

Tuesday Theology Book Group



Newman's **Tuesday Theology Book Group**, 55 years and 155 books later, has turned its last page together. Father Richard Chilson was our first leader. When he was sent to San Francisco he told us that we could do it on our own and so we did. Every Tuesday afternoon, our spiritual lives were enriched and expanded by the spirit speaking not only through the great authors but also through the members of the group (mostly women) as we expressed our interpretations and feelings about what we were reading.

Some of our favorite books as well as some we read recently include:

- [Radical Optimism: Rooting Ourselves in Reality](#) by Beatrice Bruteau
- [The Universal Christ](#) by Richard Rohr
- [The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind - A New Perspective on Christ and His Message](#) by Cynthia Bourgeault
- [Written That You May Believe: Encountering Jesus in the Fourth Gospel](#) by Sandra M. Schneider
- [Field of Compassion: How the New Cosmology is Transforming Spiritual Life](#) by Judy Canato
- [Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity](#) by Ronald Rolheiser
- [The Way of Silence: Engaging the Sacred in Everyday Life](#) by Br. David Steindl-Rast and Alice von Stamwitz

It was a wonderful journey together which we will remember with joy.
We had a voice.

---Brenda Hepler

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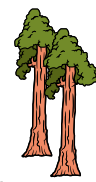
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10 Catholic Ways to Celebrate Earth Day

by [Joe Paprocki](#) (2016)



1. Give praise to our Creator. In the Nicene Creed, we say, "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth." How appropriate that the first sentence of our Creed mentions the fact that all of creation comes from God! Pray the Creed. Sing songs of praise such as "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow," "How Great Thou Art," and "Holy God We Praise Thy Name."
2. Contemplate the wonders of God's creation. [Contemplation](#), (i.e. resting in God's presence) is an authentically Catholic practice and a way of coming to a deeper appreciation of finding God in all of creation. Take some time to contemplate outdoors. Pope John Paul II said, "Faced with the glory of the Trinity in creation, we must contemplate, sing, and rediscover awe."
3. Pray, pray, pray. Pray for those who are at risk from exposure to environmental hazards. Pray for social justice for those who are poor and who suffer disproportionately from environmental destruction. Pray for those with an excess of wealth that they (we) may come to share with others more generously. Pray for future generations that they may benefit from a healthy environment.
4. Create a garden. Participate in God's ongoing creation by planting a garden. Consider planting a vegetable garden and sharing your harvest with those less fortunate. Create a "[Mary Garden](#)," a tradition going back to medieval times that dedicates the garden to the Blessed Virgin Mary and is populated with plants that bear her name. *See website for info on Mary Gardens <https://www.fisheaters.com/marygardens.html>*
5. Read and study Church documents on caring for God's creation. Considering creation as sacred is not new to Catholics. The Church has a long tradition of respecting God's creation. Read up on what both [Scripture and Tradition have to say about ecology and the environment](#).
6. Learn about and teach others about the lives of [St. Francis of Assisi](#) and [St. Kateri Tekakwitha](#). These two saints are the patron and patroness of ecology. Children especially love to learn the stories of these two saints.
7. Learn six ways to help your parish "go green." Here are some wonderful ideas from [Darcy Osby about helping children learn about care for God's creation](#).
8. Take the St. Francis Pledge to care for creation and the poor. The [St. Francis Pledge](#), initiated by the Catholic Climate Covenant, is a solemn commitment made by Catholic individuals, groups, and institutions to honor God's creation and to serve those who are poor.
9. Make a donation to Catholic Relief Services. CRS, the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community, promotes caring for the environment in the U.S. and abroad. Visit [their website](#) to learn more about their work and how you can help.
10. Read [Laudato Si'](#). Pope Francis's encyclical on how we need to care for our common home takes the notion of care for the environment out of the political arena and links it to our Catholic faith.



Scan this QR code to read more and to get the live links to underlined items above.

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