



## Season of Creation

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The Church's liturgical year draws from the timeframe of Earth's natural seasons. This reminds us that humanity is formed from Earth and part of the planet community, called to humbly accept our proper place. Christian stories of salvation graft onto nature's seasons. Vatican II's liturgical reforms were a model to cooperation among churches. A Season of Creation evolved to help believers respond to the 21st century environmental crisis.

## Covenant

As a prophet, Jesus preached a 'Repentance Covenant'. He told of human owners taking the inheritance gifted by God as if it was their own (Mk 12:1-9) preaching repentance (Is 5:1-2). God's covenants circumscribe hearts (Dt 10:16) and point to the consequences of self-centred greed (Mi 2:1-3). War must not abuse women or make slaves (Ze 14:2; Dt 20:14). The day of reckoning is coming (Am 6:3-8) but God can breathe new life into dry bones (Ezk 37:9).

***Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God***

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #119

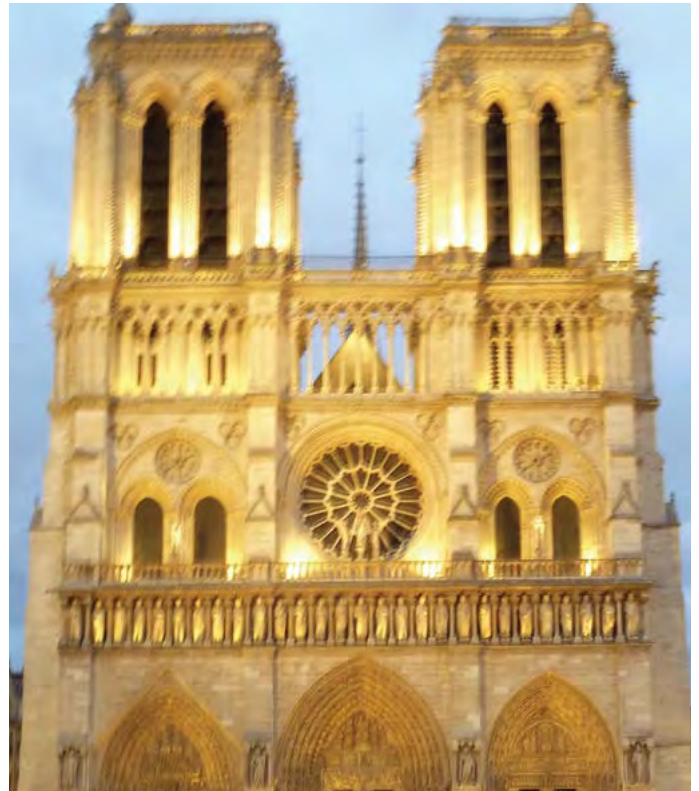
## Champions and Saints

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Pope Francis was a leader in the Conference of Latin American Bishops (CELAM). He knew the suffering of the poor caused by chemical agricultural malpractice. At the UN in 2015 he praised eco-campaigners and challenged UN members to care for Earth as our common home. He reiterated the dignity of every species *in its own right* as our kin. [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/september/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150925\\_onu-visita.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/september/documents/papa-francesco_20150925_onu-visita.html)

## Mysticism

Religious Orders have distinctive spiritualities unique to their mission in Jesus, often called *charism*. In the midst of global environmental problems, many have grown *eco-spirituality*. Benedictine, Jesuit, Franciscan, Columban and other websites carry major sections linking faith-ecology. 'Genesis Farm' type places offer eco-spiritual formation. Many dioceses facilitate formation for educators and the eco-spiritual dimension of Sunday Eucharist.



## Ecological Insight

'Cumulative Environmental Effects' names the collective impact of human activities, *ecological footprint*. Greenhouse gases combine to cause global with ongoing impacts: polluted air, land and water damage Earth's ecosystems; melting Arctic permafrost and glaciers; systemic damage from industrial waste and transport design; indirect damage like habitat loss leading to loss of biodiversity. The *precautionary principle* in scientific evaluation is part of Catholic ethics (*Compendium* #469).

***ecological conversion ... offering ourselves to God 'as living sacrifice'***

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #220

## Local Culture

The whole church is fully-present in the local church as *inculturaton* (Lumen Gentium #13). The chanting and foot stamping of Aboriginal people at the 2000 Olympics - <https://vimeo.com/122295339> and North American first nation peoples <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcnA5nUNSE4> express the spiritual birth of humanity from Earth and healing.

