



# CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

**Basic** - The world was made by God, so we take care of all creation.

**More** - 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. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

### **CST 101: Care for God's Creation**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSnXuCxiHXE&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSnXuCxiHXE&feature=emb_logo)

## **EXAMPLES FROM SCRIPTURE** Taken from the USCCB website.

Genesis 1:1-31 - God made the heavens and the earth and it was good.

Genesis 2:15 - Humans are commanded to care for God's creation.

Leviticus 25:1-7 - The land itself must be given a rest and not abused.

Deuteronomy 10:14 - All of heaven and earth belong to the Lord.

Psalms 24:1-2 - All the earth is the Lord's.

Daniel 3:56-82 - Creation proclaims the glory of God.

Matthew 6:25-34 - God loves and cares for all of creation.

Romans 1:20 - Creation reveals the nature of God.

1 Corinthians 10:26 - Creation and all created things are inherently good because they are of the Lord.



# SOLIDARITY

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## PRAYER SERVICE

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### SET UP

- Place this week's picture in your prayer area
- Light a candle
- Open Bible to Matthew 6:26, 30

### GATHER

*Gather around your prepared prayer space. Take a minute to quiet the noise around you and turn your focus towards God.*

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Song: Open My Eyes Lord

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.  
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.  
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.  
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love.  
I live within you. Rest now in me.

### LISTEN

*Now take time to listen to God speaking to you through Scripture.*

**Reader 1:** A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

"Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them... If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows

today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith."

The Word of the Lord,  
ALL: Thanks be to God.

## SHARE

*Pick a couple questions to talk about for a few minutes. If you get stuck on a question, just move on to a different one.*

- One way that God reveals himself to us is through his creation. Have you experienced awe and wonder at God's creation?
- What has your experience with nature taught you about the Creator?
- How is the call to care for God's creation connected with our concern for every person's life and dignity? Both at home and around the world, now and in the future generations?
- In your community or globally, what examples have you encountered regarding environmental contamination or climate change affecting vulnerable persons?

## LISTEN

*In light of the conversation you just had, read through the reading again.*

Reader 2: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

"Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them... If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?"

The Word of the Lord,  
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## RESPOND

*Now that we have listened to God speaking to us, how are we going to respond to His message?*

This week, take a walk outside and as you're walking thank God for the beauty of His creation. Maybe on your walk pick a few wild flowers to put in your prayer space this week.



## SEND

*Now that we have spent time in prayer with God, listening to His message and responded, we are sent. Challenged to go out and use what we have learned.*

Leader:

### CANTICLE OF CREATION

Be praised Good Lord for Brother Sun who brings us each new day.

Be praised for Sister Moon: white beauty bright and fair, with wandering stars she moves through the night.

Be praised my Lord for Brother Wind, for air and clouds and the skies of every season.

Be praised for Sister Water: humble, helpful, precious, pure; she cleanses us in rivers and renews us in rain.

Be praised my Lord for Brother fire: he purifies and enlightens us.

Be praised my Lord for Mother Earth: abundant source, all life sustaining; she feeds us bread and fruit and gives us flowers.

Be praised my Lord for the gift of life; for changing dusk and dawn; for touch and scent and song.

Be praised my Lord for those who pardon one another for love of thee, and endure sickness and tribulation.

Blessed are they who shall endure it in peace, for they shall be crowned by Thee.

Be praised Good Lord for sister Death who welcomes us in loving embrace.

Be praised my Lord for all your creation serving you joyfully.

ALL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

\*The "Canticle of Creation" is a song of praise written by St. Francis of Assisi as he approached death midst illness and disability.

