

Follow-up to Chapter



JPIC NEP

In 2009 the Irish Bishops published a pastoral letter entitled “The Cry of the Earth” which aimed to stimulate dialogue and reflection on the questions posed by the challenge of Climate change. This document has now been updated and is accompanied by a document giving resource material for use in parishes and other groups. The material is very much in line with our General & Provincial Chapter call to “*Respect for all Creation*”

“As apostolic women religious, impelled by the passion of God for humanity and all creation and Gailhac’s vision “that all may have life” “we journey with all who share the same vision and commitment to our earth and her peoples.”

General Chapter 2013

“Each sister is called to an awareness that everything we do can contribute to justice, peace and integrity/ interconnectedness of all creation.”

Provincial Chapter 2013.

From Document [Cry of the Earth](#) (can be downloaded from trocaire.org)

- “Christians believe that God is the creator of all that exists, that all creation comes from God’s hand and that God takes delight in it. God rejoiced in all that was created and saw that ‘indeed it was very good’ (Gen 1/30)
- Celtic Christianity had an acute awareness of the presence of God in the wonders and splendours of nature e.g St. Patrick’s Breastplate. In the Celtic mind, Christ walked among us in two shoes. One was Scripture and the other was Creation.
- The Social teaching of the Church and that of our most recent popes highlight the sacredness of the gift of creation and our responsibility to respect and care for it.

Creation therefore remains a kind of first revelation which speaks to us clearly of the Creator and which can lead us ever more deeply into the mystery of God’s love for us.

John Paul II (Jan 2002)

Creation is not a property which we can rule over at will: or, even less, is the property of only a few. Creation is a gift that God has given us, so that we can care for it and use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.

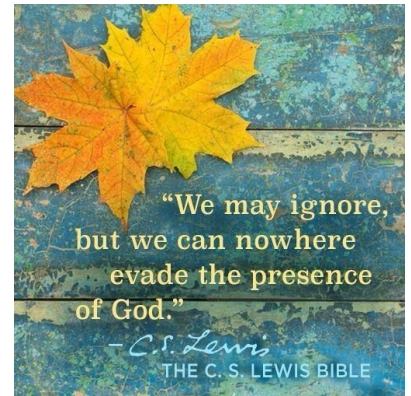
Pope Francis, (May 2014)

Action for Change: How can we bring this awareness into our lives?



Perhaps

Go to your own special place let the richness of nature flow through you.... take time to be still in the presence of God.... deepen your awareness of God in the many sights and sounds around you.. engage your senses .. sight, sound, touch, smell .. breathe His presence.



Prayer from Wildflower Journey Prayers:

The new awareness that is sweeping our planet reminds us that we are so interconnected with the air we breathe, the trees of the forest, the flowers of the field, the mountains and rivers, that their diminishment is our diminishment, their destruction is our destruction. Not only the beauty and majesty, but also the chaos and power of the natural world inspire our poetry and our art, and our spiritual life with a sense of wonder. When we fan the flame of wonder in our hearts there is a new meaning in our lives. Our hearts expand in care of those who journey with us and for our planet earth which is our home. To be aware of the caress of the summer breeze, the beauty of a flower, the smile of a friend, or the sparkle of a wave in flight, is a gift beyond price. It is the gift of wonder enfolded in awe.

The beautiful poem 'I See His Blood Upon the Rose' by (Joseph Mary Plunkett) is another lovely example of the presence and revelation of God in nature:

I see his blood upon the rose,
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,
His body gleams amid eternal snows,
His tears fall from the skies.

I see his face in every flower:
The thunder and the singing of the birds
Are but his voice – and carved by his power
Rocks are his written words.

All pathways by his feet are worn,
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,
His cross is every tree.