



Catholic Social Teaching #1 God the Creator and Care for His Creation

***(Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Genesis 1:24-31** and **Romans 1:20-25**

After the reading, conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are the creator of all things. May we recognize You in the beauty around us and most especially in one another. Help us to recognize our responsibilities as good stewards and turn away from worshiping the created over You the creator for You are light and truth. You are deserving of all our worship. In Jesus name, Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What do you think/feel these scripture verses tell us about God, creation, and our responsibilities?

YouTube Video: Francis Week #4: Oneness of Creation (2:50 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iq7Cgn9aS6M>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. In the video, Fr. Mike shares that if God's creation is good then its beauty is a reflection of God. He goes on to say that beauty is in the mind of the creator. Have you ever experienced awe and wonder at God's creation? Why do you think this is?
3. St. Francis of Assisi had a great love of nature and God's creation because he was able to recognize how God is reflected through its beauty. Have you ever had an experience with nature that taught you something about God or reinforced your belief in God? What was your experience?
4. The video shares that God has placed us as stewards meant to preserve the integrity of creation and that we have been given a responsibility to use it in wonderful ways to further its goodness. What are some things that you or your family could do to preserve the integrity of creation?
5. How do you think/feel the call to care for God's creation should connect with our concern for the life and dignity of every person now and in future generations?
6. Share some examples of environmental contamination or climate change. How do you think/feel these issues affect the more vulnerable people?
7. What additional lifestyle or economic choices could you make to better care for God's creation?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Take time to ponder and praise God for His creation in prayer. Some suggestions would be: 1. Pray the Canticle of Creators by St. Francis of Assisi, 2. go for a walk in the woods, 3. watch the sunset.
- Take one small step to protect nature and reduce waste of natural resources (stop running the water when brushing your teeth, ride a bike to work/class, pick up garbage in your neighborhood, etc).

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) Please pray this prayer together.

Prayer to Care for Our Common Home text can be found here: <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-care-our-common-home>