

# CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

## CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND TEACHINGS

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of Creation.

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.

The environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

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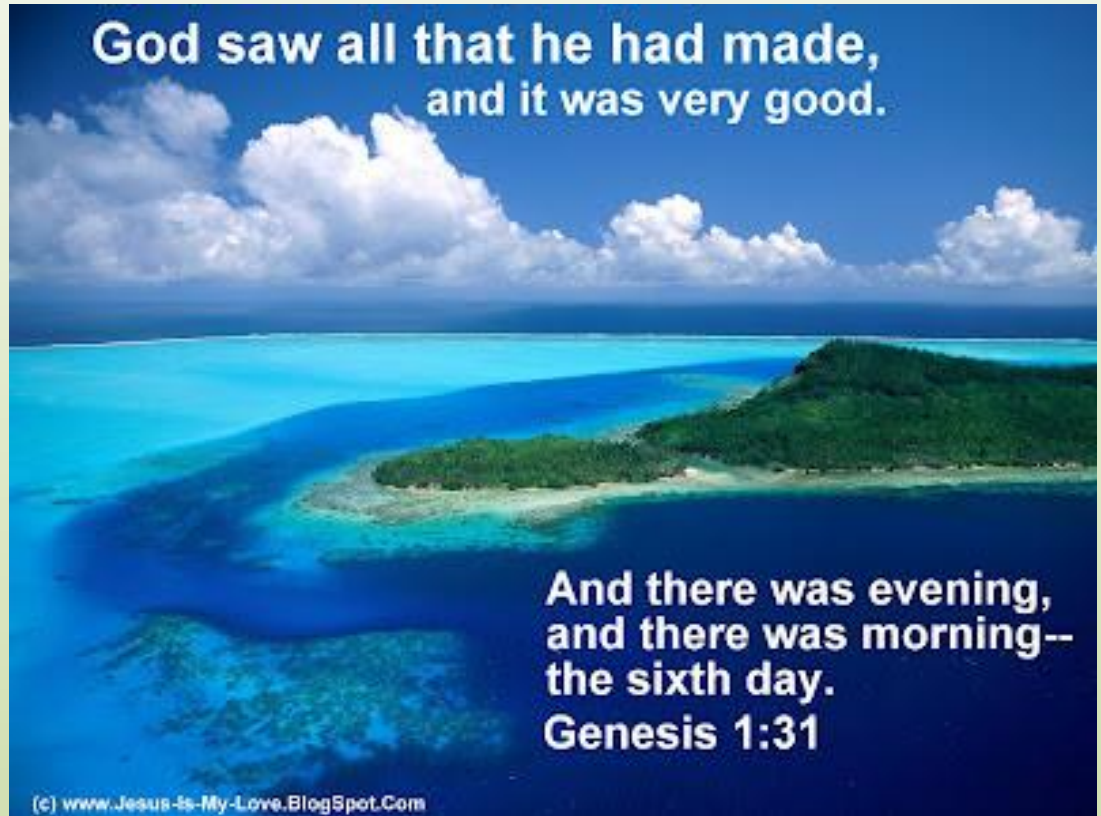


<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation.cfm>

# Grounded in Scripture

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it *very good*.

Genesis 1:31



# Grounded in Scripture

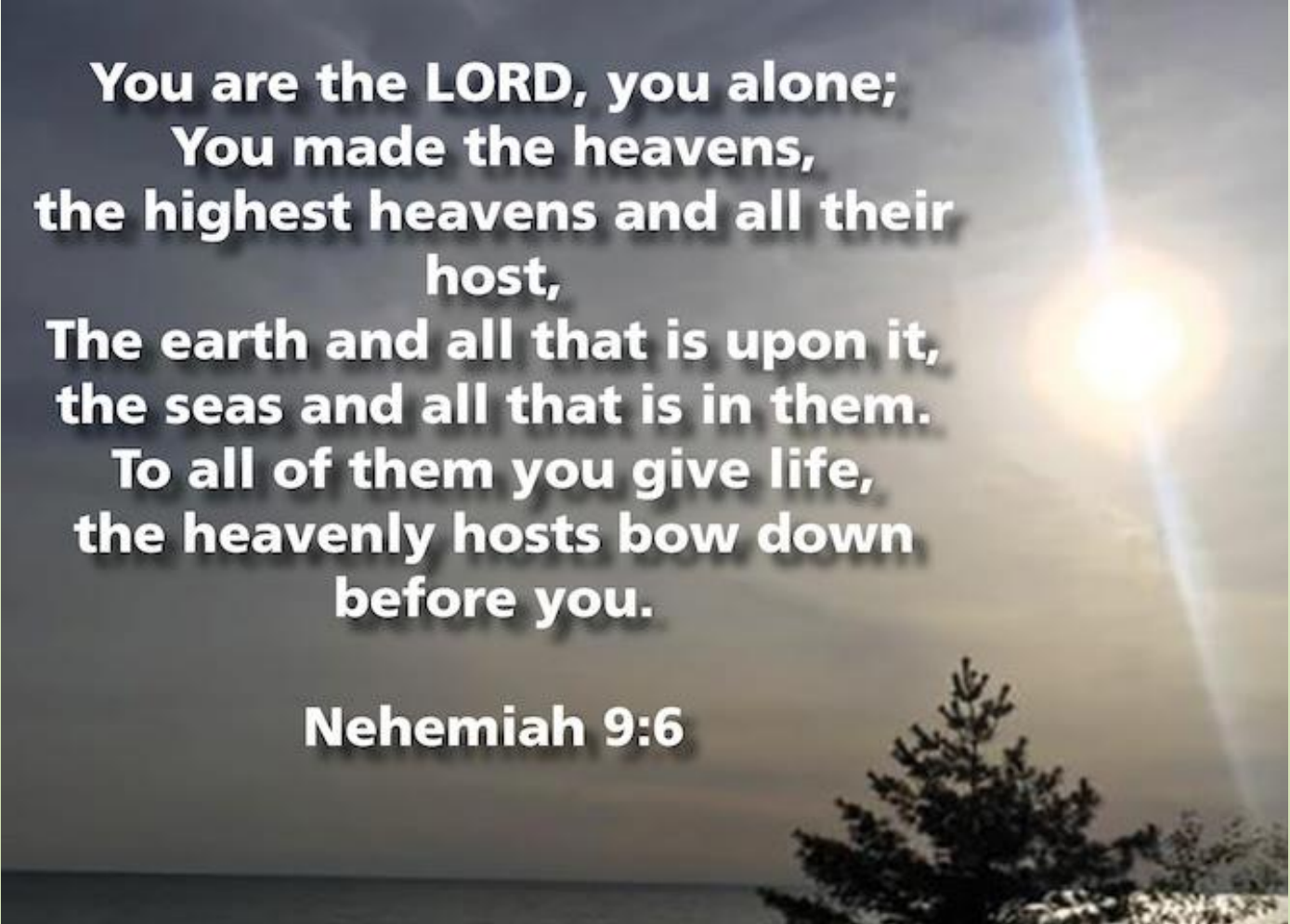


The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, *to cultivate it and care for it.* Genesis 2:15



Photos of Boy Scouts building a Pollinator Garden at St. John Neumann, Fall 2017

# Grounded in Scripture

A dramatic sky scene with a bright sun and a vertical beam of light. The sun is a large, glowing orb on the right side of the frame, casting a bright, vertical beam of light that extends from the top to the bottom of the image. The sky is a mix of light and dark clouds, with the sun's glow illuminating the surrounding area. In the bottom right corner, the dark silhouette of a tree is visible against the sky.

**You are the LORD, you alone;  
You made the heavens,  
the highest heavens and all their  
host,  
The earth and all that is upon it,  
the seas and all that is in them.  
To all of them you give life,  
the heavenly hosts bow down  
before you.**

**Nehemiah 9:6**



# Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi

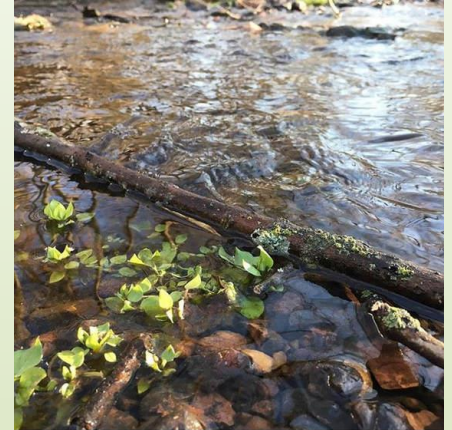


# Canticle of Creation

Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation and especially for our **BROTHER SUN**, who brings us the day and the light; he is strong and shines magnificently.



Be praised, my Lord, for **SISTER WATER**, who is very useful to us, and humble and precious and pure.



Be praised, my Lord, for **MOTHER EARTH**, who nourishes us and sustains us, bringing forth fruits and vegetables and flowers of many colours.

Photos submitted by SJN students during the 2017 Season of Creation

# Guided by Saint John Paul II



“When the ecological crisis is set within the broader context of the search for peace within society, we can understand better the importance of giving attention to what the earth and its atmosphere are telling us:

namely, that there is an order in the universe which must be respected, and that the human person, endowed with the capability of choosing freely, has a grave responsibility to preserve this order for the well-being of future generations.

**I wish to repeat that the ecological crisis is a moral issue.**

[Saint John Paul II](#), *Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All Creation* - 1990  
World Day of Peace Message, nos. 6, 9.



# Guided by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change ... ?

Humanity needs a profound cultural renewal; it needs to rediscover those values which can serve as the solid basis for building a brighter future for all.

Our present crises – be they economic, food-related, environmental or social – are ultimately also moral crises, and all of them are interrelated.



**They require us to rethink  
the path which we are  
traveling together.**

[Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI](#), *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation* - 2010 World Day of Peace Message, nos. 4, 5.



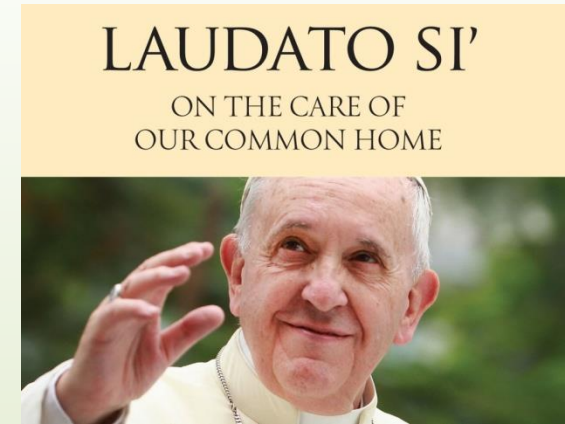
## Guided by Pope Francis



**“I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”**

**—Pope Francis,  
Laudato Si’**

# Top 10 *Laudato Si'* Takeaways



#10 A change of heart is required

#9 Global dialogue and solidarity are needed

#8 Widespread indifference and selfishness worsen environmental problems

#7 Scientific research on the environment is to be praised and used

#6 Everything is connected – including the economy

#5 Discussions about ecology can be grounded in the Bible and church tradition

#4 Catholic social teaching now includes teaching on the environment

#3 Less is more

#2 The poor are disproportionately affected by climate change

**#1 The spiritual perspective is now part of the discussion on the Environment**

Source: James Martin, S.J.; America Magazine; June 18, 2015

# Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

**Everything is Connected !**

**Care for God's Creation**

**Call to Family,  
Community and Participation**

**Rights and Responsibilities**

**Option for the Poor  
And Vulnerable**

**Dignity of Work and  
Rights of Workers**

**Solidarity**

**Life and Dignity of the  
Human Person**

## SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Call to Family, Community and  
Participation

Rights and Responsibilities

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Dignity of Work and the  
Rights of Workers

Solidarity

Care for God's Creation