



A Lenten Message...

Let us consider...

“Which is the first of all the commandments?”

Jesus replied, “The first is this: *Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*

The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mk 12: 29 – 31)

In his Second chapter of *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis offers a small catechesis on the Judeo-Christian understanding of creation...and nature’s relationship to God, the creator. His reference to St. Francis’ understanding of this relationship helps to lead the reader to see how our relationship with all of creation is a deep communion.

“A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings. It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted. This comprises the very meaning of our struggle for the sake of the environment. ... Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.” (excerpt -LS #91)

During this Lenten Season...

How do I experience being in “communion” with all of creation?

Where do I fall short of honoring this understanding of being “related” to everything, of being in communion with everything?

Where do I need to be converted...changed?