

March 16, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As I write this to you, the cold weather is finally beginning to ease and Easter will be upon us before we know it. With cold feet and warm hearts, many of us have been dreaming of all the beauty of spring and the new life it brings.



All of creation was important to St. Francis. In it he saw the “vestiges” of our Lord Jesus Christ. Following Francis’s example, Article 18 of our Constitutions calls us to care for all creation:



“Moreover, they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which ‘bear the imprint of the Most High,’ and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.”



Paragraph 4 of the same article tells us that we
“...should work with others in efforts that both put a stop to polluting and degrading nature...”





With this in mind, I have shared with you this month some pictures I have taken over the years of the beauty of nature. As you view them, please give some thought to what you and your fraternity can do to be “good stewards” of God’s wonderful gift of creation.

If any fraternity has an apostolate that is dedicated to the environment, we would like you to share this with us, perhaps through an article for the *Troubadour*. If you have a good idea,

your brothers and sisters would love to know about it!

I am looking forward to seeing you at Convivenza on April 25th. Details have been sent to you and also appear elsewhere in this issue.

May our risen Lord Bless you and inspire you every day of your life.

Diane

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