

Laudato Si' in the Desert

*A Global Catholic Climate Movement
Laudato Si' Circle
in Tucson AZ*

“GETTING STARTED”
Our first two Circle Gatherings . . .

Katie Hirschboeck
“Laudato Si’ in the Desert”
Circle Facilitator



**ADVANCE DIRECTIONS
FOR OUR FIRST GATHERING:**

*“Bring a small object from nature
that holds a sacred meaning for you,
or evokes a special memory,
joyful experience,
or significant
location”*



Water-smoothed stones
with pattern



Special rock
with a butterfly design



Tiny 2-year old saguaro
cactus grown from seed!



Tree-ring cross-section and
pressed cottonwood leaves

For our OPENING PRAYER:

LAUDATO SI' LECTIO

*Passage is read once / **period of silence** / all present are invited to **say a single word or short phrase** from the reading, if desired (no discussion or explanation) / Passage is read again (can be by new reader) / **period of silence** / all present are invited to reflect with a few additional words or thoughts if desired.*

In the Judaeo-Christian tradition, the word “creation” has a broader meaning than “nature”, for it has to do with God’s loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance.

Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion. (LS 76)



LAUDATO SI' LECTIO

Passage is read once

PERIOD OF SILENCE

*all present are invited to **say a single word or short phrase** from the reading, if desired (no discussion or explanation)*

Passage is read again (can be by new reader)

PERIOD OF SILENCE

all present are invited to reflect with a few additional words or thoughts if desired

CLOSING PRAYER

**Then we shared a vegan meal and
got to know more about each other . . .**



Our Circle includes members from 3 different parishes in the Diocese.

The main dish was SWEET POTATO QUINOA SALAD



[www.karissasvegankitchen.com/
sweet-potato-quinoa-salad/](http://www.karissasvegankitchen.com/sweet-potato-quinoa-salad/)

Dessert included tasting different brands of fair-trade chocolate!



and learning about: Green America's Chocolate Scorecard

[www.greenamerica.org/end-child-labor-cocoa/
chocolate-scorecard](http://www.greenamerica.org/end-child-labor-cocoa/chocolate-scorecard)

At the close of dinner we began a discussion about what future “communal action” we could do as a Circle.

Since we are just getting started, we decided to begin by each of us researching an issue of personal interest related to CONSUMPTION to share with the Circle at a future meeting.

Some of the things we are exploring:

- *plastics and alternatives*
- *animal agriculture*
- *smaller chocolate companies*
- *post-consumer paper products*
- *‘wheat’ varieties*

and more

**Our schedule was too ambitious for our first meeting!
So adjustments were made and we dropped some planned parts:**

LAUDATO SI' IN THE DESERT Jan 28th Gathering

5:30	Opening prayer and introductions
5:35	Meal, Introductions and sharing with sacred objet; share a moment of gratitude from the day/week or drawing upon a question from the resource.
6:00	Clean up and transition to prayer and reflection
6:05	Prayer begins going through the 3 moments of: hearing creation's song, hearing creation's cry, and responding with hope and commitment.
6:10	Prayers of the world: Bringing to mind the needs of the world, we lift up any prayers for our brothers and sisters, and all member of our common home. At the end of each intention, together we will say "Loving Creator, hear our prayer."
6:15	Examen and repentance: We acknowledge the ways that we have sinned. A time of silence with some questions from the <u>Ecological Examen.</u>
6:20	Reading of the LS Circles Common Resource. Individual and group reflection including sharing of examples ways in our own lives and discussing opportunities to share challenges and growth points.
6:50	Hope and Commitment: We commit ourselves to ongoing conversion by praying the Prayer for our Earth from Laudato Si
6:55	Closing and announcements

RECONCILING GOD, CREATION AND HUMANITY

This Ignatian Ecological Examen asks you to reflect on your personal relationship with creation, to acknowledge and amend your ways and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm.



1. I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made.
Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?

2. I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering.
Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?

3. I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable.
What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?

4. I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation.
Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters? How do I ask for a conversion of heart?

5. I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions.
How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?

6. I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.

Ended with:

The IGNATIAN ECOLOGICAL EXAMEN

www.ecologicalexamen.org

&

LAUDATO SI' CLOSING PRAYER

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH



All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si' On Care for Our Common Home

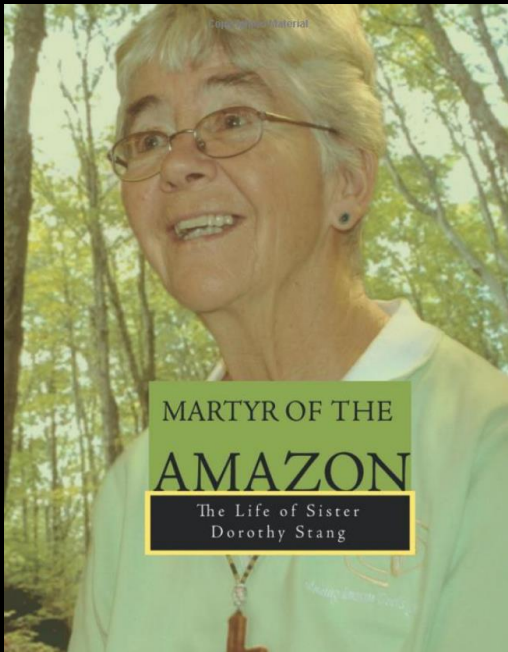
For our next Circle gathering:

Eco-Examen Prayer Cards and Booklets

were ordered from: www.ecologicalexamen.org



GCCM's February Laudato Si' Circle Resource:



Sister Dorothy Stang's Feast Day on Feb 12th



LAUDATO SI' REFLECTION - FEBRUARY 2019

This resource is developed monthly by GCCM, as an input for personal reflection or for group reflection in Laudato Si' Circles.



This Laudato Si' Reflection is dedicated to the life and memory of **Sr. Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, "Martyr of the Amazon."** Sr. Dorothy spent over 30 years working as a missionary among the rural farmers and peasants in Amazon Brazil. She struggled tirelessly for land reform and human rights, amidst death threats from wealthy ranchers. On February 12, 2005 while walking on the road she was approached by two gunmen. She pulled out her Bible and began reading from the Beatitudes, ending with the phrase "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God." After some moments of hesitation, the gunmen fired six shots, killing Sr. Dorothy.

HEARING CREATION'S SONG

Sr. Dorothy had a great love for creation. She once wrote *"I'm trying daily to fill my lungs with the beauty of our cosmos - her energy - so all that is to be woman can be felt in me."* Take a moment now to take a few deep breaths. Imagine that you are breathing in the beauty of the cosmos. What images come to mind? Can you imagine that this is God breathing life in you to be your fullest person? Give thanks for the gift of creation, of air, and the cosmos.

HEARING CREATION'S CRY

"We must make great efforts to save our planet. Earth is not able to provide anymore. Her water and air are poisoned and her soil is dying of exaggerated use of chemicals." Sr. Dorothy Stang

Sr. Dorothy was killed because of her commitment to the poor and the earth. The lives of those fighting for environmental justice continue to be at risk. Brazil is the [deadliest](#) place for environmental activists, with at least 57 killed in 2017; the second deadliest country is the Philippines with 48 killed. In the few months alone, an [indigenous leader](#) and [two leaders of the landless movement](#) were murdered in Brazil for their justice work.

Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN
Martyr 1931-2005



We live in a culture that often equates happiness with the accumulation of possessions and accolades. This obsession with external objects and rewards diverts



all environmental activists around the world.

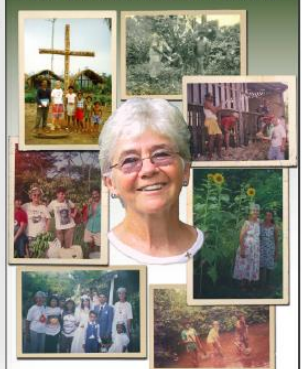
We ask your protection upon those working to protect Your Creation. Give them courage and strength of heart. And enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference or even worse violence.

Inspired by Dorothy Stang, your servant and martyr, we pray in communion with all the saints in glory, through Christ our Lord Amen.

Dorothy Stang written by Sr. Teresita Weind SNDdeN

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Her Dream...Our Hands

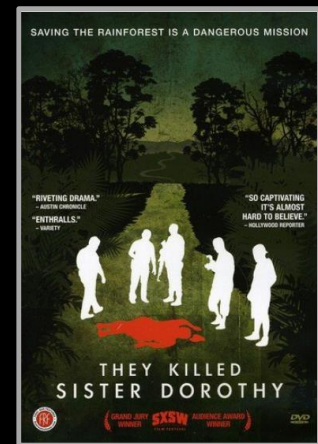


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Sister Dorothy Stang, 1931-2005
Sister of Notre Dame de Namur

Second Circle Gathering:

Viewing of film **“THEY KILLED
SISTER DOROTHY”**
... with prayer & discussion



**HEARING
CREATION'S SONG**
*rainforest sounds
and reflection
followed by reading of
The Beatitudes*

**HEARING
CREATION'S CRY**
*viewing of the film
followed by
one-word responses
& discussion*

Responding . . .

With HOPE

**Wisdom from
SISTER DOROTHY STANG**

*God's gift to us is to live more fully
as part of our cosmic creation.*

*Only a profound change in our way of
living – our values and attitudes –
can bring new life to our world.*

*Did we make our lives so comfortable
and withdrawn from reality that we
cannot see the social sins that our
silence is supporting?*

*I work with people
who are living on the margin.
They help me in renewing the earth
in the way we take care of it.
All of us are part
of a great Oneness.*

*Just as plants die and are reborn,
we too each day lay to rest
what we did that day and
awake to a new sunrise.
Let's all conserve so we
can have a healthy planet.*

*We must help the people recapture a
relationship with Mother Earth
that is tender and kind.*

*Conflict without the presence of God
never finds a solution.*

. . . and COMMITMENT

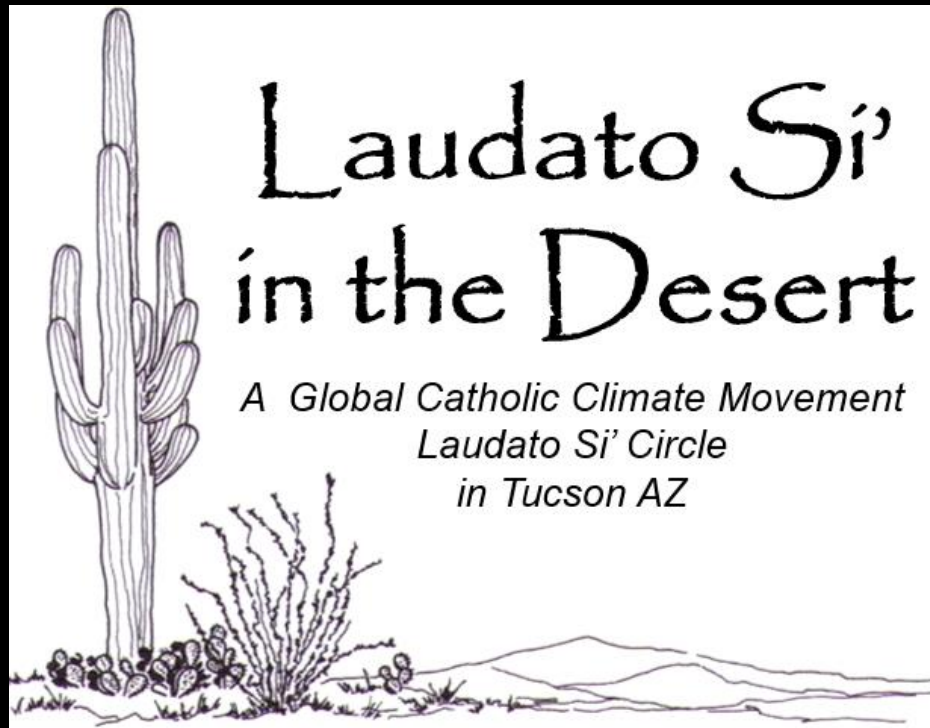
Learn more !



**Meatless Lent !
(with encouragement from
vegan members of Circle)**

PRAYER

NEXT GATHERING . . .



Sometime in March . . .