

# Universal Kinship.... Franciscan Journey Chapter 26

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# St. Francis, Patron of Ecologist

- Care for the Earth is requirement of our faith (USCCB page 424)
- Protect people & planet in relationship with all of God's creation – fundamental moral & ethical dimensions
- Establish circumstances of living & environment which would not be a threat to the human person (Constitution- article 18.4)
- Work with others to stop pollution and degrading nature

## God Entrusted Resources of the Earth to Stewardship of all People

- The Church upholds the principal that the destination of the goods of the earth is meant for the common good of all people
- Church stands by the right of private property
- Our ability to live in harmony with the natural world is important to all





# Consequences

- Easy to ignore warnings and continue to exploit nature
- If we ignore, abuse, misuse nature, there are negative consequences
- Pollution, poisoned streams, ground water contamination, loss of oxygen-bearing forests  
climate change – touch our ability to live in harmony with nature



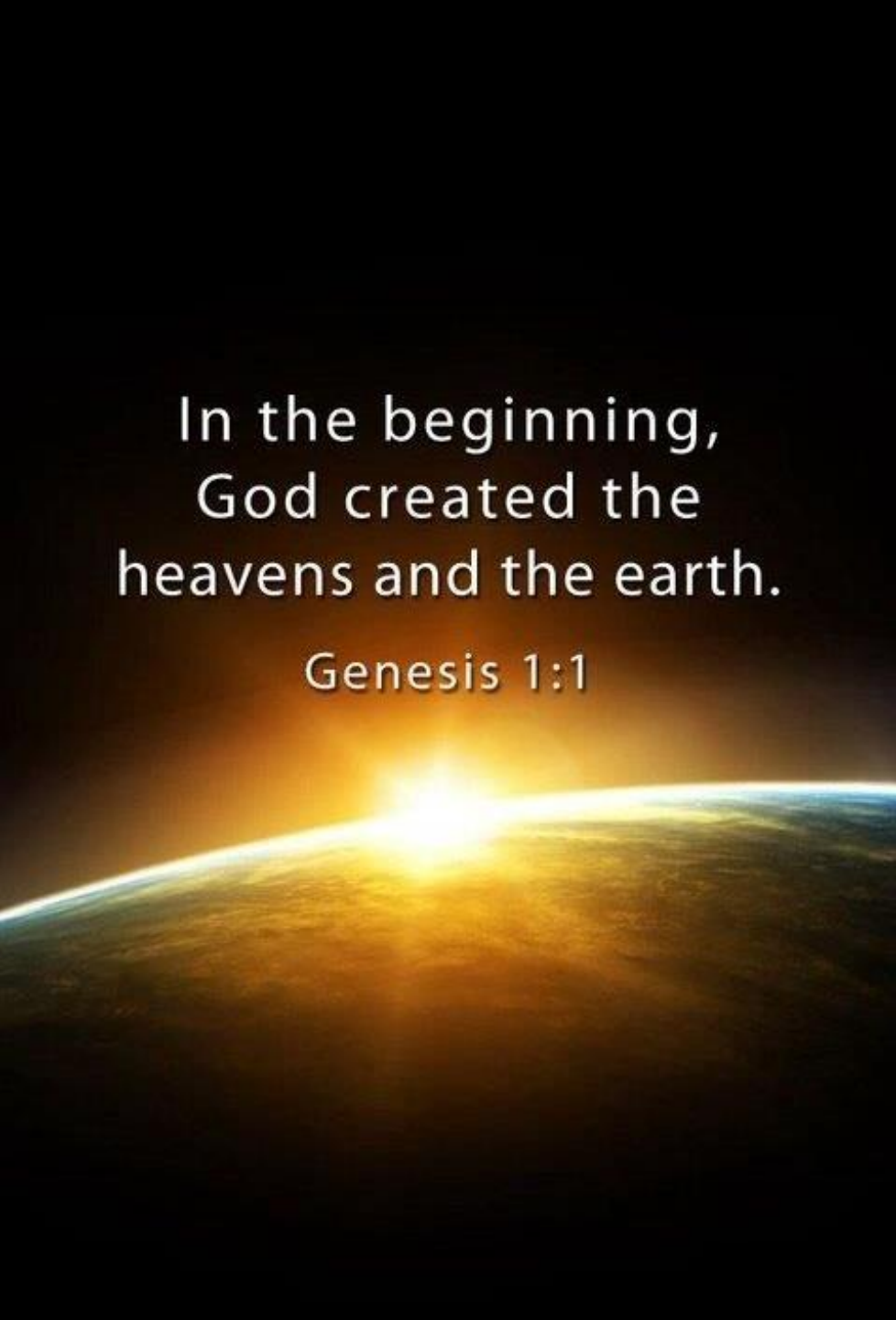


# Franciscans – Reverence & Respect for Nature

- We choose to find ways to protect nature's resources so that they are available to all people- the children of future generations
- Promote healthy responsibility & concern for earth's resources
- Look to things that promote common good, not exploitation for personal gain



*"The old Lakota was wise. He knew that a man's heart, away from nature, becomes hard. He knew that lack of respect for growing, living things soon led to lack of respect for humans, too. So he kept his children close to nature's softening influence."*



In the beginning,  
God created the  
heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1



## Taking care of the Earth is in our best interest

- Show respect to all creatures – animate and inanimate
- Act on sound information, not on hearsay evidence
- It is more than recycling
- Relies on Franciscan spirit that is in tune with God's creative love at work in giving us a world to live in
- We were put in the world – we are responsible to care for it



# Franciscans – Encourage Respect for Creation

- Tackle problems of wasting and exploitation of the earth's resources for profit
- Dialogue & encourage respect for all creation and all creatures
- Respectful confrontation may not lead to immediate success – but be consistent in calling for change





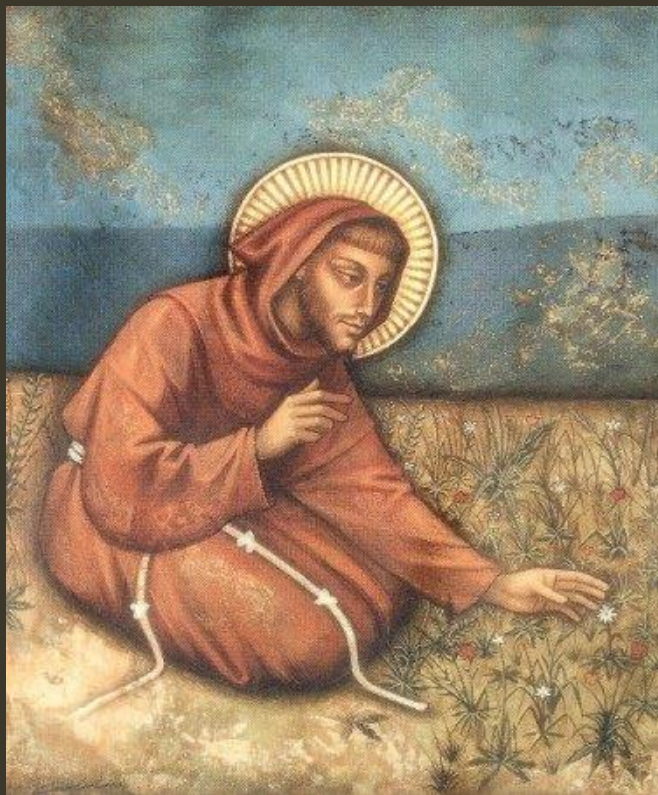
# Creation bears the imprint of the Most High (OFS Rule #18)

- Nature brings the Gift of Beauty
- Flowering plants, mountains, streams, lakes & rivers, the ocean, sky, rainbows, lightning flashes and rain and thunder
- A animals provide companionship, quiet for aching hearts





St. Pope John Paul II, the Great, named St Francis the Patron of Ecology



# LAUDATO SI

THE EARTH WILL NOT CONTINUE  
TO OFFER ITS HARVEST, EXCEPT WITH  
*faithful stewardship.*  
WE CANNOT SAY WE LOVE THE LAND  
AND THEN TAKE STEPS TO DESTROY IT  
FOR USE BY FUTURE GENERATIONS.

- POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II





# Trinitarian Spirituality

- As Francis grew in his relationship with God, his concern for people and all creation grew
- This was a result of his intimacy with Jesus
- Nothing was left out of his reach of love
- His respect for all creation blossomed & found numerous expression of this love

Praised be You, my Lord,  
with all Your creatures,  
especially **Sir 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.





# God's Gift of Creation

- Francis' showed concern for all creation which sprang from his sense of gratitude for God's continuing gifts to all people
- Francis probably didn't know the word "ecology" but his love for creation was consistent with this
- His relationship with God included a universal relationship with God's creatures – became his **BROTHERS & SISTERS**

