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Inspired by the life and ideals of St. Francis of Assisi, dedicated to serving those in need, living a simple lifestyle together and drawing closer to God Are you looking to understand God's Will in your life?

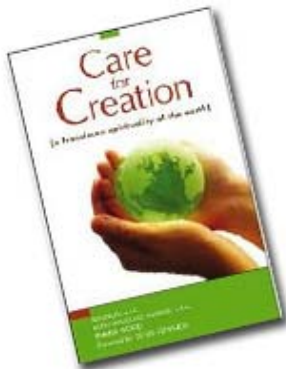
Are you looking for fulfillment?

Are you looking for a life of brotherhood, prayer and service to the poor and all of creation?

...if you are asking yourself these questions maybe God is calling ?

And so, our journey as Franciscans is to search out our own ways through **'the darkness of our hearts'**. As we learn how to do this for ourselves, we can then walk with others who share this journey of faith. In the common journey, we can reach out to each other and help each other as sometimes we stray from this path. And in the end, we give thanks to God for God's patience in being with us on this journey.

Franklin Fong, OFM



**CARE FOR CREATION
A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth**

*Ilia Delio, O.S.F., Keith Douglass Warner,
O.F.M., and Pamela Wood*

Goodness

*God is not only poor but Goodness
Itself reflected within creation*

The Franciscan approach to life is marked by a recognition of the importance, beauty and goodness of Creation created by a good God for no other reason than love. We share this earth, its resources, our lives and work with all of God's creatures, who are our brothers and sisters. Unlike some who strove to domesticate and dominate nature, the two great saints of Assisi expected to live lightly on our Sister, Mother Earth, being a burden to neither the Earth nor to those who fed

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and clothed them.

Francis' practical theology and spirituality gave him a social analysis that all persons have responsibilities and equal rights before God. Franciscan awareness of the sacred value of the individual flowered in the thinking of John Duns Scotus. Each individual a person, a plant, a stone, an amoeba is precious. No creature, no part of creation, can be dismissed as insignificant. Each creature must attain full measure of its own individuality if the total expression of God's love is to be realized in creation.

Characteristics of Franciscan work for justice, peace and integrity of creation



The International Inter-Franciscan Commission for Justice and Peace

The clearest illustration of the Franciscan view of creation can be found in Francis' Canticle to Creation. The hymn praises the four elements; fire, air, water, and earth, which were seen as the components of all life forms. In the Canticle, he expresses the intrinsic goodness of the created world, the interdependence of all life, and his passion for beauty and peace. Because we call God "Father," creation becomes our brothers and sisters. He calls for a fraternal model, rather than a model of stewardship.

Canticle of Creation



Be praised Good Lord for Brother Sun who brings us each new day.

Be praised for Sister Moon: white beauty bright and fair, with wandering stars she moves through the night.

Be praised my Lord for Brother Wind, for air and clouds and the skies of every season.

Be praised for Sister Water: humble, helpful, precious, pure; she cleanses us in rivers and renews us in rain.

Be praised my Lord for Brother fire: he purifies and enlightens us.

Be praised my Lord for Mother Earth: abundant source, all life sustaining; she feeds us bread and fruit and gives us flowers.

Be praised my Lord for the gift of life;

for changing dusk and dawn; for touch
and scent and song.

Be praised my Lord for those who
pardon one another for love of thee,
and endure sickness and tribulation.

Blessed are they who shall endure it in
peace, for they shall be crowned by
Thee.

Be praised Good Lord for sister Death
who welcomes us in loving embrace.

Be praised my Lord for all your
creation serving you joyfully.

Francis of Assisi, 1225 A.D.

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