



Franciscan Action Network

Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare

P.O. Box 29053 • Washington, DC 20017 • 202-527-7575 • 1-888-364-3388 (toll free) • 202-527-7576 (fax)

Tending Creation as Franciscans

God created the human family on this beautiful planet.

All are equal. All are beloved. There are no outcasts. As brothers and sisters, we are called to serve one another in the spirit of God's love and harmony, regardless of our past.

But wait, the web is larger!

We are also in relationship with our fellow creatures, great and small.

From large Arctic polar bears to the tiniest of microbes, one and all.

We weave the web together.

We depend on one another.

Let us rejoice that God has provided the fibers for our web!



How can we begin to understand our relatedness in this web of life?

Let us listen to the humble wisdom of St. Francis.

“Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire, our Sister Mother Earth.” Could it be any clearer?

Are we weaving, or tearing the web of creation to shreds?

By our lack of caring, by our strife?

Could humans live without each part of the web?

The answer is, NO!

We need **all** of creation to survive. Only then can we thrive.

Only then are we truly alive!

God asks us to care for Creation like a tender Mother caring for her newborn baby. This mother understands the meaning of unending love and commitment. She is deeply grounded and does not lose sight. Would she mistreat her precious child for money or status, and then take flight?

Francis learned how to let go of the things in his possession.

What things must we let go of to nurture Creation?

Paper products made from the trees of pristine forests.

We use them once and throw them away before us.

Plastic bags, containers, packages...
They are piling upon our earth, trapping the creatures in our oceans.
Let us refuse to douse the earth with these potions.

Francis honored the lepers and the outcasts.
Who are the lepers and outcasts in our lives that we ignore and banish?
Are they the poverty stricken workers exploited in factories by large companies intent
on filling their pockets for their corporate advantage?

Are they those who live on the polluted and unlivable edges of the
prosperous societies of our world?
Are they those we seldom hear or think about until an earthquake's devastation into
the Giant Media's focus their images are hurled?
Are they the Amazon forests nearing destruction due to the dumping
of wastes?
The poisoned landfills oozing unseen killers into our earth and space?

How do we pollute Sister Water, Brother Wind, our Mother Earth?
Let truth rally us to action, kindling rebirth!
Let us stand together in Community, demanding Justice for our Home!
Let us rally our human family to a new understanding of Shalom!

Each moment, each hour, each day, each night...
We must rally ourselves to welcome God's Light!
Let us honor God's voice, aware of our plight.
The whisper, the nudge, the call, the shout...
Taking action for change, trusting God without doubt!

Let us follow the walk of Jesus and Francis,
humbly feeling our way, opening to Creation around us.
With eyes open, we learn again that we are part of this earth.
Air within our lungs, water enlivening our bodies,
let us become instruments of peace working for all of creation.

Pace e bene,
Francesca Wigle, TSSF