care Panel Discussion: Food Justice & Pollution Immigration, Refugees and Creation Care Climate Change and Young Adults
	11:30am	:	Workshop #1: The Spirit of Possibility -- Making Meaningful Connections

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LUNCH	12:00pm	:	Table Fellowship & Message of Hope Community Culinary School of Charlotte
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SESSION <b>03</b>	<b>Lifting Spirits: Mobilizing Hearts and Communities for Collective Action</b>		
	12:45pm	:	Reflection by Sr. Rose Marie Tresp
	1:00pm	:	Workshop #2: Lifting & Sustaining Our Spirits
	1:30pm	:	Refreshments

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SESSION <b>04</b>	<b>Moving with the Spirit: A Call to Action</b>		
	1:45pm	:	Bishop Michael Martin's Address -- A Call to Action
	2:30pm	:	Table Discernment A Time to Reflect on the Words of the Bishop
	2:50pm	:	Questions for the Bishop Arising from Table Discernment

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CLOSING  
SESSION

3:20pm	:	Closing Prayer - Moving Forward Together Sr. Rose Marie Tresp
3:30pm	:	Farewell to Participants

# Opening Prayer

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## The Canticle of the Sun (St Francis, 1225)

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessings.  
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.

Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures;  
especially Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom You give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,  
and bears a likeness to You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;  
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene,  
and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom You light the night;  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

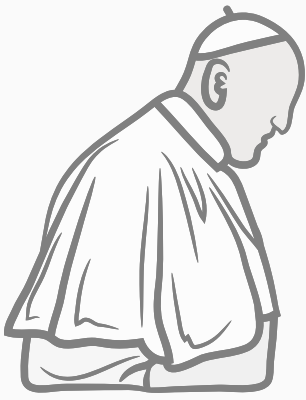
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains us and governs us and who produces  
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord,  
through those who give pardon for Your love,  
and bear infirmity and tribulation.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace  
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord,  
through our Sister Bodily Death,  
from whom no living man can escape.  
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,  
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks,  
and serve Him with great humility.  
Amen.





# Closing Prayer

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## A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation (from, *Laudato Si'*, 2015)

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and  
your tender love.  
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you  
gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.  
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany  
creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts And you inspire us to do what is good.  
Praise be to you!

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



# Resources

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**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** (some information in Spanish)

<https://www.usccb.org>

**Sisters of Mercy of the Americas** (also most in Spanish) [www.sistersofmercy.org](http://www.sistersofmercy.org)

- Action Alerts
- Immigration
- Care for Creation
- Racism

**Catholic Charities of Charlotte** (some in Spanish) [www.ccdoc.org](http://www.ccdoc.org)

- Human Trafficking
- Care of Creation

**Catholic Climate Covenant** (many languages) [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org)

- Toolkit for Creation Care Teams (Creighton Conference): A Roadmap-Navigating the Paths to Re-energized Creation Care Team Work at [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CCC\\_RoadMap\\_Creighton\\_Conference\\_15.pdf](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CCC_RoadMap_Creighton_Conference_15.pdf)

**Dr. Catherine Wright** B.Sc, B.Ed, M.Div, Ph.D -- [www.thewrightecotheologian.com](http://www.thewrightecotheologian.com)

- Articles, talks, retreats, education, creation care team resources, and more

**Laudato Si Action Platform:** [www.laudatosiactionplatform.org](http://www.laudatosiactionplatform.org)

**Catholic Pilgrims of Hope:** Planning and conducting creation centered local pilgrimages  
[www.catholicpilgrimsofhope.org](http://www.catholicpilgrimsofhope.org)

**Greener Lent:** Contact Rosemary Herhold ([RosemaryHerhold@greenerlent.org](mailto:RosemaryHerhold@greenerlent.org)) at <https://greenerlent.org>

**Justice for Immigrants:** [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

**Clinic:** Catholic Legal Immigration Network at [www.cliniclegal.org](http://www.cliniclegal.org)



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