Spirituality + Science = Care for Creation: 
Retrieving a Franciscan Cosmology for 
Climate Conservation 
Keith Douglass Warner OFM
A GREENER FAITH
Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future

Roger S. Gottlieb
The work of religious environmentalism

- Reinterpret the tradition
- Provide social critique
- Foster the continuing evolution of religion
The work of Franciscan retrieval

- Reinterpret the tradition
- Provide social critique
- Foster the continuing evolution of religion
Who's under your carbon footprint?

About us | Catholic Teachings | The St. Francis Pledge | Real Stories | News | Resources | Coalition Members

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The St. Francis Pledge

Learn how to fulfill the pledge as:

- Individuals
- Groups & Organizations
- Parishes, Dioceses, And Religious Orders
- Schools, Colleges And Universities

Tips for Reducing Your Impact

Save Gas, Save Energy

Keep your tires properly inflated. Every pound underinflation uses 6% more gas. And tune up your car. A poorly tuned car can use 25% more gas.

Recently Pledged

Kenton Miller
Individual-Family | November 12, 2011

Michelle Becker

Take the St. Francis Pledge

Your First Step in the Right Direction to Care for Creation and the Poor

Why We Need YOU To Take The Pledge

All across our country, Catholics are taking the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor and joining the Catholic Climate Covenant. The St. Francis Pledge is a promise and a commitment by Catholic individuals, families, parishes, organizations and institutions to live our faith by protecting God’s Creation and advocating on behalf of people in poverty who face the harshest impacts of global climate change. To join the Covenant, you commit to act on each of the five elements of the St. Francis Pledge.

Find resources to promote the St. Francis Pledge here.

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- LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
- ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations-contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
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3 **ASSESS** how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations-contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.

4 **ACT** to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.

5 **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.
Dan Miseh of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

an alum of FST!
Retrieving the Franciscan tradition can:
Retrieving the Franciscan tradition can:

1. animate religious engagement with contemporary environmental crises
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2. unite loving and knowing within a Franciscan incarnational worldview
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3. assist in the recovery of an integral Catholic cosmology
Retrieving the Franciscan tradition TO

1. animate religious engagement with contemporary environmental crises

2. unite loving and knowing within a Franciscan incarnational worldview

3. assist in the recovery of an integral Catholic cosmology
1. Retrieval to animate religious engagement with our environmental crises
The work of retrieving St Francis

- Problem 1: excessive sentimentalism
- Problem 2: “patron saint of those who promote ecology”
- Problem 3: idiosyncratic exception to Christianity
Use glue to secure dove's feet in place.
John Paul II named Francis patron saint of ....
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FRANCISCAN TRADITION</strong></th>
<th><strong>GREENING OF CATHOLICISM</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
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Parallel retrieval processes
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Ecological Vocation

“Awareness

“Conversion
Ecoliteracy ~ cultivate ecological awareness
Ecoliteracy: the ability to understand the natural systems that make life on Earth possible.
Ecoliteracy: the ability to understand the natural systems that make life on Earth possible.

David Orr
Patron saint of those who foster ecoliteracy
2. Retrieval to unite loving and knowing within a Franciscan incarnational worldview
Il est et confinancement
nis est dumble fina
loste qu'a en soy mon
Si come le ciel et le sou
au et toutes choses
repos par leur mou
ont augustin que le
on au centur et au lieu
use de assembler ces par
de ce diem que tout
font ordonnees a repe
et plus perfautes qui
ent elles se meuent
que ce qui tent a la fin
est la fin du labour.

dieu plaise, et ains jure. O
conse ce bourse des maladies.
Bonaventure of Bagno regio
John Duns Scotus
Not only theology and philosophy!

- Economics
- Politics
- Science
- Culture
Friar Anthony of Padua (1195-1231) preaches against hoarding
Franciscan Friar John of Plano Carpini (1182-1252) was sent as an ambassador by Pope Innocent IV to the Mongol Capital of Karakorum.
Science
Roger Bacon (c. 1214-1290)
“We know by experience that he who is at the top of the mast can see the port more quickly than a man on the deck of the ship. Therefore it remains that something hinders the vision of the man on the deck of the ship. But there can be nothing but the swelling of the sphere of water.”
Figure 5. Reconstruction of Roger Bacon’s Map with the plotting of Toledo according to his procedure. The coordinates of Toledo used here are 29°E long., 40°N lat. It should be stressed that there is no evidence that Bacon constructed a map with such geometrical precision as that shown.
Figure 4. Detail of the "seventh figure" from a manuscript of Pierre d'Ailly, *Imago Mundi*, showing his map of the inhabited world. Brussels, Bibliothèque Royale, MS. 21198, fol. 4. Copyright Bibliothèque royale Albert Per.
Culture

Bernardino de Sahagun
(1499-1590)
Bernardino de Sahagun in Mesoamerica 1529-1590

Missionary-anthropologist
Colegio de Santa Cruz de Tlatelolco
First European school of higher learning in the Americas
La Historia General de las Cosas de Nueva Espana

aka
Florentine Codex
Libro undecimo


131.

Ayotla ayotla medicinal que sellana ha acaote: sidogadilla y yede no tiene nomas que una zona, dan alta como yunhalmo: tiene las flores blancas. Las hojas como las del quincha que sellana ystaghur, en locin depozcu, taringhu la.
Historia General as medieval encyclopedia

1. Gods, religious beliefs and rituals, cosmology, and moral philosophy
2. Society (family, politics, economics, + anatomy and disease)
3. Natural history.
Ay moscas de velera que se llaman Micagoli, como las de Castilla.
Loving & knowing in a Franciscan cosmology

1. Science + spirituality (w/ ethics)
Loving & knowing in a Franciscan cosmology

- Incarnational (embodied)
- Relational ("ecology")
- Creation is theophanic
- " is morally significant
3. Retrieval to assist in the recovery of an integral Catholic cosmology
Those who have benefitted the least from burning fossil fuels are suffering the most from climate disruption, and those who have benefitted have the obligation to help others to cope and to adapt
Countries that have benefitted the most from burning fossil fuels
Climate disruption vulnerability index
Sea Level Risks - Bangladesh

Based on SRTM30 PLUS v. 2.0

India

Myanmar

Height Above Sea Level (m)
Obama plans push for jobs

The jobs package that President Barack Obama plans to unveil shortly after Labor Day could include tens of billions of dollars to renovate thousands of dilapidated public schools and a tax break to encourage businesses to hire new workers, according to people familiar with White House deliberations. A companion plan to reduce federal budget deficits over the next decade is also in the works.

AGRICULTURE

Drought takes $5 billion toll

Texas farmers and ranchers suffer devastating losses as water and crops dry up

Airlines seek to curb investors in oil markets

The nation's airlines are among companies leading an effort in Washington to put curbs on big investors in the oil markets, who they believe have pushed fuel prices artificially high to profit from trading.

Body armor for troops may be inadequate

Gov. Rick Perry stirred controversy Wednesday in New Hampshire, saying he considers man-made global warming an unproven scientific theory. He has long argued that case, but not as a presidential candidate. Environmental groups blasted his stance.

Aman Batheja, 7A
The impact of climate change falls heaviest on the poor. Our faith invites us to tread lightly and act boldly.

As faithful Catholics, we have a moral obligation to care for both Creation and the poor. Pope Benedict XVI insists, “Before it is too late, it is necessary to make courageous decisions” to curb climate change.

Join Catholics taking action to reduce our carbon footprint and raise our voice on behalf of Creation and the poor.

Take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor.
Pray • Learn • Assess • Act • Advocate

Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Go to CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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RECENTLY PLEDGED

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Conclusion

Model of conversion + ecoliteracy
Franciscan Care for Creation = Spirituality + Science
Integrated living, loving and knowing to confront our crises
to foster a coherent worldview
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Your first step in the right direction to care for creation and the poor

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Estimated Deaths Attributed to Climate Change in the Year 2000, by Subregion*

Mortality per Million Population
- 0 - 2
- 2 - 4
- 4 - 70
- 70 - 120
- no data

*Change in climate compared to baseline 1961-1990 climate

Data Source:

Maps produced by the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE)