

Pastoral Reflection
15th Sunday in Ordinary time
July 12, 2026

“All creation stands on tiptoe with eager expectation to see the revelation of the children of God.”

This translation of Paul’s Letter to the community at Rome (Romans 8:19) offers a vibrant image of all creation stretching excitedly to see what God is doing in all creation. Christ’s coming transforms all creation. All stand on tiptoe (even those without toes): hippopotamuses, coneflowers, puppies, stars, rivers, mules, bluegill, sandstone, olive trees, mushrooms, lightning bugs, pelicans, humans – all creation is on tiptoe eagerly waiting and praising what our God is doing.

When Jesus became human, he assumed and transformed all matter. All creation is holy, is sacred, even those parts we wonder why God ever created THAT or THOSE.

We as a St. Cronan community are deeply and firmly committed to justice. We assume various projects or ways of interacting that we hope will be freeing and healing for all people. I find that I can become so involved with people who are in need, that I neglect or forget about how we humans are using and abusing the rest of creation. Now and then we are reminded about how we affect the climate and the degradation of creation, and how the policies of our current United States administration are exacerbating these problems.

Pope Francis published *Laudato Si* (Care for our Common Home) over 11 years ago. He challenged us to recognize and respond to “integral ecology,” the realization that the environmental crisis and social injustice are inextricably linked. The situation has become even more dire the past year as the most vulnerable people are unjustly affected by the ecological crises of today.

We can’t take on every issue, but we can recognize that they are all connected. They are facets of the same issue, our failure to attend to the gift of creation, all creation. One way we can become more aware of these inter-connections is to read and reflect on a book like *Come, Have Breakfast; Meditations on God and the Earth* by Elizabeth Johnson. The chapters are brief and encourage the reader to appreciate the world in which we, all creation, live together. The Cronan Turtles recently read and discussed the book. You might be able to borrow the book or buy it from one of the group.

These are some questions we might use for reflection: Who is God for us? How are we called to be the revelation of God, to be co-creators with our Creating God? Elizabeth Johnson reminds us that “the living God, Creator of heaven and earth, passionately desires that all should be fed.” How can we respond to creation, all creation, that today stands on tiptoe in profound hope and trust?

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