

The Sacred Web of Life

IN THE BEGINNING . . . THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS MOVING OVER THE FACE OF THE WATERS . . . Gen. 1:2.

All of creation, from the initial creative event to the arrival of humans, is a single, interconnected and interdependent whole. Over billions of years, hydrogen and helium unfurl the shimmering stars and galaxies, the basic elements emerge, and eventually our solar system and life unfold. Each aspect of the creative process is necessary and essential since each mode of being depends on the interactions and transformations that both precede and follow it. This web of relationships makes it impossible to rank or separate creation in a hierarchical or dualistic manner.¹

Creation is the primary revelation and each being reveals something of the Divine. Everything, from the giant sequoia to the tiny wren, to the water in our wells, lakes and streams, to the air we breathe and the soil that grows our food, is sacred. Every person - the child in the womb, the young, the elderly, laborers and unemployed, those who are vulnerable, economically poor, disempowered, or imprisoned - is to be revered and protected. Decisions concerning how we live our private and public *lives* and acquire and use resources are to reflect our care and concern for the well-being of the whole of creation. In this way we affirm the sacredness of each created being and the diversity, self-identity, and communion that are at the heart of the magnificence, magnitude and mystery of creation.

We believe we are to relate to Earth, to one another, and indeed to the Cosmos, in mutually sustaining ways and that all of our systems of learning, technology, healing, economics, governance, politics, and religion, including our Christian faith and Franciscan charism, must be in harmony with the basic ecology and laws of the Universe.

TODAY THE CREATOR SPIRIT STILL MOVES OVER THE EARTH,
WAITING TO ASSIST US . . .

Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
1999

¹ Hierarchical dualism is a pattern of thought and action that (a) divides reality into separate and opposing spheres, e.g., spirit-matter, human-nonhuman, etc., and (b) assigns a higher value to one of them.