

## EMBRACING CHRIST AND HIS CREATION

June 22, 2025

### Retreat Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Opening Prayer
- 3) Video: US Bishops: *Care for God's Creation* (<https://bit.ly/CSTUSCCB>)
  - a. Watch video
  - b. Personal reflection
  - c. Sharing with one or two other persons
- 4) Video: Fr. Dan Horan, OFM: *Models of Creation* (<https://bit.ly/HoranLS1>)
  - a. Watch Video
  - b. Personal reflection
  - c. Sharing with one or two other persons
  - d. Sharing with the large group
- 5) Break and time for individual prayer/reflection with St. Francis of Assisi  
*Canticle of the Creatures*
- 6) Video and talk
  - a. Video: Excerpt from *The Letter* (<https://bit.ly/LetterLS>)
  - b. Talk on *Laudato Si'*
    - i. Personal Reflection
- 7) Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
  - a. Personal Reflection
  - b. Sharing with the large group
- 8) Closing Prayer Service

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

### The US Bishops' Video on Care for God's Creation:

- 1) What do you think of Fr. Martin's "thought experiment"? (You receive a lovingly-prepared gift from a friend and you destroy it. How does this make your friend feel?) Does this "thought experiment" help you, or hinder you, in thinking about your relationship with our environment? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2) How do you understand the difference between "keep" and "till"? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 3) Dr. Woo talks about how the poor rely heavily on the environment for their livelihood. How does care for the environment translate into care for our poorer brothers and sisters? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 4) Cardinal Turkson speaks about a "reciprocal relationship" between humans and their environment. What does this mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 5) What do you see as the place of Care for God's Creation in the canon of Catholic Social Teaching? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Fr. Dan Horan: *The Models of Creation*

- 1) What do the three models of creation discussed by Fr. Horan (Dominion, Stewardship and Kinship) have in common? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2) What is the major assertion of the first model of creation and what implications does this model hold for humans' relationship with the earth? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 3) How is the second model of creation similar to/different from the first model? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 4) What is the beginning assumption for the third model of creation? How is this model similar to/different from the second model? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 5) Fr. Horan uses the words *ruler*, *landlord* and *sibling* to describe a human's relationship to creation as presented in the three models of creation. How do you believe these three words describe a person's relationship with creation?  
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Leo Racine: *Laudato Si'* Talk

1) What do you see as Pope Francis' primary point(s) in *Laudato Si'*? \_\_\_\_\_

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2) With what do you agree or disagree regarding Pope Francis' assessment of the human responsibility for the ecological and social challenges we face today?

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3) How do you believe we can encounter/embrace Christ in creation today? \_\_\_\_\_

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4) Where do you see "evidence" of the stewardship and kinship models of creation in *Laudato Si'*? \_\_\_\_\_

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Ezekiel 37:1-14

1) What do the dry bones represent for you in the complex environmental and social crisis we meet today? \_\_\_\_\_

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2) What does it mean to you to hear the dry bones say: "Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off?" \_\_\_\_\_

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3) How do you see yourself as the person prophesying to the dry bones of our time?

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## Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me,  
and he led me out in the spirit of the Lord  
and set me in the center of the broad valley.  
It was filled with bones.  
He made me walk among them in every direction.  
So many lay on the surface of the valley!  
How dry they were!  
He asked me: "Son of man, can these bones come back to life?"  
"Lord God," I answered, "you alone know that."  
Then he said to me: "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them:  
Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!  
Thus says the Lord God to these bones:  
Listen! I will make breath enter you so you may come to life.  
I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow over you,  
cover you with skin, and put breath into you  
so you may come to life.  
Then you shall know that I am the Lord."  
I prophesied as I had been commanded.  
A sound started up, as I was prophesying, rattling like thunder.  
The bones came together, bone joining to bone.  
As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh grew over them,  
skin covered them on top,  
but there was no breath in them.  
Then he said to me: "Prophesy to the breath,  
prophesy, son of man!  
Say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God:  
From the four winds come, O breath,  
and breathe into these slain that they may come to life."  
I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath entered them;  
they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.  
He said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel!  
They are saying, 'Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off.'  
Therefore, prophesy and say to them:  
Thus says the Lord God: Look! I am going to open your graves;  
I will make you come up out of your graves, my people,  
and bring you back to the land of Israel.  
You shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves  
and make you come up out of them, my people!  
I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life,  
and I will settle you in your land.  
Then you shall know that I am the Lord.  
I have spoken; I will do it."

## EMBRACING CHRIST IN CREATION

June 22, 2025

Opening Song: How Great Thou Art!

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made.  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Ref: Then sings my soul, my savior, God, to thee!  
How great thou art! How great thou art! (2X)

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Ref: Then sings my soul, my savior, God, to thee!  
How great thou art! How great thou art! (2X)

Psalms 148: 1-6, 13-14 (prayed antiphonally)

Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all you his angels;  
give praise, all you his hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all shining stars.  
Praise him, highest heavens,  
you waters above the heavens.

Let them all praise the Lord's name;  
for he commanded and they were created,  
assigned them their station forever,  
set an order that will never change.

Let them all praise the Lord's name,  
for his name alone is exalted,  
his majesty above earth and heaven.  
He has lifted high the horn of his people;  
to the praise of all his faithful,  
the Israelites, the people near to him.  
Alleluia!

Reading: Deuteronomy 8:7-10

Intercessions

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer*

The Lord's Prayer

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us pray together the words that  
Jesus taught us.  
*Our Father...*

Closing Prayer: Christian Prayer from *Laudato Si'*

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence  
and your tender love.

Praise be to you! Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.

Praise be to you! Holy Spirit,  
by your light you guide this world  
towards the Father's love  
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.

*Praise be to you! Triune Lord,  
wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.  
God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good,  
advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!  
Amen.*

Closing Song:

*One Ohana*

Marty Haugen

We are a part of all creation,  
given the breath of life to share  
all the glory of our Maker  
with ev'ry person ev'rywhere.

Ref: All of creation, one ohana,  
all of creation sings in you.  
Many the voices, one great music,  
part of me and part of you.

If you would know and love your Maker,  
if you would learn the sacred way,  
treasure ev'ry plant and creature,  
treasure each other ev'ry day.

Ref: All of creation, one ohana...

Final Blessing and Dismissal



# Canticle of the Creatures

*by St. Francis of Assisi*

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing,  
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.  
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 of You, Most High One.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,  
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom You light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains and governs us,  
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord,  
through those who give pardon for Your love,  
and bear infirmity and tribulation.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace  
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,  
from whom no one living can escape.  
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,  
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks  
and serve Him with great humility.

