

St. Francis Would Smile
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There is something so basic about the Incarnation, so mystifying about our transcendent God's choosing to be with us. And this God isn't just with us in thought, or in spirit. This God is with us in flesh. God, who created us, became one of us. Francis of Assisi understood this. He recognized the hand of God in creation. Now, I know that this kind of article is usually written during the Christmas season. But I would invite us to think about the miracle of God's in a new way. It isn't just at Christmas that God became human. Through this mystery of the Incarnation the Second Person of the Trinity, the Word of God took on human form. He becomes one of us, takes on human nature, a created nature. How this happens might be the topic of another article. It is already the topic of countless books. This article won't attempt that. What we will look at is how this mystery of the Incarnation invites us to look at the created world.

John begins his gospel by telling us that "All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be." Pope Benedict writes of Gregory Nazianzus who asks us to consider, "What has not been assumed has not been healed." St. Paul speaks to us through the letter to the Corinthians: "For us there is one God, the Father, from whom all things are; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things are; and one Holy Spirit, in whom all things are and through we exist."

We honor God who is the creator when we honor his creation. When we dishonor God's creation, we act foolishly. When we honor creation we honor Jesus, through whom everything comes into being. Jesus Christ shares our created nature.

Wherever we stand on climate change is not the issue. How we live in relationship with God, with one another, and with God's creation is the issue. The United States Bishops provide us with many ideas on this issue. They give us a clear direction and some very practical steps that we can take to demonstrate our respect for God's creation. At Jordan Ministry we are developing a workshop that will help in understanding what the Bishops are saying. It will also provide some practical ways to teach and implement practical ways to live the message.

It's the honorable thing to do.