



INTRODUCTION TO  
**RESOURCES FOR**  
**Celebrating a**  
**Catholic Season**  
**of Creation During**  
**September**



















***contemplation deepens the more we feel the working of God's grace within our hearts, and the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves***

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #234

#### WHAT CAN I DO?

- Introduce Catholic Earthcare during Sunday Mass.
- Inquire if Catholic Schools teach ecology.
- Explore resources on the US Catholic Bishops eco-web site [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org)

#### COVENANT

God acted in the Spirit hovering over the void (Gn 1:1-2) to grow Earth and creatures that were very good (Gn 1:31). The history of the People of God is one of adaptation as it moved across deserts, the fertile Egyptian delta to finally settle in the lands of Palestine. The nature parables of Jesus about the mustard seed sprouting and the yeast multiplying can be taken as images of an 'Evolution Covenant' (Lk 13:18-21). God is author of all Earth processes. Jesus was familiar with the changing seasons. He used their images of change to teach, slowly growing the understanding of his followers about who are children of God by praising the faith of the pagan Canaanite woman (Mt 15:28). An evolution covenant was reinforced socially under the Holy Spirit as Church communities grew across nations (Acts 16:9-10). The Spirit challenged Peter and Paul to accept God's children outside of Israel (Ac 10:34-36). Disciples must not be deceived by the simplistic but read the signs of the times and grow (Mt 24:4-6).

#### CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

St Hildegard of Bingen wrote of the Earth as Mother ... it forms not only the basic raw material for humankind but also the substance of God's Son. She formed the nuns in her Rhine River monastery in the middle ages to celebrate a verdant God in poetry and song, and to use herbs for healing the sick. Singleton Mercy Sisters remember Sister Calasactus who in the early 1950s was promoting biology studies among the novices. Her garden was thick with trees and there was a special place for plants mentioned in the Bible. Such formation helped many 'trees to bloom in the desert'.

#### MYSTICISM

Ecological conversion adds a new dimension to Christian mysticism. Becoming aware that Earth underpins all life systems leads to humility before God's first gift and first revelation; widens theological attitudes and stretches the moral imagination. Ecological conversion helps cultivate patient reflection in preparation for choosing a vocation. To especially nourish the Christian ecological vocation Catholic Earthcare produced the Garden Planet DVD, organised a 2005 Climate Change Conference and published Regional ecological statements. Crowned in 2015 by the environmental encyclical of Pope Francis, Care for Earth is part of Church mission and a spiritual pathway for every believer. It is not optional.

#### ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

Wilderness is a particular geological area where plants and animals have evolved and flourish undisturbed by human activities. Within its dynamic structure, wilderness carries the cumulative innate wisdom in the form of genetic memory over millions of years. Humans respect and care for wilderness as a gift of the eons. It conveys a sense of the beyond. Wilderness is good for the human spirit to contemplate with love in the present and is heritage for future generations. It is not to be harmed by insensitive tourism or be the victim of untested bio-technology. [www.australianwildlife.org](http://www.australianwildlife.org) . [www.madge.org.au](http://www.madge.org.au)

#### LOCAL CULTURE

Being hard-hearted is different to being hard-headed. Migration to Australia has always involved trauma. Current border measures might help save lives at sea but often do not make compassion for refugees visible. Integration to grow a nation seems better than exclusion. <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/media-releases/28-new-detention-centre-a-hard-hearted-response-bishop>

*I miss you most  
when I'm at sea the boat  
sailing unaided on course I weep  
bitter tears above the engine*

Lee Cataldi Letter

<http://www.poetrylibrary.edu.au/poets/cataldi-lee/letter-0189023>

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

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #238

