



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, September 29, 2024

### *Eco-spirituality in All Seasons of Creation*

**Eco-spirituality** is a perspective that combines ecological awareness with spiritual practices and beliefs, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all life and the sacredness of the Earth.

“**God gave us dominion, not domination over creation....** When we create patterns or habits of behavior, we become better stewards. That’s what we’re called to do but we can lose sight of that. If I just focus on creation one day out of the year, I’m not going to be that great of a steward. The challenge is always before us, and so this season, we’re called to really be attentive.” (From homily of Bishop John Dolan, Diocese of Phoenix, September 2024)

“In 2015, Pope Francis issued *Laudato Si’* as a universal call for each of us to embrace personal responsibility for the care of God’s creation in the natural world around us. We all share a personal and societal duty to heed the Holy Father’s call.” (Archbishop Nelson Pérez)

The *Franciscan Action Network* is cosponsoring an **exploration of urban eco-spirituality** with Dr. Rachel Wheeler with the Franciscan Peace Center in Clinton, Iowa on **Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM.**

“More than half of humans alive today live in cities and this number is projected to grow throughout the century. **We need to develop a healthy eco-spirituality that enables us to live well together and with neighboring species of all kinds.** This presentation draws on the transition town movement and on familiar and less well-known stories of Francis of Assisi’s life, in order to evoke an urban eco-spirituality that will help us shape our city lives into lives of creativity and compassion, ensuring a human-friendly future. Dr. Wheeler’s presentation will be followed by time for Q&A.” (*Franciscan Action Network*, 9/17/24) [Click here to register.](#)

**Why should people of faith care about ecological spirituality and action?** Nicholas Collura, a co-founder of EcoPhilly, presents a brief trailer suggesting that it's a core value of Christianity and a great need of the world. He asks, “Is our faith large enough to see that God loves every creature, and is our love large enough to do our part in caring for God’s creation?” You can view the trailer at this link. <https://youtu.be/ONpATkyU1Qc>

**And now for an action step:** “It’s well-documented that neonicotinoid pesticides kill bees. But because of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) loophole, if you put those pesticides on seeds, they’re no longer considered a pesticide and there are barely any safeguards.... Pesticide-coated seeds are planted across 150 million acres of American soil every year.... Bees are dying and many bee species are being pushed to extinction.... [Take action today to help save the bees from deadly neonic-coated seeds.](#) (Lisa Frank, *Environment America*, 9/17/24)

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at [socialjustice@holycrossphl.org](mailto:socialjustice@holycrossphl.org).