



HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Washington, DC

August 15, 2021

Falling in Love with Nature

By Gary Gardner

The great Harvard biologist Stephen Jay Gould once wrote that to save our endangered environment, we must forge an emotional bond between ourselves and nature, as “we will not fight to save what we do not love.” *We will not fight to save what we do not love.*

Much of the vast damage we have inflicted on our planet has occurred, arguably, because we have fallen out of love with nature. Industrial development of the past two centuries has taught us to view nature as a warehouse of resources. Forests are so many board-feet of lumber, for example, rather than an ecosystem whose fruits can be shared among all species, including humans. Our utilitarian view of nature does not generate the emotional bond that Stephen Jay Gould spoke of — the love we need to engender if we are to live in harmony with our planet.

So how can we learn to love nature if, as for many of us, this love has not been internalized in of our formation? Our Judeo-Christian tradition has much to offer in this regard. Despite seeming to appear out of nowhere, *Laudato Si'* and other teachings about the sacredness of nature are as old as our tradition.

We hear those teachings in our Scriptures as far back as Genesis, where the very setting for God’s creation of man and woman is a garden of overflowing abundance. We hear them in Psalm 65 and in the Canticle of Daniel, which calls out the waters, the sun and moon, and the stars of heaven to bless the Lord.

In our Scriptures, nature is a sacred gift and a bridge to God. Listen for that posture the next time you contemplate a Scriptural passage. And beyond Scripture, we have rich resources from the Franciscan family that can deepen in us a love of God’s Creation. Consider St. Francis himself, who uses poetry to articulate the beauty of Creation. Francis loves nature so deeply that he considers the elements of nature to be family. And he sees nature as a bridge to God. Are we able to regard



nature with the same reverence?

If you prefer an appeal to the mind, consider the teachings of another Franciscan, St. Bonaventure, who builds on Francis’ poetry with theological insights that can deepen our love of Creation. Bonaventure begins with the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in ongoing relationship, a God of communication whose idiom is love. But their love dialogue is not a private affair, a conversation confined to themselves. No, they share their love generously, speaking out to the universe. In this way, the universe — Creation — can be understood as the speech of God, an outward expression of God’s love.

Take that in. Creation is the speech of God. Chirping songbirds, gurgling streams, wind whistling through trees— God speaks to us! Even the quiet miracles of emerging leaves and germinating seeds speak to us deeply, if we pause and take them in.

And if Creation is the speech of God, doesn’t nature become another way of understanding the Word of God? Bonaventure thought so. The Franciscan-authored book *Care for Creation* explains that for Bonaventure, the natural world is a companion to Scripture in expressing the Word of God. Indeed, every creature can be thought of as a “little Word” of God. Think about that on your next outing: squirrels, finches, wind, water — each is a little Word of God.

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MAIN CHURCH

36th Street, NW
between N & O Streets
Washington, DC 20007



trinity.org



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PARISH CENTER

3513 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 337-2840

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Jesuit Catholic parish that welcomes all to accompany one another in Christ, celebrate God's love and transform lives.

PARISH CENTER

Phone: (202) 337-2840 **Fax:** (202) 337-9048

Emergencies Only: (202) 903-2817

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 8:30am - 4:30pm; Fri 8:30am - 12:30pm; Sat & Sun: Closed

JESUIT STAFF

Pastor	Kevin Gillespie, S.J. (202) 903-2800	kgillespie@trinity.org
Associate Pastor	Pat Earl, S.J. (202) 337-2840 x130	pearl@trinity.org
Associate Pastor	Ben Hawley, S.J. (202) 903-2814	bhawley@trinity.org
Associate Pastor	William Kelley, S.J. (202) 903-2833	wkelley@trinity.org
Associate Pastor	William Woody, S.J. (202) 337-2840 x112	wwwoody@trinity.org

PARISH DEPARTMENTS

Parish Operations	Tom Favret (202) 903-2847	tfavret@trinity.org
Communications	Karelia Pallán (202) 903-2837	kpallan@trinity.org
Facilities	Dino Campagnari (202) 903-2813	dcampagnari@trinity.org
Faith Formation/ Religious Ed.	Anne Marie Kaufmann (202) 903-2814	akaufmann@trinity.org
Holy Trinity School	Kevin McShane (202) 337-2339	principal@htsdc.org
Human Resources	Angela Grady (202) 903-2803	agrady@trinity.org
Ignatian Retreats & Training	Martina O'Shea (202) 903-2819	moshea@trinity.org
Ignatian Spirituality	Catherine Heinhold (202) 903-2819	cheinhold@trinity.org
Music Ministry	Kathleen DeJardin (202) 903-2805	kdejardin@trinity.org
Pastor's Office/ Parish Life	Helene Flanagan (202) 903-2801	parishlife@trinity.org
Social Justice	Ashley Klick (202) 903-2836	aklick@trinity.org
Stewardship	Rock Schuler (202) 903-2843	rschuler@trinity.org

LIVING OUR MISSION: ACCOMPANY ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST

Praying with Mary by Jaime L. Waters

Today is the feast of the Assumption of Mary, the commemoration of Mary being "taken up body and soul to the glory of heaven" ("Munificentissimus Deus," No. 40). In the Gospel reading from Luke, we hear the story of the visit of Mary to Elizabeth, the second of the joyful mysteries of the Rosary. Today's Gospel contains the Magnificat and a part of the Hail Mary. The Magnificat, also called the Song or Canticle of Mary, shares similarities in form and content with the psalms, and it builds on the biblical tradition of canticles attributed to women in the Bible.

The Gospel according to Luke offers unique traditions about Mary and her family. Luke includes background information about Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, and her husband, Zechariah, the parents of John the Baptist. After the angel Gabriel announces Jesus' forthcoming birth, Mary visits Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John. At Mary's greeting, "the infant leaped in her [Elizabeth's] womb," and Elizabeth exclaims: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" John's reaction in the womb signals Mary's and Jesus' significance, as John seems almost to herald Jesus while in utero. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaims that Mary is the mother of God, even without Mary informing her, and she affirms Mary is blessed because of her belief in the annunciation.

Mary's song of praise follows her interaction with Elizabeth. Mary reacts to her selection to be the mother of God, saying her soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and her spirit rejoices at this calling. She also sings praises for God's protection of the lowly and God's power of salvation. Like many of the psalmists of the Old Testament, Mary recounts the historical connection between Abraham and his descendants and God's unending mercy. The song has many of the hallmarks of ancient poems of thanksgiving highlighting God's ability to overcome obstacles. Both Mary and Elizabeth are examples of this, as they are with child although Elizabeth has been unable to conceive, and Mary is a virgin.

The Old Testament features notable canticles of women that are echoed in today's Gospel, such as Miriam's song (Ex 15:20-21), Deborah's song (Jgs 5:1-31) and Hannah's song (1 Sam 2:1-10). The prophet Miriam sang in celebration of God's defeat of the Egyptians in the Exodus. The prophet and military leader Deborah sang of God's power during military victories, highlighting men and women who were instruments of God. The context of Hannah's song offers the closest parallels to Mary, as she sings following the birth of her son, the prophet Samuel, after a prolonged period without bearing a child. Like Mary, Hannah begins her song with joy: "My heart exults in the Lord, my horn is exalted by my God" (1 Sm 2:1). Also like Mary, Hannah highlights divine care for the poor and lowly, and she reflects on divine punishment for those who abuse power and resources. Both women, in their moments of selection to be mothers of leaders, rejoice at their calling and celebrate God's strength and saving power.

Fitting within the biblical traditions of songs and prayers, Mary's song offers us a model for how to pray, as she expresses joy, reflects on her life, praises God and recognizes God's impact on history. On this feast of the Assumption of Mary, we honor Mary's selection, essential role, life and assumption into heaven. We can also be inspired by prayers associated with Mary and can find a good prayer partner in Mary.

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DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

The parish community prays for all of the dead every day at Mass. However, we encourage parishioners to mention specific persons by name during the General Intercessions when invited to do so by the presider.

Parishioners may also request that a specific person be remembered by name at a particular weekday Mass by calling or visiting the receptionist's desk in the Parish Center during normal office hours.

Names must be submitted one week in advance. Persons to be so remembered at weekday Masses this week are:

Week of August 16, 2021

Monday	8:15am	
	5:30pm	Fr. Gillespie
Tuesday	8:15am	Nancy Holly+
	5:30pm	
Wednesday	8:15am	
	5:30pm	
Thursday	8:15am	
	5:30pm	Regina Luchi+
Friday	8:15am	
	5:30pm	Kathy Carliner
Saturday	8:15am	John Raymond Cryan+

Pray for those who are sick: *For those we hold in our hearts*

Pray for those who are dead: *For those we hold in our hearts*

PRAYER REQUESTS

To add a name to these prayer lists, please email parishlife@trinity.org or call (202) 903-2801. You must be an immediate relative of the one to be remembered, or have express permission in order to add a name to these lists. The names on this prayer list will be mentioned aloud at Sunday Mass during the General Intercessions and will be published in the parish eLetter and bulletin.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

Welcome to Holy Trinity! We invite you to join our parish. You may register at www.trinity.org/register. Questions about registering can be directed to registration@trinity.org.

New parishioner orientations are held several times throughout the year. See the bulletin, eLetter (sign up at www.trinity.org/eLetter) and website for announcement of dates and times.

SACRAMENTS

Mass Schedule (Check bulletin or website for Holy Days)

Weekdays: 8:15am & 5:30pm (in the Chapel on N St.)

Note: Please see schedule for daily Mass times.

Chapel is open on weekdays between Masses.

Saturday: 8:15am — Chapel; 5:30pm Vigil — Church

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:30am, 5:30pm — Church; 6:00pm — Holy Rood Cemetery

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday from 4:30pm—5:15pm or by appointment

Sacramental Preparation:

Persons desiring to receive certain sacraments at Holy Trinity need to be registered parishioners and are expected to participate in a preparation program. For more information or to register, contact the appropriate staff person:

- Infant Baptism: readmin@trinity.org, (202) 903-2808
- First Reconciliation/Eucharist: Anne Marie Kaufmann, (202) 903-2846
- Youth Confirmation: Anne Marie Kaufmann, (202) 903-2846
- Adult Confirmation: Anne Marie Kaufmann, (202) 903-2846
- Marriage Preparation: readmin@trinity.org, (202) 903-2808

Baptisms and Weddings:

- To schedule a Baptism or Wedding, contact Moira Duggan at mduggan@trinity.org.

Sacrament of the Sick

Communal anointing is celebrated seasonally in the Chapel of St. Ignatius. Call the parish to request the sacrament at home or in the hospital.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process of conversion and faith formation for individuals who are interested in living the Christian life in the Catholic tradition. Those who want to learn more about the possibility of becoming Catholic are welcome to come to the Inquiry meetings held every Tuesday evening at 7pm in the Faber Room, Holy Trinity Parish Center. Please contact Anne Koester at akoester@trinity.org or (202) 903-2825. Holy Trinity also offers RCIA adapted for children and youth who are not Baptized (ages 7 through high school). Please contact Anne Marie Kaufmann at akaufmann@trinity.org (202) 903-2846 for more information.

LGBTQIA+ MINISTRY

Holy Trinity's commitment to accompany one another in Christ invites us to be more deeply aware of the diversity of our community and more welcoming to those who are marginalized by society or the Church. Our lay-led ministry embraces individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning/queer, intersex, asexual and their families and friends. More information and upcoming meetings can be found at www.trinity.org/lgbtqia or by emailing LGBTQIA@trinity.org.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

PPC members share leadership responsibility with our pastor. As advisors to the pastor, PPC members assist the pastor in discerning, articulating and communicating to other parishioners the identity and mission of the parish, and they assist the pastor in assuring fidelity to that identity and mission. Contact President Chris Hannigan at ppcpresident@trinity.org and Vice President Tania Chomiak-Salvi at parishcouncil@trinity.org.

PRAY



Abiding in God's Love September 26 - October 2, 2021

Registration deadline: **September 12**

Our parish has been offering this introductory Ignatian retreat in daily life for forty-three years. We now offer you a refreshed version of the retreat with new Scripture passages and music. During the retreat, you will be invited to reflect on the Mystery of God's love spilling over into creation; become aware of God's comforting presence in your life; listen to God's call to you to be a receiver and giver of Divine Love; and become God's friend. For more information or to register go to trinity.org/ignatian-spirituality/retreats Questions? Contact moshea@trinity.org.

LEARN

Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice

Save the date! If you would like to be part of the Holy Trinity in-person delegation on November 6-8, please email aklick@trinity.org by **September 1**.

Last Chance for "Just Faith Retreat: Race & Healing"

The Social Justice Ministry will be hosting two retreat opportunities on Race & Healing beginning with an in-person retreat on **August 28**. This eight-week program guides participants in telling the truth about the history of racism in the United States, so that we might work toward true reconciliation with God and restoration with one another. Following the in-person retreat, the weekly meetings will be held virtually. Group 1 will meet Tuesdays at 7:00pm and Group 2 will meet Thursdays at 12:00pm. Meetings typically last 1.5-2 hours. Register online at trinity.org/social-justice/whats-new.

Register for Sunday Morning Religious Education

Registration for the 2021-2022 Religious Education year for grades K-8 is underway. Please be sure to register now to ensure placement in fall classes, which will be held in-person on campus. Learn more and enroll online at trinity.org/enroll.

Baptism Preparation Sessions for Parents and Godparents

Baptism Preparation sessions have resumed in person. See the calendar and register at trinity.org/infant-baptism.

SERVE

Youth Ministry Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help with our high school youth ministry program. If you would like to help guide high school youth in deepening their own faith and becoming more engaged in our parish community, please consider joining our youth ministry team. For more information, please contact Anne Marie Kaufmann, at akaufmann@trinity.org.

Volunteer With Our Religious Education Program

Please consider joining the Faith Formation Program as a catechist. Classes begin in September and run through mid-May. Learn more about becoming a catechist and submit an interest form at trinity.org/calledtobeacatechist. We are also in need of volunteers who are willing to share our faith with 3-5 year olds. Do you love to explore Bible stories? Are you comfortable with hands-on activities, music, and drama? If so, we need you! Contact Sandy Nguyen at snguyen@trinity.org if you are interested.

SOME Snack Bag Collection Continues

Thank you for your donations — you have brought our grand total to over 19,000 snack bags! The next collection date is **August 21** and we are looking for contributions of snack bags, belts and reusable water bottles. Visit the sign-up at trinity.org/do-something-good-for-your-neighbor to register.

Groceries for Migrant Families

Our migrant families are thriving with the gift of fresh fruits, veggies and proteins. Thank you! As their unemployment continues, we will continue to supplement their weekly groceries. If you would like to purchase groceries or donate a gift card, please sign up at trinity.org/do-something-good-for-your-neighbor. Consider partnering with a neighbor or your troop/team. Gift cards may be dropped off at Holy Trinity or in Alexandria, VA.

CONNECT

Holy Trinity at Nationals Park!

All parishioners are invited to our annual baseball outing on **September 18** at 4:05pm to see the Nats take on the Rockies. Tickets are \$11 each and may be purchased at trinity.org/pay/natspark. The purchase deadline is August 27 and tickets will be available for pickup at Holy Trinity the week of September 13. Questions? Contact Helene Flanagan at hflanagan@trinity.org.



LGBTQIA+ Women's Discussion Group

The next meeting will take place **August 16** at 7:00pm. For questions about the women's or family groups, contact Cerissa at lgbtqia+women@trinity.org. Please visit trinity.org/lgbtqia-ministry to register for the links to these meetings.

Falling in Love with Nature, *continued from page 1*

In short, loving nature becomes organic once we see nature as God's communication to us. We receive God's generous outpouring to us, and we respond in kind, through our love of the natural world.

Once we understand that nature is God's self-communication to us we can adopt new practices that reinforce our love of nature. For example, daily walks become not just exercise, but a chance to exult in the natural world that surrounds us. Or consider our consumption habits. When we appreciate nature as a gift, consumption is not just about sustenance or pleasure, but a mindful appreciation of the gifts God has given us. We might extend our habit of grace before meals to broader patterns of consumption, similar to the practice of the Tlingit people of Alaska: before harvesting forest resources, they give thanks for them and promise to use only as much as they really need.

Imagine such resource consciousness in our daily life. If we expressed gratitude and promised sobriety every time we flip a light switch, grab a piece of paper, or reach for the car keys — wouldn't this engender in us a greater reverence for Creation?

Whether our struggle to love and protect the Earth is expressed as a greening of our prayer life, a mindfulness of lifestyle, or greater commitment to Earth advocacy, our energy for the struggle comes from a warm and consoling truth: That God loves us through Creation itself, in a never-ending generosity that sustains us each moment. How could our response be anything but love in return? ✚



Implementing the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform: Ignatian Style!

This Spring, the Vatican launched the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform (LSAP), embarking the global Church on a journey towards integral ecology and total sustainability over the next seven years. In honor of this launch and the Ignatian Year, the Ignatian Solidarity Network invites you to join *Renewing the Earth: Living Laudato Si' in the Year of Ignatius*. Find companions on the journey as we begin to implement the action platform in the spirit of St. Ignatius. Each month, you'll receive an email with opportunities to learn, pray, act, and connect with others around one of the LSAP goals through the lens of Ignatian Spirituality as we celebrate the Ignatian Year. Learn more and sign up at trinity.org/the-ignatian-year.

The Judith Brusseau Faith Formation Fund



Judith Brusseau retired on August 6 as our Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation & Religious Education. To-date, as our "Thank You" to Judith for her 20 years of ministry, and to continue her legacy into the future, we have raised about \$15,000 for the **Judith Brusseau Faith Formation Fund** to support Religious Education and to train more catechists for Shepherd's Flock, our RE program for children with special needs that Judith began.

It's not too late to join those who have already given! To offer your donation in honor of Judith, join our peer-to-peer fundraising platform: **Community of Giving** at www.trinity.org/judith-brusseau-faith-formation-fund. Raising money among your family and friends is a great way to give thanks for the blessings of Judith's work that have touched your family and it will benefit our RE children now and into the future.

You may also give by:

- Donating online via our Virtual Collection Basket or via the banner at the top of our website.
- Scanning the QR Code below and following the prompts



- Texting GIVE to 202-991-GIVE (202-991-4483), select 'HOLY TRINITY PARISH' then scroll down. Return users: text an amount and fund keyword 'JUDITH' (e.g. 50 JUDITH) to 202-991-4483
- Mailing a check to the Attention of Development at Holy Trinity, 3513 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007

Questions? Call/text Rock Schuler, Director of Stewardship, at (301) 455-5437 or email him at rschuler@trinity.org.



Sunday, August 15

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 Luke 1:39-56	10:00am	Summer Coffee & Donuts McKenna Hall
	6:30pm	Trinity Adult Singles Gathering Zoom, barquinero@gmail.com or doakley@nirsonline.org

Monday, August 16

MONDAY OF THE TWENTIETH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME Judges 2:11-19 Matthew 19:16-22	9:00am	Morning Prayer Zoom
	7:00pm	LGBTQIA+ Ministry Women's Discussion Zoom
	7:30pm	Separated Divorced and Widowed Zoom

Tuesday August 17

TUESDAY OF THE TWENTIETH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME Judges 6:11-24a Mathhew 19:23-30	10:00am	Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) McKenna Hall
	4:00pm	KBI Border Trip Information Session Zoom
	7:30pm	Pray the Rosary with Fr. Gillespie Zoom

Wednesday August 18

WEDNESDAY OF THE TWENTIETH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME Judges 9:6-15 Matthew 20:1-16	7:00pm	PPC Meeting Zoom
	7:00pm	HT Advocacy Team Meeting Zoom

Thursday, August 19

THURSDAY OF THE TWENTIETH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME Judges 11:29-39a Matthew 22:1-14	6:15pm	Centering Prayer Chapel of St. Ignatius
	6:30pm	Iconographers Guild Parish Center Library
	7:00pm	Yound Adult Faith Sharing Parish Center Library

Friday, August 20

MEMORIAL OF SAINT BERNARD Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 Matthew 22:34-40	9:00am	Morning Prayer Zoom
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Saturday, August 21

MEMORIAL OF SAINT PIUS X Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17 Matthew 23:1-12	7:30am	Zen Meditation Zoom
	10:00am	SOME Snack Bag Drive Zoom

Sunday, August 22

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32 John 6:60-69	10:00am	Summer Coffee & Donuts McKenna Hall
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