



PRESS RELEASE: June 2, 2015.

Announcing: “Cultivating and Caring for Creation,” 12 new on-line videos and study guides in anticipation of Pope Francis’ coming encyclical, “Praised Be,” on the environment (unconfirmed publication date: June 16, 2015).

“Cultivating and caring for creation is God’s indication given to each one of us not only at the beginning of history; it is part of His project; it means nurturing the world with responsibility and transforming it into a garden, a habitable place for everyone.” Pope Francis. World Earth Day, 2013.

Produced by greenspirittv.com (GSTV), a participant in romancatholictv.com (RCTV), **“Cultivating and Caring for Creation”** is narrated by Bishop Donald Bolen, chair of Justice and Peace, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) and includes content from several Canadian Catholic eco justice leaders.

“The environment is hurting, our earth is suffering, and future generations will suffer as a result. People today suffer as a result. We focus on individual sin in the Church, but we also need to focus on collective sin,” says Bishop Donald Bolen, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and chair of the Justice and Peace Commission, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB).

Bolen is speaking in **“Cultivating and Caring for the Environment,”** a 12-part series of video shorts and lesson plans sent out today by the CCCB to all the bishops in the country as background for the Holy Father’s much anticipated Encyclical on the Environment entitled *“Laudato Sii”* (Latin for “Praised Be,” from St. Francis’ *“Canticle of the Sun,”* a hymn of praise to God for His creations written in 1224).

Bolen is co-author, along with other members of the CCCB Justice and Peace Commission, of **Building a New Culture – Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment** (January, 2013).

“The Justice and Peace Commission was asked by the Plenary of the Canadian Bishops to produce a document on the environment,” recalls Bolen, “and we felt that it was useful to highlight recent statements of successive Popes who have expressed a strong commitment towards the environment.”

Events would overtake the publishing of that document. Pope Benedict resigned February, 2013; Pope Francis would be elected in March. Almost immediately, Francis began to speak about the environment crisis and it soon became known that his first encyclical, (encyclicals are the highest

order of papal teaching) would provide a new eco justice framework for Catholics, and indeed, the entire world.

As a group of Catholic organizations got together to prepare the on-line video series, Bishop Bolen agreed to write and narrate the videos, bringing together the thoughts of popes, bishops, and lay people long active in developing Catholic thought and action on eco justice issues.

Along with the contributions from Justice and Peace, CCCB, the series content-providers include: Building Bridges Project (Standing committee on Aboriginal Affairs/Western Catholic Bishops; Elliott Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology, University of Toronto; Farmland Legacies (SK) ; Madonna House Apostolate (Combermere, ON); Scarboro Missions; St. Gabriel's Parish, Willowdale, ON (Canada's first LEED-gold eco church building); St. Joseph Centre for Ecology, Cobourg, ON (Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada); Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston, ON); St Peter's Benedictine Abbey (Muenster, SK).

"One simple thing that we can do is attend to the prophetic voices in our communities who are looking to the environment and its needs, who have engaged in rigorous study, who have, over the long haul, expressed deep concerns about environmental changes, and who show us some of the small steps which can be taken in our area, in our parishes, which help us to live in a new way in relation to the environment," says Bolen while introducing Canadian eco justice thinkers and initiatives in his own diocese, across the country, and in developing communities around the world.

"I believe these programs are helpful in many ways, providing a context where it is clear that Pope Francis is teaching in continuity with his predecessors. The series is also an excellent expression of our various church communities working together to present a pastoral message to students and parishioners.

"The message is simple: from popes to bishops to religious and laity, we care about the environment and we want to share that concern, which Francis has termed the moral imperative of our times, with the entire body of the faithful." Prepared by Dawn Deme, coordinating producer of romancatholictv.com.

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For links to GSTV videos and lesson: www.romancatholictv.com Also: www.greenspiritv.com For videos only: <https://www.youtube.com/user/greenspiritv> or use Green Spirit TV YouTube link on www.romancatholictv.com home page or www.greenspiritv.com page (both at bottom of page).

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