



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

Land Stewardship Committee

STEWARDSHIP OR DOMINATION

"And God saw that it was good" (Gn 1:25). God's gaze at the beginning of the Bible rests lovingly on his creation. From habitable land to life-giving waters, from fruit-bearing trees to animals that share our common home, everything is dear in the eyes of God, who offers creation to men and women as a precious gift to be preserved.

Tragically, the human response to this gift has been marked by sin, selfishness and a greedy desire to possess and exploit. Egoism and self-interest have turned creation, a place of encounter and sharing, into an arena of competition and conflict. In this way the environment itself is endangered: Something good in God's eyes has become something to be exploited in human hands.

Echoing St. Francis the Pope admonishes the faithful that "We have caused a climate emergency that gravely threatens nature and life itself, including our own. (We need)... to find a naturally beautiful place and think about how God created the universe and declared it good"

Pope Francis stresses that selfishness and self-interest have turned creation, which was meant to be a place of encounter and sharing, into "an arena of competition and conflict."

People have forgotten that they, too, are God's creation and not lords of the universe free to exploit anything they want, the pope said. Pollution, the incessant use of fossil fuels, deforestation and intensive farming are causing global temperatures to rise and already threaten the lives of the world's poorest people, he said.

Even a cursory look at melting glaciers, a lack of clean drinking water, the development of more frequent super storms and the considerable presence of plastic and microplastics in the oceans are signs of how human greed is making the planet increasingly hostile to life. (For further details see *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*).

It was the great Saint Francis that brought the church the ecological concept of "Brother sun, sister moon" an attempt to preach and live a life in harmony with nature. And it was the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber who urged all to see nature as a "Thou" and not an "It". Only then can we acquire harmony with nature.

GREEN LEAF

THERE IS MORE TO
ST. FRANCIS THAN
BIRD BATHS



Paradise Lost: The Urgent Summons of *Laudato Si'* to the American People

by Bishop McElroy

In his epic poem *Paradise Lost*, John Milton captured the majestic drama of the fall and rise of humanity amid the never-failing love and power of God's presence in the world. In the fourth book of the poem, Satan approaches the Garden of Eden, resolved to bring down Adam and Eve precisely because they have become a focus of God's love and tender care.

As he enters the garden, Satan is stunned and overwhelmed by the sheer beauty of the paradise that the Lord has created and bestowed upon the human family. But where once such overpowering loveliness would have turned his heart to God, now the very beauty of paradise reminds Satan only of his own alienation from the Creator, and he despises the majesty of creation just as he despises its Creator. Speaking to the sun, Satan cries out in pain:

*"O Thou, that with surpassing glory crowned,
Lookest from thy sole dominion like the lord
Of this new world; at whose sight all the stars
Hide their diminished heads, to thee I call,
But with no friendly voice, and add thy name
O Sun, to tell thee how I hate thy beams,
That bring to my remembrance from what state
I fell, how glorious once above thy sphere;
Til pride and worse ambition threw me down."*

BOOK CLUB OFFERING

The Land Stewardship Committee has under consideration the offering of a book club for monthly meetings and reviews of notable popular books on ecological spirituality. Parishioners interested in this effort are invited to call Ellie Weber at **(954) 609-5612**

The first books for review, discussion and commentary are:

LANDSCAPE OF THE SACRED, BY BELDEN LANE

ANIMAL SUFFERING AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL, BY NICOLA HOGGARD CREEGAN

ASK THE BEASTS, BY ELIZABETH A. JOHNSON

These hour long gatherings will discuss the monthly book selection in depth and the impact the authors position has on each of our spiritual orientations and understanding of how creation, environment, the beasts around us lead us to a deeper appreciation of God.

For more details and time and place call Ellie Weber at the number above. The books will be provided. Seating is best limited to no more than ten people so if this project interests you, call soon.

BOOK REVIEW GROUP

ASK THE BEASTS

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