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.