

## What is the Ecological Network of Sowers of Justice?

The Ecological Network of the Richmond Diocese seeks to promote a deeper understanding of the relationship of humanity to Creation in a time of crisis for the whole planet. With Saint Francis and Pope John Paul II we share the conviction that our ecological problems are, at their core, problems of values and spirituality, intimately linked to issues of poverty and social justice. Thus all Christians have an opportunity and obligation to address ecological justice concerns. The Ecological Network of Sowers of Justice assists parishes and parishioners to make this concern part of their spiritual lives. Therefore, the Ecological Network asks each parish to provide a contact person to receive and disseminate information on how to make the connections between our faith and ecology in the parish.



If you would like to be a parish contact, please fill in below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Susan L. Hedge, The Ecological Network  
P.O. Box 20834  
Roanoke, VA 24018

**Or email to:** [shedge@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:shedge@richmonddiocese.org)

## SAINT FRANCIS ECOLOGICAL AWARD

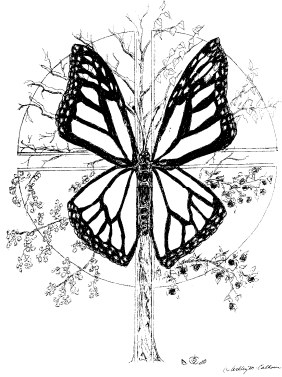


***Sponsored by the  
Ecological Network of Sowers of Justice  
to strengthen the bonds of the Web of Life on  
Planet Earth in the Richmond Diocese.***

Pope John Paul II has chosen St. Francis, who maintained a lively sense of solidarity and community with all of creation, as the patron saint of the environment and an example for all to emulate.

## The Saint Francis Ecological Award recognizes:

- Innovative and creative efforts to draw awareness to God's call to care for our planet
- Any parish, school, class, group or person engaged in efforts to strengthen the interconnectedness of the human community with all of creation
- Efforts that can be models for others to further respect and care of creation.



## Nominations for this award:

- Can be made by filling out an application obtained from the Ecological Network of *Sowers of Justice*, P.O. Box 20834, Roanoke, VA 24018, 540/725-2197 or from the Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace website:  
<http://www.richmonddiocese.org/ojp/ecoaward.pdf>
- All nominations must be received no later than March 31.

Awards will be presented in the summer.



## HOW CAN I LIVE MORE LIKE ST. FRANCIS?

Seen as a whole, the problems of pollution, rain-forest destruction, injustice, and war can seem overwhelming. What can we do as individuals and parishes to make a difference?

- ❖ First recognizing that care for the earth is a spiritual as well as a practical matter, ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- ❖ Reduce consumption of water, energy and material resources - and live a simpler life.
- ❖ Look at your home and parish to see whether your everyday decisions express love and respect for the earth.
- ❖ Take small steps to understand and do something about the damage that's been done to your community. One excellent resource for your journey is the Appalachian bishops' pastoral, *At Home in the Web of Life* (Catholic Committee of Appalachia, 1995).
- ❖ You can make a difference at home - for example, by recycling, using compact fluorescent light bulbs, getting a low flow shower head, investing in socially and environmentally responsible companies, driving less and walking more, building a backyard wildlife refuge, composting your kitchen and yard waste and teaching your children to respect all forms of life.