

Caring for Our Common Home

WHO DO **YOU**
WANT TO BE?

A VIDEO SERIES TO LIGHT YOUR PATH



Collaborate with Gospel Depth for the Protection and Renewal of God's Creation Lesson Plan

Prelection Prayer and Reflection

Canticle of the Creatures by Saint Francis of Assisi

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
all praise is yours, all glory, all honor,
and all blessing. To you, alone, Most High, do they
belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your
name.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through all you have made,
and first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and
through whom you give us light.

How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor;
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness. All Praise be
yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in
the heavens you have made them, bright, and precious,
and fair.

All praise be yours, my Lord,
through Brothers wind and air, and fair and stormy, all
the weather's moods,
by which you cherish all that you have made.
through Brothers wind and air, and fair and stormy, all
the weather's moods,
by which you cherish all that you have made.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, so
useful, humble, precious and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother
Fire, through whom you brighten up the night. How
beautiful is he, how cheerful!
Full of power and strength.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother
Earth, who sustains us and governs us, and produces
various fruits with colored flowers and herbs. All praise
be yours, my Lord, through those who grant pardon for
love of you; through those who endure sickness and
trial.

Happy are those who endure in peace,
By You, Most High, they will be crowned.
All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death, From
whose embrace no mortal can escape. Happy those
she finds doing your will! The second death can do them
no harm. Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks
and serve him with great humility. *Amen.*

Reflection

- Canticle of the Creatures was written in 1224 by St Francis of Assisi, who has inspired the Christian tradition to care and protect creation for 800 years. What strikes you about the language used in this prayer?
- What words stand out to you from this prayer, why do they stand out, and what is St Francis calling us to in terms of our relationship with the Creation?
- Share with a partner or trio the words/phrases that stand out to you and why. What is St Francis' message for us today?



Artwork by Ignasi Flores

Video Introduction and Airing

[Caring for Our Common Home Video \(linked here\)](#)

Before playing the Caring for our Common Home video, explain to the students that the Jesuits in 2019 identified four key priorities to guide their thinking and actions over the course of the next ten years called the “Universal Apostolic Preferences” - or “UAP’s” for short.

Explain that one of those UAP’s is called “Caring for our Common Home,” which is about protecting, renewing and transforming our relationship with Creation and thus ourselves, each other and the systems we live and work within.

Explain that the video they are about to watch is designed to take us on a journey of our relationship with Creation, the ways we have been birthed from Creation and flourished together AND the ways we have harmed Creation by creating a false sense of separation from the very life support systems we depend. Given the prayer we began with, please keep these questions in mind:

- What are the ways we have connected and flourished with Creation?
- What are the ways we have disconnected from and harmed Creation?

Discussion Questions

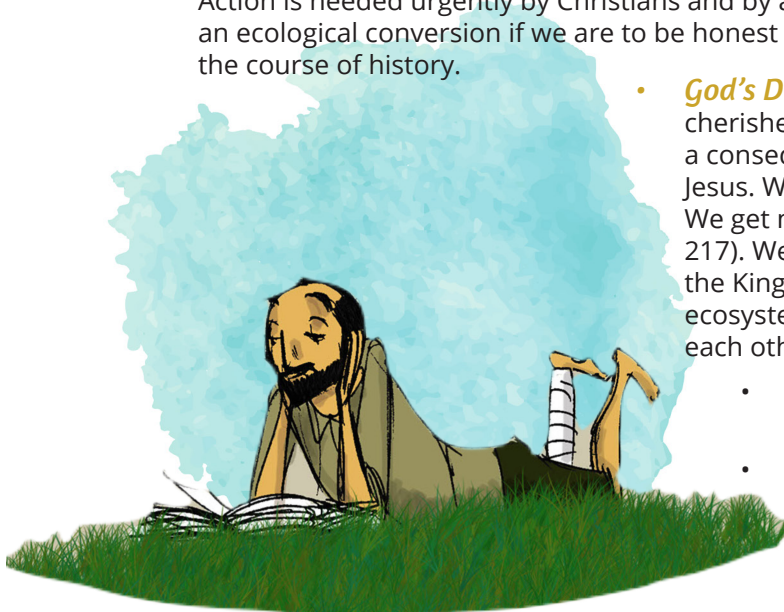
Please begin by giving students solo time to write and reflect, then they can share in partners or trios, then in large group/whole class. Please use the [Ignatian Conversations model](#) developed by De Smet Jesuit High School (also attached below).

- What struck you the most about this video and why? Please include at least 3 images
- What are the ways we have connected and flourished with Creation? Aim for 3 or more
- What are the ways we have disconnected from and harmed Creation? Aim for 3 or more
- What do St Ignatius of Loyola and St Francis (Canticle of Creatures) call us to embody?
- Share a personal experience of a positive connection with Creation you have had recently. Then, share an experience where you felt disconnected from Creation in some way.

Application and Contemplation: God’s Dream for Creation

From [Jesuits Global web page on Care for our Common Home](#), the following is shared:

- **Reality - How things stand:** Creation today is crying out as never before, labouring to be set free (Romans 8). Today’s environmental crisis is impacting in a particular way on the poor and vulnerable. Action is needed urgently by Christians and by all people of good will. Whole nations and peoples need an ecological conversion if we are to be honest custodians of this wonderful planet. We can still change the course of history.
- **God’s Dream:** Our faith is one that wants creation to be cherished and renewed. A whole new way of living opens up as a consequence of a personal and passionate relationship with Jesus. We get the grace to transcend ourselves (Laudato Si’, 208). We get new strength to care for others and for creation (LS, 217). We can live with a new horizon, embracing Jesus’ vision of the Kingdom of God, of a renewed and transformed world and ecosystem where we are all brothers and sisters, responsible to each other.



- What do you think God’s Dream is for us today? “Us” includes all of Creation.
- With the *Canticle of Creatures* as a model, **please compose your own prayer of God’s Dream.** Please illustrate this prayer using photos/images, in a slideshow, single document or another creative choice. Please come ready to share these prayers with the class.

Final Reflection and Action

- “Our challenge is to create a new language, even a new sense of what it is to be human. It is to transcend not only national limitations, but even our species isolation, to enter into the larger community of living species. This brings about a completely new sense of reality and value.” (Thomas Berry, “The Ecological Age,” in *The Dream of the Earth*, 42)
- How might your God’s Dream prayer help us towards an ecological conversion? What would that look like in your daily life? See the language of God’s Dream from Jesuits Global for help if needed.
- **Love** — What are 3 concrete steps you will take personally and within the communities you live to move yourself and others towards renewing and healing our relationship with Creation? How does this help us flourish and connect with all species?
- **Faith** — What are the main challenges to moving towards God’s Dream of the Earth? By naming these challenges, we can be honest and self-aware about what can get in the way and thus, be on the lookout for these obstacles when they arise. This will help us have faith and trust the work we are doing amidst the challenges in front of us.
- **Hope** — How do we maintain hope, resilience and energy for the work ahead of us?



Ignatian Conversations Framework

One of St. Ignatius Loyola’s great spiritual insights, and therefore one of his gifts to our world was a way of engaging in conversation with another person. For St. Ignatius, the other person is a child of God and a person deserving respect and consideration no matter what opinion the person holds or the history of the relationship with this person. We call this Ignatian Conversation.

At the beginning of the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius lays out the “Presupposition” for the entire retreat and for Ignatian Conversations. In it each person “presupposes” the good in the other and the “goodness” of the statement being made. When one believes the statement is not correct, with love one seeks to correct or work to understand the statement so that “it may be saved” or understood in a correct fashion.

We strive to engage in honest, brave and fruitful conversations, which have the following attributes:

Slow to speak. Allow everyone the chance to speak. Talk less and listen more.

Listening attentively. Listen actively with an ear to understanding others’ views. Listen respectfully without interrupting

Seek the truth in what others are saying. Commit to learning, not debating. Comment in order to share information, not to persuade.

Disagree humbly, respectfully and thoughtfully. Avoid blame and speculation. Avoid assumptions and generalizations.

Allow the time it needs. Seek opportunities to continue the dialogue. Follow up when necessary.

Adapted from Rockhurst University’s “Ignatian Conversation” and University of Michigan’s Center for Research on Learning and Teaching.