

MISSION INTENTIONS

SEPT 2021 - 2022

We pray for the courage to choose a lifestyle that is simple and environmentally sustainable, and rejoice in those young people already determined to make this commitment.

Country Focus: Denmark

Denmark is a global leader in sustainable energy, so perhaps it shouldn't be surprising that Pope Francis is a well-liked figure among Danes, even though only 0.7 percent of the population is Catholic and it is one of the most secular countries in the world.

The Holy Father's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, was especially popular in Denmark, among both Catholics and non-Catholics, because Pope Francis and the country of Denmark share a commitment to caring for creation. Copenhagen, the country's



capital, has set a goal to become the first carbon-neutral capital by 2025. In Denmark, 30 percent of all energy already comes from renewable sources.

As the Church in Denmark continues to face the challenges of a secular society, let us pray that this common goal of caring for creation will aid Danish Catholics in sharing the Gospel of Christ.

Leading to Knowledge of the Faith

In his encyclical, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis writes of the relationship between caring for creation and caring for the poor. The Earth's resources are meant to be equally shared by all, now and in the future. Catholics are called to be good stewards of creation so that all are able to have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10):

"We human beings are not only the beneficiaries but also the stewards of other creatures...Let us not leave in our wake a swath of destruction and death which will affect our own lives and those of future generations" (no. 215).

Saint Spotlight

St. Kateri Tekakwitha

"Kateri was a child of nature. Her sainthood will raise the minds and hearts of those who love nature and work in ecology." These words, attributed to Stanislaus Brzana, Bishop of Ogdensburg, New York, from 1968-1994, capture St. Kateri Tekakwitha's relationship with God's creation. She often went into the woods to pray and hear God's voice, and was known to leave behind crosses made of twigs as "stations" to inspire others to prayer.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha learned how to live in harmony with nature from her Native American community. Kateri's mother was Alogonquin and her father a Mohawk chief. When Kateri was a young child, her family was sick with smallpox. Both her parents and younger brother died from the disease. Kateri survived, but the illness left her face scarred and her vision impaired.

When she was a teen, she met the Jesuit missionaries who would introduce her to Christ. However, Kateri's uncle who raised her, and many in her village, opposed Christianity, and so it took many years before she could be baptized. When the day of her baptism finally arrived, she took the



name Catherine (Kateri in Mohawk). After her conversion, it became unsafe for her to remain in her village, and so she fled to the St. Francis Xavier Mission in Canada. There, she helped the sick and elderly and served as a catechist before her death in 1680, at the age of 24. She became the first Native American saint in 2012. Her feast day is July 14.

Formation for Life in Christ

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis writes, "Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat [global] warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it" (no. 23).

Care for Creation is one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching, and reminds us that being good stewards of the Earth is a requirement of our faith. As Pope Francis says in the above statement, the theme of Care for Creation commands us to go beyond the mere acceptance of the teaching and asks us to make concrete changes and sacrifices in our daily lives to help protect people and the planet.

Most people are familiar with the phrase "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle," but the Catholic social teaching theme of Care for Creation challenges us to also consider more complex ways of caring for creation, like sustainable and ethical sourcing when purchasing food, clothing, and other items.

Sustainable and ethical sourcing means food or material items were processed in an environmentally friendly way (sustainable) and that workers involved were treated and paid fairly (ethical).

In this month's video, we will learn more about the Catholic social



teaching theme of Care for God's Creation. As you watch the video, think about how you are actively caring for the environment in your daily life. What are you doing well? In what areas could you do more to help protect God's gift of creation?

For more information about climate change or caring for creation, visit [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) or [Catholic Relief Services](#).

Celebrating the Mystery

When we pray a petition prayer, we are asking God for something we need. We can petition God for help with our schoolwork, or for someone we know who is sick. During Mass, we pray petitions during the General Intercessions. These prayers can be for the Church, government leaders, and one another.

We can also pray petitions for creation. One such example given by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is "Grant us the grace to respect and care for Your creation." Can you think of your own petitions for creation?

Teaching Prayer: Litany

A litany is a type of prayer involving petitions and responses. The leader prays a series of petitions, and those gathered pray a response after each petition. Litanies can be prayed for many reasons, including to ask for a saint's intercession. For a litany to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, [click here](#).

Introduction to Community Life

Care for God's Creation: Click Here>>



Youtube and Brother Mickey McGrath

- ✚ How does caring for creation make us better members of our community?
- ✚ How is caring for creation an expression of our Catholic faith?
- ✚ How does caring for creation help us share Christ's love with others?
- ✚ How are you caring for creation?
- ✚ Are there other things you could be doing to better care for the Earth?
- ✚ What does Cardinal Turkson mean when he says in the video that we must live in reciprocity with nature?