

Like Saint Francis of Assisi before him,
philosopher, writer, Passionist priest
and ecologist Thomas Berry calls us to
remember our connection to the Earth
and to take it seriously:

“We come into being in and through the Earth.
Simply put, we are Earthlings. The Earth is
our origin, our nourishment, our educator, our
healer, our fulfillment. At its core, even our
spirituality is Earth derived. The human and the
Earth are totally implicated, each in the other.”

– From Thomas Berry, *The Spirituality of the Earth*



For Catholic health care,
the reminder of our
connectedness is doubly urgent
as our commitment to the sick
and the poor demands that
we take careful stock of our
behaviors and environmental
impact. As it is impossible for
people to be healthy on a sick
planet, we must work toward
the healing of the environment
as well as the patients and
families in our care.

As we celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis,
let us recommit ourselves to daily actions in care of
and connection to God's good creation.

CREATOR GOD, INSPIRE US.

Make us more aware of our connectedness
to the Earth, the poor and its creatures. Help us
see how our lifestyles impact the environment.

CREATOR GOD, INSPIRE US.

Move us to small acts of conservation, even at our own
inconvenience. Walk or bike rather than drive; recycle
and compost rather than throw away. May our chosen
limitations mean expanded opportunities.

CREATOR GOD, INSPIRE US.

Make us advocates for institutional changes.
On our boards, in our offices, in our parishes, schools
and communities, give us the courage to be champions
for sustainable policies and practices.

CREATOR GOD, INSPIRE US.

**May we be agents of your grace, and instruments of
your peace. Strengthen us to become tireless
protectors of your creation, and prophets of a hopeful
future for all your creatures. Amen.**