

# Honoring Creation

When the days of creation came to completion, “God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good,” the Book of Genesis states. The moon, the sun, the earth, the water, the land, everything that moves and lives in the air or on the land, including humankind, was completely fashioned, and in God’s eyes, it was very good!

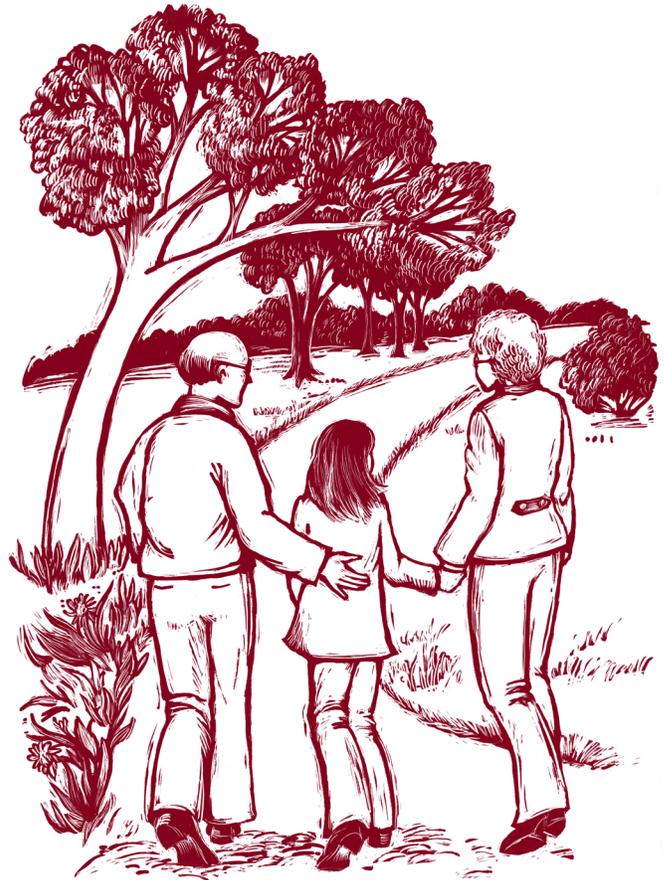
This ancient story also tells us that humankind has greater responsibility than any other creature when it comes to cherishing and caring for the earth. Made in God’s image, we are not given the earth to exploit but to stand in authority over it on God’s behalf.

## When you shop, talk about how things are packaged.

Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’* (Praise be to You) invites all of humanity to become conscious and active in caring for our common home. It is from Mother Earth that we receive all we need for life—our food, the water that replenishes us, and the air that we breathe. Distressed that we have neglected care of creation, the Holy Father observed that the earth “is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor” and called on us to work together to shape the future of our planet.

In our lives, how can we honor creation? Care begins at home. Start by looking at how you use natural resources. Even young family members can monitor how much they use water, for example. Discuss how leaving lights on and keeping the heat high affects fuel consumption in your home. What could your family do to use less energy? Will using more blankets at night help? Brainstorm!

Cutting back on waste is also kind to Mother Earth. Less refuse means smaller landfills. Be rigorous about recycling what you can, including bottles, cans, and paper. Can you give up prepackaged small water bottles in favor of reusable sippers? When you shop, talk about how things are packaged, and consider buying products that have less cardboard or plastic. Are there items you can borrow or rent rather than buy? Or toys and sporting equipment that you can give to others, so that they will buy less?



Families can discuss and share ideas on ways to care for creation.

Using our voices is one of the most powerful ways we care for creation. We can share ideas for how to reduce, reuse, and recycle in our schools and parishes. We can challenge others to avoid littering or to turn off the water if it’s running nonstop. We can educate others on issues and how to impact them by doing such things as planting milkweed to support rebuilding the monarch migration or hanging bat houses to protect vulnerable bats. God created the sky, and the sky is the limit in how we can become good stewards of the great gifts God has given us!