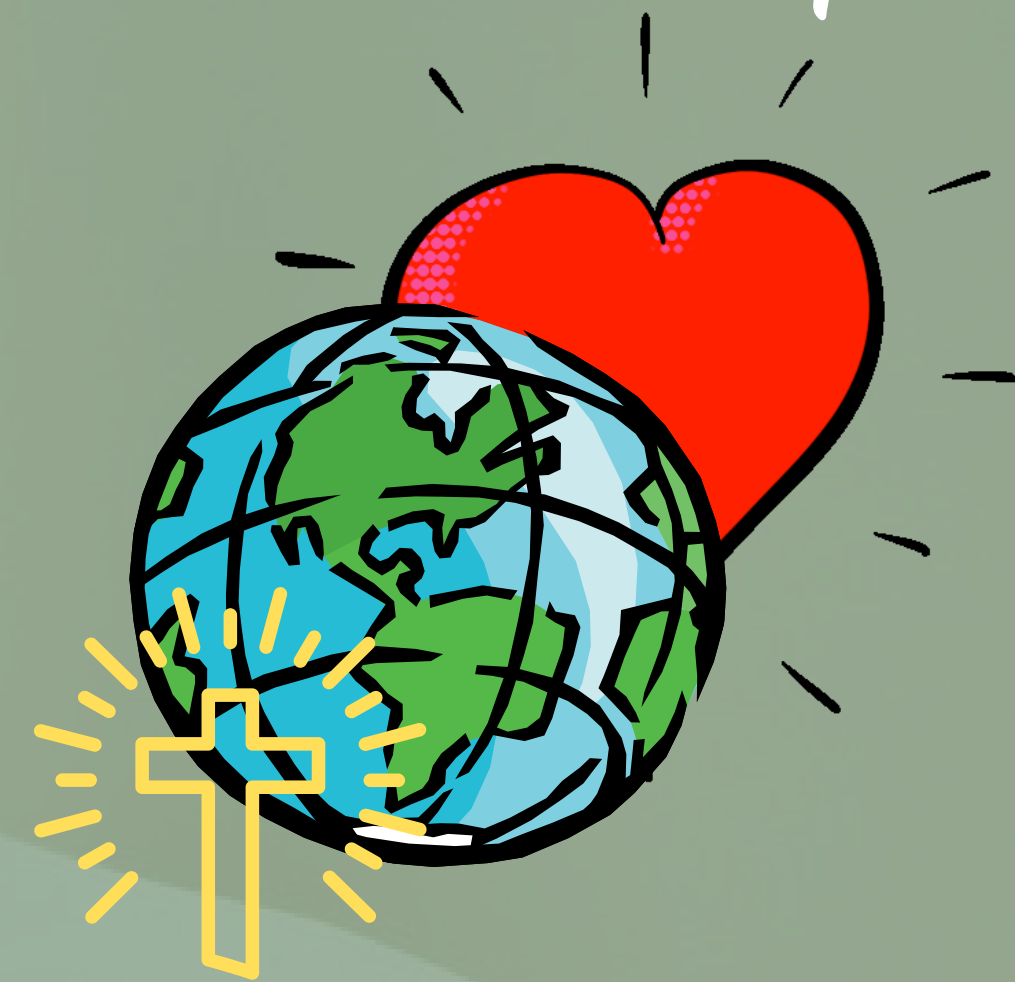




**"Our responses have not been adequate"
Pope Francis, Laudate Deum (2)**

*Following
Faithfully In
Francis' Footsteps*



CATHOLIC
DISCIPLESHIP AND

Creation Care



Youths all over the world take part in Global Youth Climate Strike on March 25, 2022.



ARE WE LIVING IN
RIGHT

Relationships?

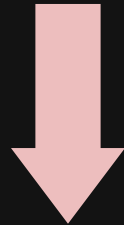


Louisiana Catholic environmental justice activist - Sharon Lavigne - wins Goldman Environmental Prize (2021)
Photo:
<https://risestjames.org/gallery>

WITH GOD?
WITH EACH OTHER?
WITH CREATION?

St Francis of Assisi & Pope Francis

Robust Bio-Spiritual Moral Imaginations



Canticle - Laudato Si' - Laudate Deum

BORN IN CENTRAL
ITALY 1181; DIED 1226;
AGRICULTURAL

GERMINATION PERIOD
FOR IDEAS SCIENTIFIC
REVOLUTION (16TH
CENTURY),
ENLIGHTENMENT (17TH
CENTURY) &
INDUSTRIAL
REVOLUTION (18TH
CENTURY)

CRUSADES & DESIRED
GENUINE WITNESS

DIED BEFORE THE
BLACK PLAGUE (14TH
CENTURY)

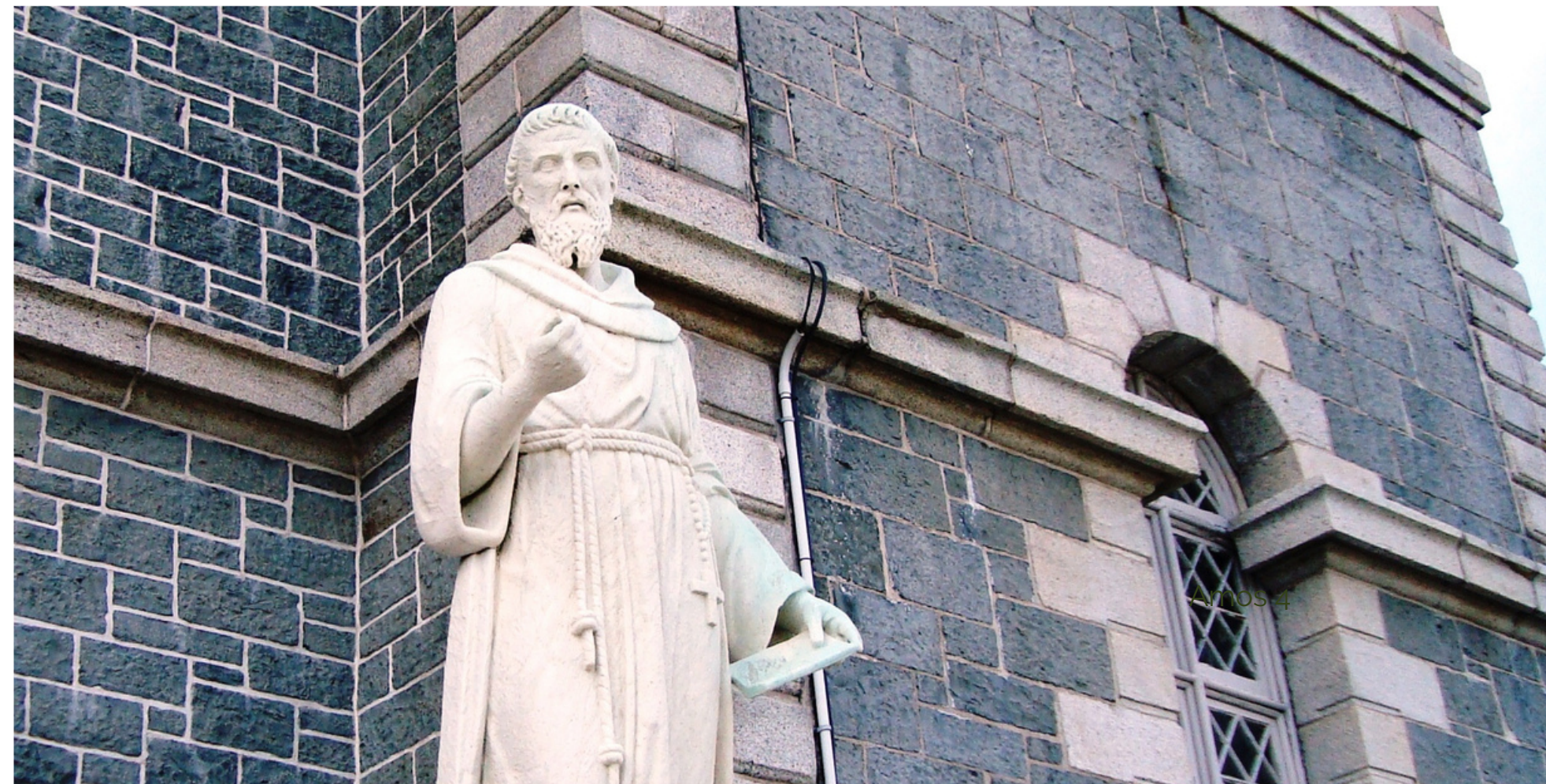
LIVED IN MEDIEVAL
CLIMATE ANOMALY
(1000-1250CE)

RISE OF MERCHANT
CLASS & MARKET
ECONOMY

RETRACING HIS
FOOTSTEPS

St Francis of Assisi

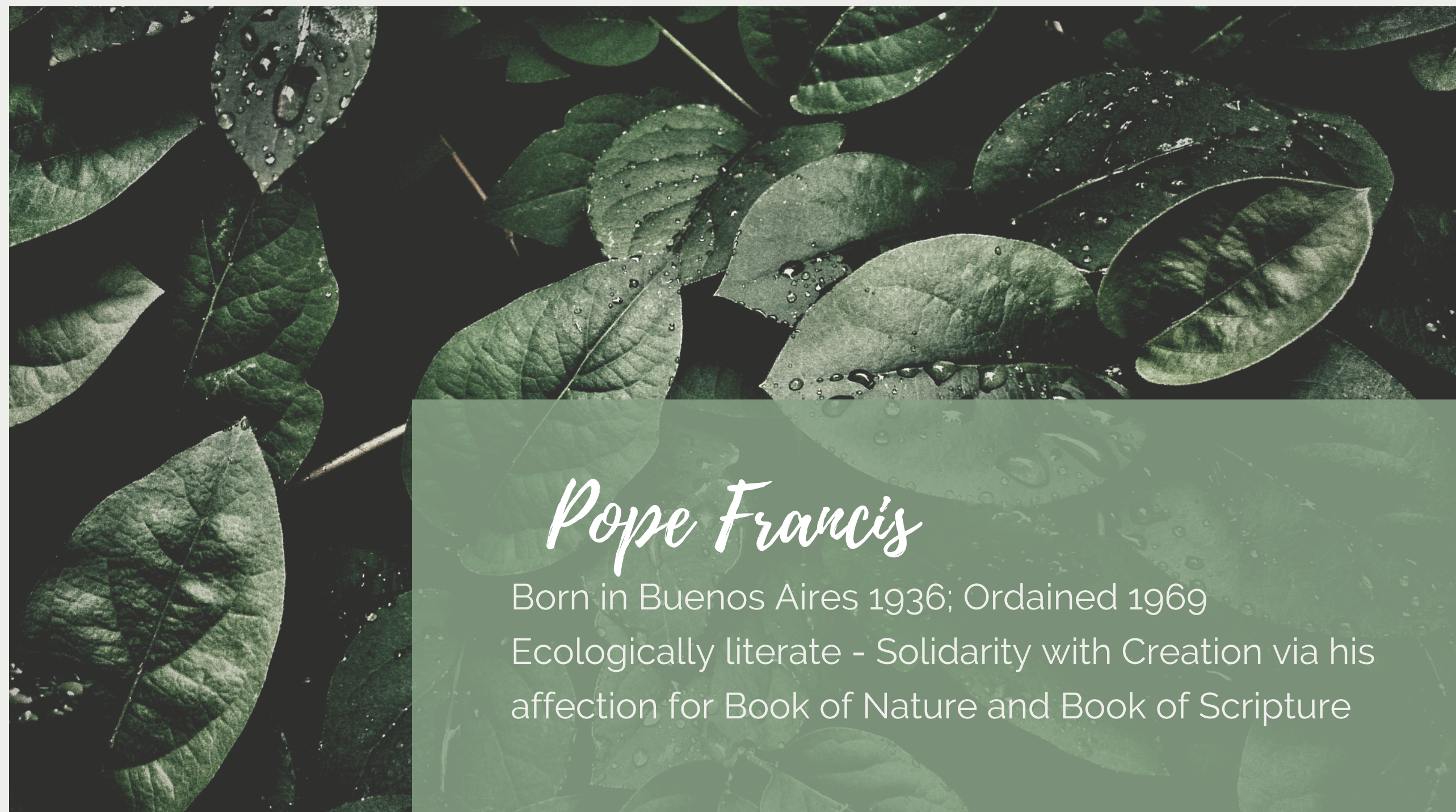
Formation of his biospiritual
moral imagination



INTIMACY
WITH
CREATED
WORLD

PROCLAIMED
GOD'S LOVE
OF CREATION

DESIRED
ABUNDANT
LIFE FOR ALL



Pope Francis

Born in Buenos Aires 1936; Ordained 1969
Ecologically literate - Solidarity with Creation via his
affection for Book of Nature and Book of Scripture



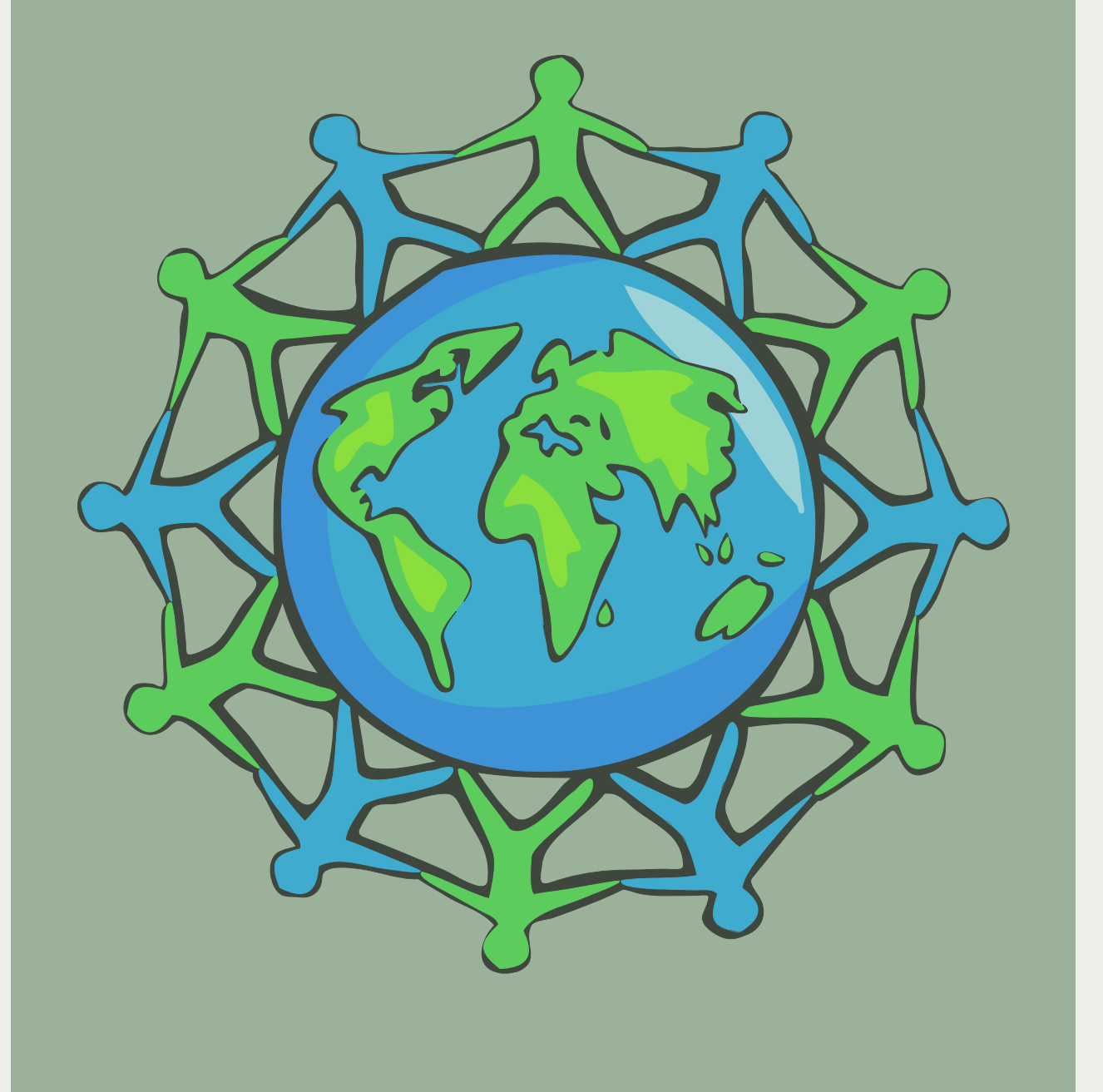
Awakening to Creation Care in Catholic Tradition

Shepherds of the Catholic Church Speak of God's
Love of Creation and Desire for Catholics to Care
for Creation

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CREATION CARE THREADS IN OFFICIAL CHURCH DOCUMENTS

70's 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



1971

Apostolic Letter Pope Paul VI -
Octogesima Adveniens
World Synod of Catholic Bishops -
Justitia in Mundo

1979

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II
Redemptor Hominis

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CREATION CARE THREADS IN OFFICIAL CHURCH DOCUMENTS

80's 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



1980

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II -
Dives in Misericordia

1981

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II -
Labrem Excerens

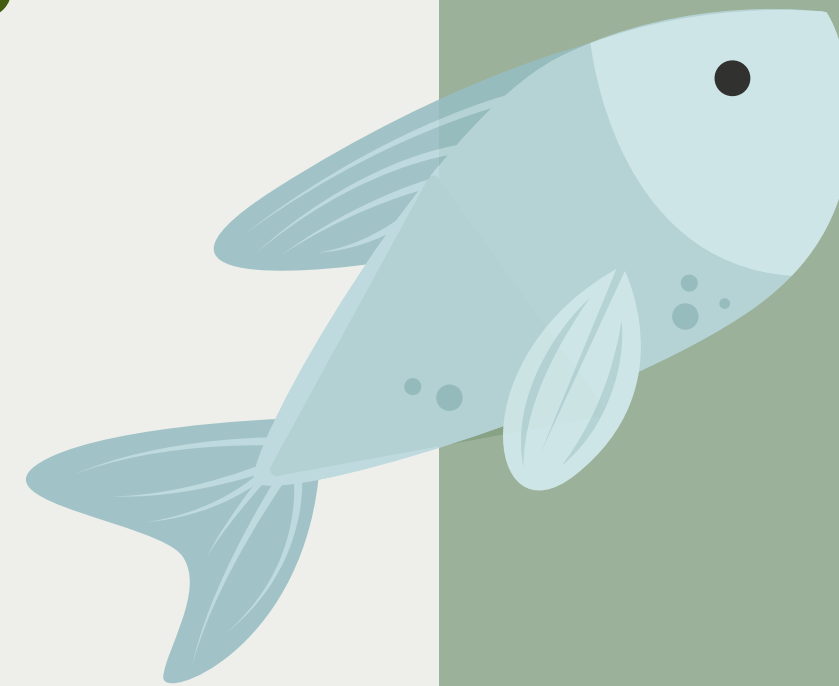
1987

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II -
Sollicitudo Rei Socialis

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CREATION CARE THREADS IN OFFICIAL CHURCH DOCUMENTS

90's 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



1990 & 1991

World Day of Peace Message: Pope John Paul II - **Peace with All Creation**
Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II - **Centesimus Annus**

1995

Apostolic Letter Pope John Paul II -
Evangelium Vitae

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CREATION CARE THREADS IN OFFICIAL CHURCH DOCUMENTS

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



2003

Ecological
Conversion
(Pope JP II)

2007

World Day of Peace Message: Pope
Benedict - **If You Want Peace,
Protect Creation**

2009

Apostolic Letter Pope Benedict -
Caritas in Veritate

2015

Apostolic Letter
Pope Francis -
Laudato Si'

2023

Exhortation
Pope Francis -
Laudate Deum

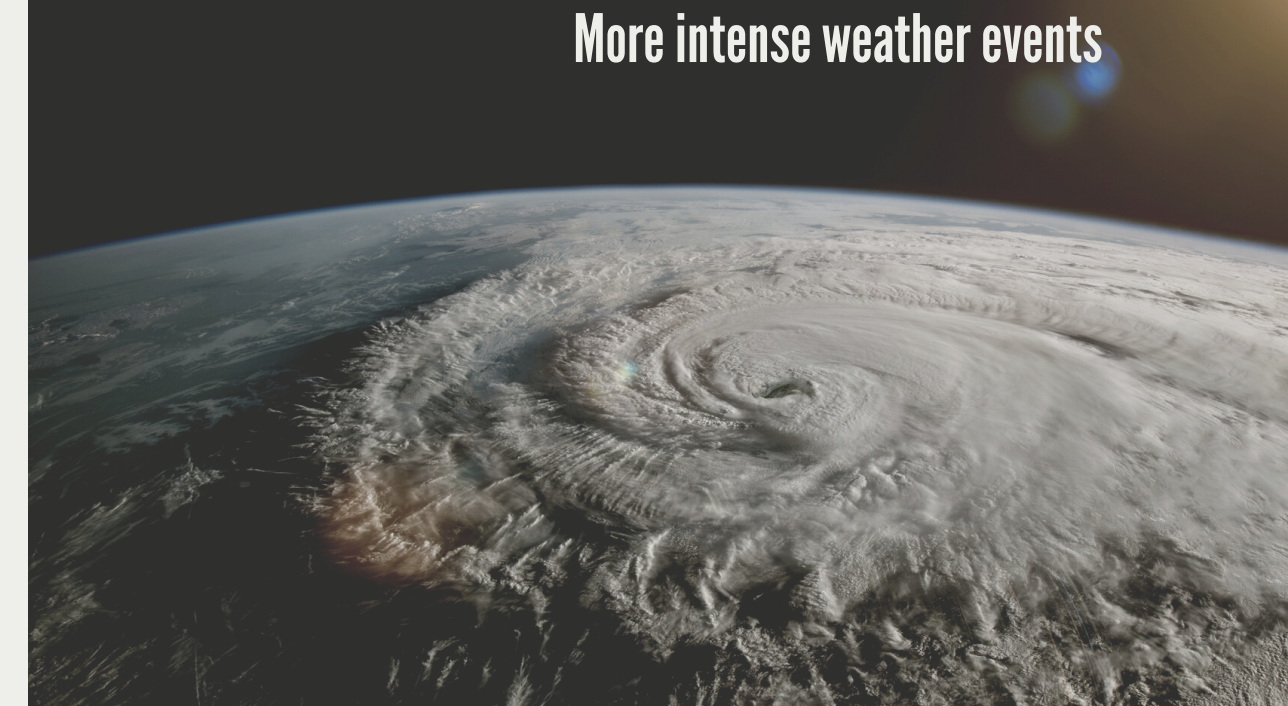


Listening to Fellow Priests and Laity Across the World

Pastoral Letters, The Film "The Letter: A Message
for our Earth" (2022), Prayers from the Faithful



Ocean Acidification - Death of Coral Reefs



More intense weather events



Polar Ice Caps Melting



You don't care for what you don't love...

Our Imaginations Were Fed a Story of Alienation

We believed we were separate, superior and more loved by God than our Common Home -
- or those we associate with Earth (the poor, women, indigenous people, the sick, the elderly, people who are disabled)



Poet John O'Donohue

Living Landscapes
Sacred Space
Entering the dream that
brought you forth
Beauty





THEOLOGY OF POPE FRANCIS

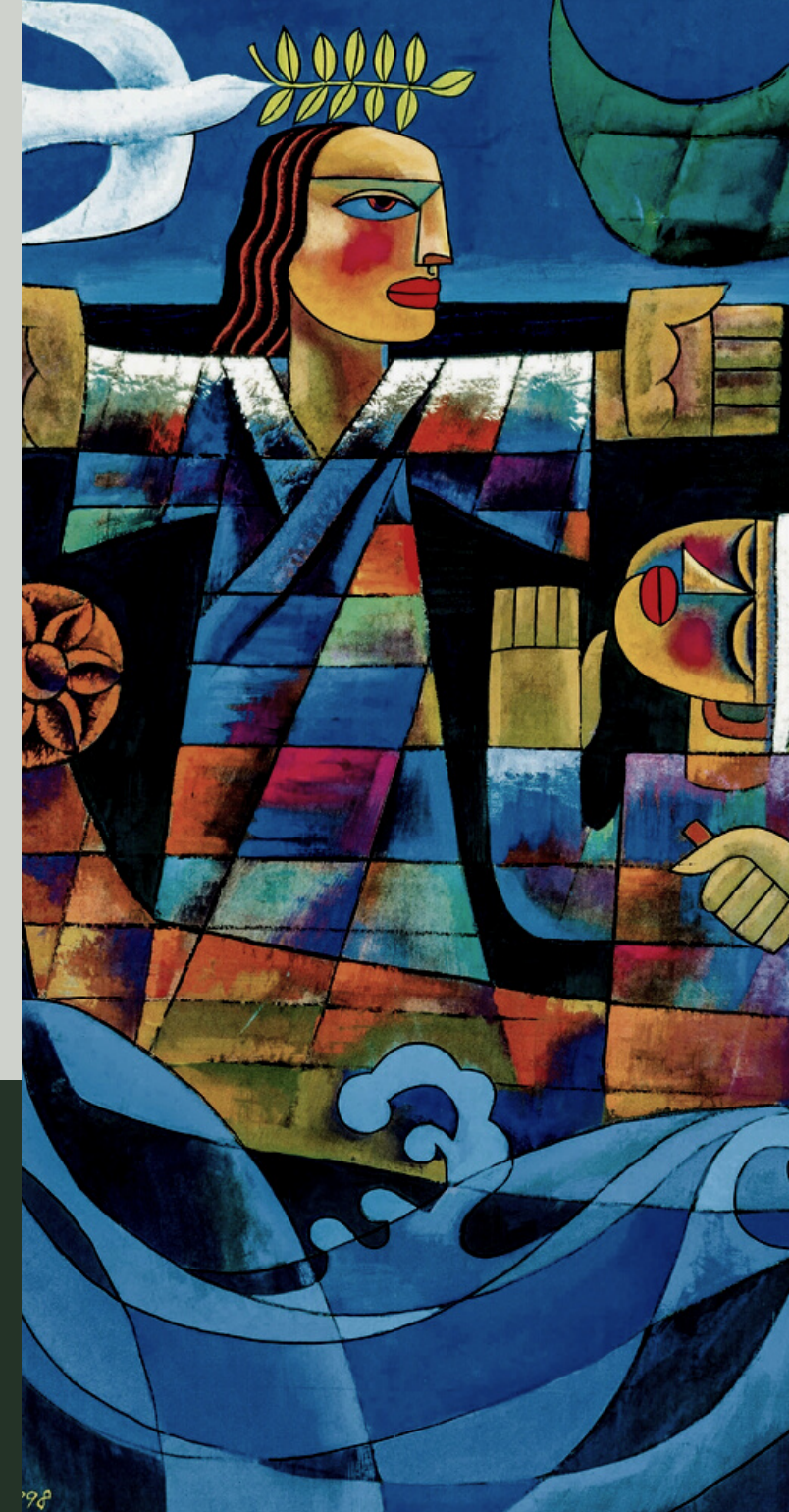
LAUDATO SI'
&
LAUDATE DEUM



TRINITY

God Creator

*Blake Debassige, Canada
Tree of Life*



INCARNATION

God With Us

*Chinese-born artist James He Qi's
"Peace, Be Still" (1998)*



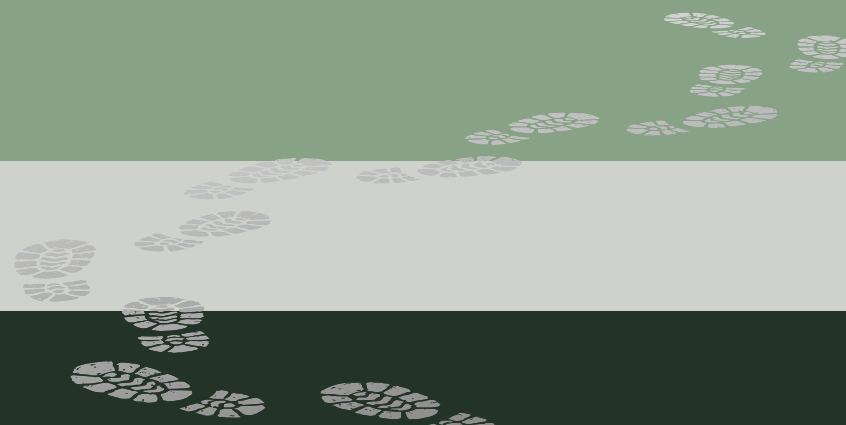
HOLY SPIRIT

New Life Out of Death

Check Out Jamaican artist Bernard
Hoyes' "in the Spirit" (1983) painting at
[http://www.bernardhoyes.com/inthesp
irit.aspx](http://www.bernardhoyes.com/inthespirit.aspx)



ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION PILGRIMAGE OF RECONCILIATION



INTRINSIC WORTH OF CREATION
WE ARE PART OF THE WEB OF LIFE (INTERDEPENDENT)
GRATITUDE TO RESPONSIBILITY





Catholics, CST and Creation Care

The Church's social teaching (CST) is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB)

"Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored."

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB)

"Let us be renewed by God's mercy ... and let us become **agents of this mercy**, channels through which God can **water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.**"

POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATO SI' 11

I ask everyone to accompany this **pilgrimage of reconciliation** with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful, because that commitment has to do with **our personal dignity and highest values.**

POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATE DEUM 69

A close-up photograph of a seal swimming in the ocean. The seal's head is above water, and it is looking directly at the camera. The water is dark blue with some white foam from the seal's movement. The seal has a light-colored, spotted coat and prominent whiskers.

CST #1: LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

"As we put our babies to our breasts, we are feeding them a noxious toxic cocktail. When women have to think twice about breast feeding their babies surely that must be a wake up call for the world."

Sheila Watt-Clouthier -- Grandmother and President of Inuit Circumpolar Conference ICC (Johansen 2002 Indian American Quarterly)

CST #2: A CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNION AND PARTICIPATION

In the 1980s, **black New Orleanians** were encouraged to buy houses built by the city on top of a toxic landfill. Three decades later it is one of Louisiana's worst **cancer hotspots**. Rise St. James is a faith-based grassroots organization that is fighting for environmental justice as it works to defeat the proliferation of petrochemical industries in St. James Parish, Louisiana.

A photograph of Sharon Lavigne, a Black woman, speaking into a microphone at a protest. She is wearing a black t-shirt with the text "RISE ST. JAMES" and "DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN CANCER ALLEY". In the background, other protesters are visible, some holding signs. A large banner in the bottom right corner reads "BIDEN 1 STATE OF JAMES".

RISE
ST. JAMES
DECLARE A
STATE OF
EMERGENCY
IN CANCER
ALLEY

Sharon Lavigne, 2021's Goldman Environmental Prize winner, Rise St. James galvanized community opposition and successfully defeated the construction of a \$1.25 billion plastics manufacturing plant in 2018.

CST #3: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

'You tell me your ZIP code, and I can tell you how healthy you are' Dr. Robert Bullard (2020)



CST #4 OPTION FOR THE POOR

“Attacks on Nature have consequences for people's lives”
(Bishops assembled for the Synod for Amazonia, 2019)
Climate change makes manifest “a tragic and striking
example of structural sin” (African Bishops, 2022)

From Laudate Deum, 3



**#RISE
FOR
CLIMATE**



CST #5: DIGNITY OF WORK & THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

Covid-19 outbreak is simply highlighting again the dangerous conditions in processing plants. The industry has perfected a formula which allows it to "**maximize profit** while producing relatively safe meat by resisting regulations and utilizing low cost, mostly **immigrant, labor** in **unsafe conditions**." (Guardian 2020; Lourdes Gouveia, University of Nebraska)

Workers at Tyson in Camilla Georgia poultry processing plant. Photograph: Tyson/AP



CST #6: SOLIDARITY

53.6 million metric tonnes (Mt) of electronic waste was generated worldwide in 2019, up 21% in just five years - and **the Americas** produced the second highest amount **(13.1 Mt)**. E-Waste contains toxic, hazardous substances (Mercury, lead, BFRs, CFCs...) and poses significant risk to ecosystem and human health. **Only 17.4 per cent of 2019's e-waste was collected and recycled**
(2020 UN;WHO; ITU; ISWA Report)

CST #7: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

HEARING THE CRY OF THE POOR

For Dignity ... For Security ... For Clean Water ...
For Access to Good Food ... For Health ...
For Abundant Life

HEARING THE CRY OF EARTH

For Respect ... For Less Plastic ... For
Sustainable Development ... For Less Carbon
Emissions ... For Less Encroachment in Nature ...
For Less Extinctions ... For Abundant Life

ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

To Deep Spiritual Lives ... To Conscious
Consumption ... To Love as Resistance to
Hatred and Apathy ... **To Abundant Life for All**



Our Call to Follow in the Footsteps of St. Francis and Pope Francis

**Shaking Off the cobwebs of the old story is hard.
We need good storytellers and a rich treasure trove of stories of hope and healing
Catholics have both...**



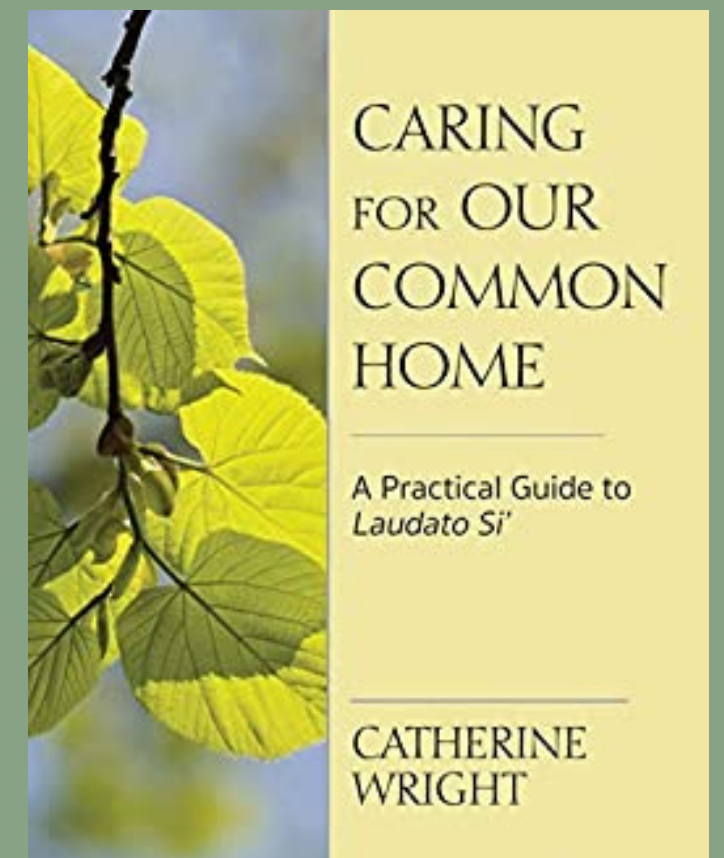
"My little sisters the birds,
Ye owe much to God, your Creator,
And ye ought to sing his praise at all times and in
all places..."
Sermon to the Birds, St. Francis

"I cannot fail in this regard to remind the Catholic
faithful of the motivations born of their faith. I
encourage my brothers and sisters of other
religions to do the same, since we know that
authentic faith not only gives strength to the
human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures
our goals and sheds light on our relationship to
others and with creation as a whole"
Laudate Deum, 61

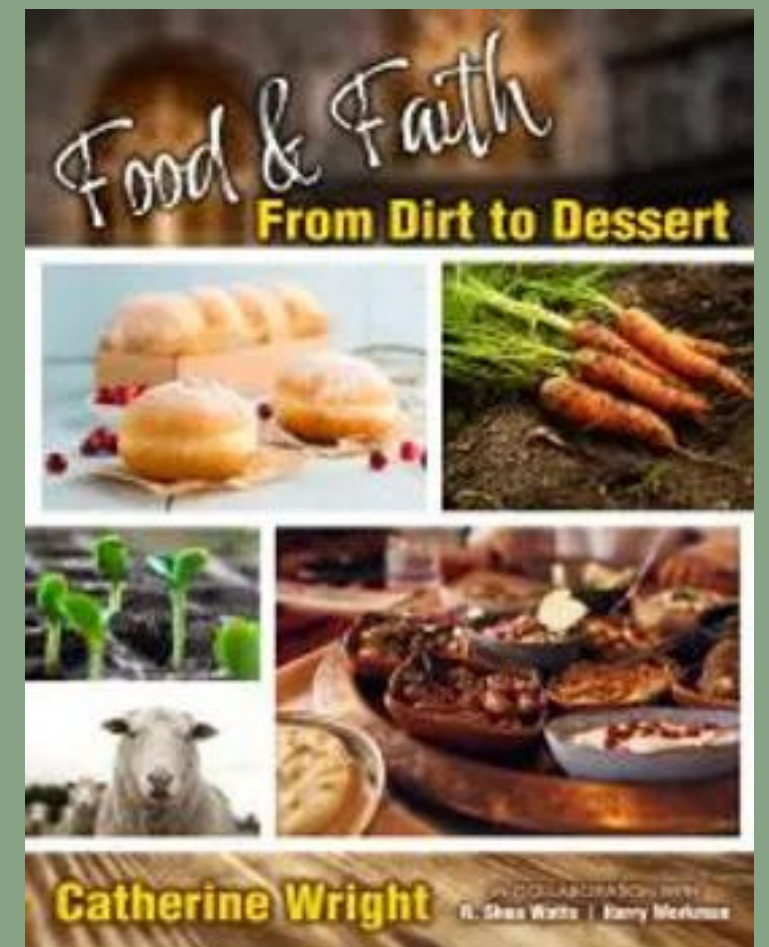
Resources for
Creation Care
Teams

LINK

www.thewrightecotheologian.com



*Practical Ways to Faithfully
Walk (and Eat) in the World*



Questions to Ponder

What inspires you to walk faithfully in Francis' footsteps? How will you care for creation and the most vulnerable?

How will you become integral ecology storytellers on our pilgrimage of reconciliation?

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Founding Director, The Collaborative for the Common Good

<https://www.wingate.edu/life-at-wingate/common-good>

