

## Care for God's Earth and CST

### Eco-Justice and Eco-Spirituality

Care for God's Creation is one of the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching (US Bishops) Students can learn about this CST theme and make the connection with Cornelia Connelly and the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

- What is the call to justice for the earth (and all creation/creatures)?
- Why is this part of Catholic Social Teaching?
- Why is this part of the mission of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus?
- How does this relate to Cornelia Connelly?
- What is Eco-Justice?
- What is Eco-Spirituality?
- What action can be taken?

### Church Statements from US Bishops (USCCB)

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

### Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

*Environmental Justice (US Bishops)* <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/environmental-justice-program/>

*Ecological Justice (US Bishops)* <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/an-ecological-spirituality.cfm>

*SHCJ EcoSpirituality Group* <http://www.shcj.org/amer/ecospirituality.html>

This is the Mission Statement of the [SHCJ] American Province's EcoSpirituality Group: "*For this is our mission: to help others believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world, and to rejoice in the divine presence.*" (SHCJ Constitutions) Impelled by this mission, we SHCJ join for mutual support to nurture our reverence for the human family and all creation. We seek a deep

contemplative attitude of heart drawing us to respond to a planet in crisis. We strive to:

- live simply and sustainably,
- shift our consciousness from stewardship of Earth to kinship with God's creation,
- understand that care for creation embraces all peace and justice concerns,
- grow in our awareness of creation's interconnectedness, and
- act on behalf of Earth's most vulnerable members

What does "eco" mean? Eco comes from the Greek *oikos* — "home." In this case, it means Earth and all of creation. Ecospirituality refers to finding God in all creation. (Other terms include creation spirituality and creation theology.)

[SHCJ Statements on Creation](#)

### **Resources from Education for Justice**

- [10 Things to Do to Care for Earth by: Sr. Katherine Feely, SND](#)
- [Going Green by: Sr. Katherine Feely, SND](#)
- [Care for God's Earth by: Sr. Katherine Feely, SND](#)