



Walking Gently: In the Footsteps of St. Francis

On this Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we are invited to rediscover the sacredness of God's creation. For Francis, the beauty of the earth was more than something to admire; it was an expression of the goodness of the Creator. Through his Canticle of the Creatures, Francis reminds us that all creation gives praise and glory to God.

Sacred Scripture proclaims, "The earth is the LORD's and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it" (Psalm 24:1, NABRE). These words remind us that creation belongs to God. We are its stewards, entrusted with protecting the gifts God has provided. Catholic Social Teaching calls us to Care for God's Creation, recognizing that care for the earth is inseparable from care for one another, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

This responsibility is also reflected in the Felician Sisters of North America Corporate Stand on Care for Creation, which calls us to examine our practices, make concrete changes that lessen our impact on creation, and raise our collective voice for environmental justice. Our Franciscan spirituality is not only something we profess; it should be visible in the choices we make and in how we care for our common home.

St. Francis challenges us to consider how faithfully we are caring for what God has placed into our hands. In a world that encourages us to consume and discard, the Franciscan way calls us to simplicity, gratitude, reverence, and responsibility. Caring for our common home becomes an expression of our faith and our love for God and neighbor.

Reflection:

This week, spend a few quiet moments in prayer with God's creation and offer God a prayer of gratitude. Then choose one intentional act of care—conserve water, reduce waste, pick up litter, reuse rather than discard, or care for something living.

Prayerfully ask: "How can my choices reflect the spirit of St. Francis and our commitment to Care for Creation?"

May the example of St. Francis inspire us to walk gently upon the earth, allowing our daily choices to become a living prayer of gratitude, stewardship, and praise to God.