

CST 101 CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

A discussion guide from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services

OPENING PRAYER: Together, pray, “Prayer to Care for Our Common Home.”

WATCH: “CST 101: Care for God’s Creation” on YouTube.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE:

Read this Scripture passage twice.

Invite participants to reflect silently after it is read the first time.

“Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. . . . If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?” (*Matthew 6:26, 30*)

SHARE:

One way that God reveals himself to us is through his creation.

- Have you experienced awe and wonder at God’s creation?
- What has your experience with nature taught you about the Creator?

REFLECT ON TRADITION:

Read these passages aloud.

“On this earth there is room for everyone: here the entire human family must find the resources to live with dignity, through the help of nature itself—God’s gift to his children—and through hard work and creativity. At the same time we must recognize our grave duty to hand the earth on to future generations in such a condition that they too can worthily inhabit it and continue to cultivate it.”

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth*
(*Caritas in Veritate*), no. 50



Photo courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS

“A true ecological approach *always* becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. . . . Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.”

—Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si’)*, nos. 49, 91

DISCUSS:

- How is the call to care for God’s creation connected with our concern for the life and dignity of every person—both at home and around the world, now and in future generations?
- In your own community or globally, what examples have you encountered of environmental contamination or climate change affecting vulnerable persons?

ACT:

Read about one parish’s efforts to form “green teams” in response to Pope Francis’ call. What lifestyle changes or economic choices can you, your family or community make to better care for God’s creation?

SEND:

Creator God, help us become better stewards of creation in our families, parishes, neighborhoods, nation and world. Help us remember the stories and faces of those victimized by climate change, that we may change our lifestyles to benefit those who are vulnerable today, and those not yet born. Amen

Visit crs.org/CST-101 or usccb.org/cst for all CST 101 resources, including the prayers, stories and videos linked to in these discussion guides.



This text may be reproduced in whole or in part without alteration for nonprofit educational use, provided such reprints are not sold and include this notice.

Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C., and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in veritate* © 2009, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City; Pope Francis, *Laudato si’* © 2015, LEV. Used with permission. All rights reserved.