

## CHILDREN'S BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TEACHING *LAUDATI SI*

*Emboldened by faith, serving with joy*

TITLE AUTHOR ILLUSTRATOR TEACHER NOTES	EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED	WE ARE BROKEN	THE EARTH CRIES OUT	A CALL TO CONVERSION
<u>A Quiet Place</u> Douglas Wood	This book presents the story of the many different creatures and plants in a rock pool, from starfish and sea urchins to barnacles and blennies. All creatures are interdependent. Each creature has its own purpose.	Over fishing and over collecting stresses the reliance of one form or another. Lack of balance results.	An oil spill threatens to destroy the tidal habitat.	This ecosystem needs to be left in quiet, and undisturbed, for a significant length of time. It can come alive once more and become a quiet place in itself and for the enjoyment of others, for example scuba divers and deep sea explorers. God is alive in each living and non-living form.
<u>A River Ran Wild</u> Lynne Cherry Grades 3-7	The world is a web of relationships. Each living and each non-living form has intrinsic value. The goodness of nature is reflected in God. This system preserves clean water for the common good.	Destruction of trees and shrubs along the bank disturbs the soil, and the waters may be muddied, causing a less clear water supply. Run off from farming could also contaminate the water supply.	Restoration is needed. Replant trees and shrubs, put stones in to keep the water bubbling along, collecting oxygen. Industrial plants which may contribute toxins cry out for a system of monitoring and testing for rate of water flow, oxygen and pollutants.	The descendants of the Nashua Indians and European settlers were able to combat pollution and restore the beauty of the Nashua River in Mass. The Grand River has become, once again, a home for fish, since industrial waste has been monitored and properly disposed of.
<u>Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden</u> Ray, Jane	"The Christian creation story is retold in simple but lyrical prose in this exquisitely illustrated interpretation full of swirling primeval ferns and stylized trees highlighted with touches of gold. . . Ray's intriguing paintings reward the unhurried reader with subtle details and touches of humor. . . Children who delight in highly detailed illustrations will enjoy searching the lush views of Eden packed full of every sort of creature, right down to the earthworms crawling underground." Kirkus Reviews			The story of Adam and Eve is powerful because it is the story of all children growing up and going out into the world. It also reminds readers of all ages of the need to live in harmony with the earth.

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<u>All Nature Sings: A Spiritual Journey of Place</u> Rottman, Carol  Adult	Carol Rottman has discovered a sense of place on a once pristine acreage in Michigan. She and her husband Fritz settled on the edge of Flat Iron Lake and let the land take hold of them. Carol's daily habit of traversing the land became a spiritual pilgrimage through seasonal changes in the natural world. Fritz recorded images of a constantly transforming landscape as he worked to restore seventeen acres "Carol Rottman invites us on a pilgrimage to the landscape she's come to love.			
<u>All the World</u> Frazee, Maria Caldicott Award  Teacher's guide <a href="http://www.lizgartonscanlon.com/PDFS/All%20The%20World%20TG.pdf">http://www.lizgartonscanlon.com/PDFS/All%20The%20World%20TG.pdf</a>  Kindergarten-Grade 2	Celebration of the world and humankind -- Following a circle of family and friends though the course of a day, this book affirms the importance of all things great and small in our world from the tiniest shell to warm family connections to the wildest sunset sky.			
<u>Blizzard! The Storm That Changed America</u> Murphy, Jim	Exploration of the co-dependence of human action and the forces of nature. Compare the experiences of 1889 with present day storm experiences			Responsibilities we have to one another in relation to nature and and its power and need
<u>Chicken and Cat</u> Varone, Sara	Cat comes to the big city to stay with best friend, Chicken. The city is exciting (and there is much to do) but after a while, Cat yearns for country with its trees and bright colors. There are many adventures, but Cat remains blue.	How can Chicken make the city a brighter, happier place for Cat to live in? What about the city seems broken? Materials are not disposed of properly.	Urban setting lacks plants. How can nature thrive in glass and concrete? A garden is needed; buy some seeds, Plant, water; observe growth. Success: the flower is magical; earth is productive.	We need to create/protect the need for a green environment in our cities. Cat and chicken are happy; become better friends in this green environment. What can you do to make the earth better? Which environment would make Jesus happier?

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<p><u>Circles of Hope</u> Williams, Karen Lynn Saport, Linda</p> <p>Haitian story</p> <p><a href="http://www.karenlynnwilliams.com/files/circles_guide.pdf">http://www.karenlynnwilliams.com/files/circles_guide.pdf</a></p>		<p>Young Facile wants to plant a tree in honor of his new baby sister, but he faces many obstacles. The first seed he plants is eaten by a goat, the second seed is washed away in a storm, and another seed is burnt by a scrub fire. Will Facile ever be able to plant a tree that will grow strong for baby Lucia?</p>		
<p><u>Dinosaurs to the Rescue</u> Laurie Brown K-3. An upbeat book that will appeal to a wide range of children and adults.</p>	<p>This unique environmental guide introduces young children to the main problems facing today's world and suggests easy, appealing ways that they can help. Protecting our beautiful planet is a big job. Every one of us can help.</p>	<p>Similar to the main character, Slobosurus, in the story, we are full of excuses why we can't use less, use things again and give something back to the earth. (We are too busy, too tired, it takes time and the attitude "what difference can I make". We are one family. There is no room for risky instant gratification and selfishness.</p>	<p>We must move toward renewable energy (165). Environmental education needs to instill good habits, not just information (210).</p>	<p>There is a special section that encourages readers to appreciate and respect the earth's gifts and offers ways to try to give something back. Lesson plans include a St. Francis Pledge/Loyola Press. We must be humble, not master over (224). We need one another (I-Thou, not I-it) (229).</p>
<p><u>Everyone Needs a Rock</u> Tappen, Jan</p>	<p>This story tells of how everyone needs to have their own rock and the ten rules that must be used in finding one's special rock. Nature is God's art (80). All living and nonliving things on earth are connected. We are brothers and sisters of the sun, moon, and stars.</p>	<p>We must balance "technology with wonder and quiet time." (111) Technology has its place, but we must also take time to connect with all living and nonliving things outdoors.</p>	<p>The goodness of nature is present in God (234).</p>	<p>Hymn of St. Francis (87)</p>
<p><u>Grandad's Prayers of the Earth</u> Wood, Douglas Lynch, P.J.</p>	<p>The comfortable conversations between a boy and his grandfather become the springboard for exploring ideas about prayer in this poignant picture book. On their walks together in the woods, Grandad tells the boy that trees, rocks and streams pray, as sure as people do.</p>			<p>Appreciation of many different prayer styles from contemplation invited by the artistry and forms of nature: reality of sadness and death; room for emotions to be realized; new life that comes when we are able to experience life differently.</p>

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<p><u>Green With N.V.: A Story of Recycling</u> Lori Hastings Grade Level: Ages 5 – 10 Founder of Lori’s Voice, a non-profit organization funding children with disabilities with medical needs. Her book is available at the Coopersville Farm Museum (Mich.) for \$10.00</p>	<p>The playful story of a friendship between green, a coloring crayon and N.V., a plastic milk jug. While green frolics at the playground, she hears a cry from a nearby trash can. She follows her heart to help rescue a new friend. Green convinces N.V. that his life is valuable and does not have to end in the garbage.</p>	<p>Many useful items become trash; things are broken apart, torn or ripped. Materials are also smashed, or are ruined with rust. This story teaches young people about the importance of respecting the wholeness of God’s creation and the world we live in.</p>	<p>We can work together to creatively reuse and create new products from existing items. Recycling is a valuable service to which we should all have access. By using these services, we can help protect our precious Earth. The milk jug in the story can be recycled into something new and help make it a cleaner and better world.</p>	<p>Recycle means making stuff that would otherwise become trash into useful items: park benches and building materials and even clothes can be made out of recycled soda bottles. Find an outdoor recycled park bench and discuss the many steps it took to change over 1,000 milk jugs to mold one park bench.</p>
<p><u>Henry Hikes To Fitchburg</u> Johnson, D.B An introduction to Henry Thoreau. <a href="http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/readers_guides/henry/">http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/readers_guides/henry/</a> <a href="http://www.henryhikes.com/hikes/hikes.html">http://www.henryhikes.com/hikes/hikes.html</a></p>	<p>Other books in the series affirm Thoreau’s connection to Earth as a source of strength and concern. What sites along the way make hiking possible? Which sites make working possible? Which choice involves more connections with the natural world?</p>	<p>What disruptions in nature have been made to allow Harry’s friend to buy a train ticket? Which disruption has been most destructive of nature?</p>	<p>If the earth could cry out, what pains would it experience? What hurts the earth the most? Why?</p>	<p>Demonstrates the values of simple living. “How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives,” Where is God in each journey: in the hike, in work to buy a ticket; or in each person? Who can help you make your journey on the earth?</p>
<p><u>If Kids Ran the World</u> Leo and Diane Dillon Ages 4-9  Caldecott Medal Award</p>	<p>Authors present a rainbow of children who lend a helping hand to make our global village a happier place, including building a peaceful world where food, shelter, medicine and education can be had by all. We work together (13). We come together to care for our home (244).</p>	<p>The earth has many problems. But even the smallest things we do make a difference. The poor suffer first and most (47-48). Resources are not infinite. (106).</p>	<p>There are hungry to be fed, sick to be healed, and homeless to help. If peace begins with a smile, then children are our greatest hope for the future.</p>	<p>Increase renewable energy (26). Jesus ate and drank water (98). Preserve and protect public space and landmarks (151). Use Public transportation (153). All creation is holy: all are sisters and brothers (221), It is easy to be grateful for what we have when we learn how to share.</p>

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<p><u>John Muir: My Life With Nature</u> Joseph Cornell</p> <p>Middle school age to adult</p>	<p>Book is a “way for...rich and poor to share the beauty of nature.</p> <p>Detachment from accumulating wealth is evident as is his fascination with the natural world. He found nature to be a sign of the Divine.</p>		<p>Muir describes the destruction of the great Sequoias but adds what can be done.</p>	<p>Muir resolves harrowing predicaments in the world by careful attentiveness to nature; he finds true wealth in wild beauty, in public service and in family. He found nature to be a sign of the Divine. Could provide inspiration for preparing for Confirmation.</p>
<p><u>Joseph Had a Little Overcoat</u> Simms Taback Grade level 1-3, ages 5-7. A Caldecott Award winner,</p>	<p>A fable of Joseph who has an overcoat that he wears so much it develops holes. Joseph has many ingenious solutions to worn out clothes. He makes many, many things to wear from his original overcoat: jacket, vest, tie, and button. Rich and poor have equal dignity (94).</p>	<p>The throw away culture is not working (123). Our society has an obsession with consumerism, with more and more things (203). We need to be concerned about consumerism and reduce waste. We practice this by reusing our personal and household items.</p>	<p>We are a throw away culture (20-22). Advertisement has made it difficult to disconnect between our wants and our needs.</p>	<p>Living simply brings freedom and happiness (223). Don’t underestimate small actions (212). Less is more (222). This book on sustainability illustrates ingenious solutions for reusing. We revisit the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Be content with what you have. You can always make something out of nothing.</p>
<p><u>Miss Rumphius</u> Cooney, Barbara</p> <p>American Book Reward <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrjPzbuxLJU">www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrjPzbuxLJU</a>  <a href="http://www.philosophyforkids.com/resources/miss_rumphius_alissa.shtml">http://www.philosophyforkids.com/resources/miss_rumphius_alissa.shtml</a></p>	<p>Miss Rumphius, as a child, is told to “do something to make the world more beautiful”. The story tells how she helped others, encountered new peoples, and in the end made the world more beautiful with flowers.</p>	<p>As Alice travels about the world, she sees many places that have been disrupted and are not as beautiful as she would have hoped.</p>	<p>Travel helps Alice grow up. She really sees the importance of making the world more beautiful; she develops a plan.</p>	<p>She returns home and finds a way to make space more beautiful. How can such activity restore the earth? Do you have a plan? In what ways would Pope Francis’ Encyclical agree?</p>
<p><u>Old Turtle</u> Wood, Douglas Chee, Cheng-Khee</p> <p>Old Turtle (read by Mike Pinder) <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzT6em0Wqcl">www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzT6em0Wqcl</a></p>	<p>A uniquely satisfying fable about ecology, peace, and the inter-connectedness of all beings. Few books can match the understated, universal power of its hopeful message. The message is mature and might need support beyond a simple reading.</p>			

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<p><u>Old Turtle and the Broken Truth</u> Wood, Douglas, a sequel</p> <p>A prayer drama</p> <p><b>Teacher Guide</b> <a href="http://stpeterstaff.wikispaces.com/search/view/turtle">http://stpeterstaff.wikispaces.com/search/view/turtle</a></p> <p><a href="http://uuintergenerational.org/old_turtle.htm">http://uuintergenerational.org/old_turtle.htm</a></p>	<p>Once in a far away and lovely place, where "every stone was a teacher and every breeze a language," a truth falls from the sky and breaks in half before it lands. There is an argument about God. Is he a wind who is never still? Is he a rock that never moves? Is He high above or here among us? Venerable Old Turtle quietly answered: God is all of these things.</p>	<p>In this profoundly moving fable, the earth and all its creatures are suffering, for the people will not share their Truth, which gives them happiness and power, with those who are different from them</p>		<p>Old Turtle shows the girl the missing part of the Truth, and the Little Girl returns with it to her people. Then the pieces are brought together, and the broken Truth is made whole at last: YOU ARE LOVED...AND SO ARE THEY. Then the people and the earth are healed.</p>
<p><u>Plant a pocket of Prairie</u> Phyllis Root</p> <p>Art by Betsy Bowen</p> <p>Parts are easily used with primary, but information makes it valuable for middle school, up.</p>	<p>Beautifully illustrates specific prairie plants supporting specific pollinators. Shows how changes in one part of the web of life affects every other part. Human effort can benefit the whole system.</p>			
<p><u>Possum's Harvest Moon</u> Hunter, Anne</p>	<p>Celebration of common needs</p>	<p>Refusal to celebrate while being concerned about individual needs</p>		
<p><u>Saint Francis and Brother Duck</u> A Graphic Novel Stoeckl, SFO, Jay</p>				<p>Details of Francis' life. The role of the duck highlights the reality that the decisions he made were not made lightly or without conflict both within himself as well as from people and circumstances around him.</p>

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<u>Saint Francis of Assisi</u> Denham, Joyce Temporin, Elena	St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, is particularly remembered for his gentle and caring deeds towards his world and those who shared it with him. His vibrant faith inspired many others to follow his example of a life filled with consideration.			An excellent book to introduce children to the life of a godly man whose life of extremes held more excitement than anyone unfamiliar with it would ever expect. This book spent very little time on St. Francis' quiet life of contemplation, but did a phenomenal job of showing how he moved from a man focused on wealth and war to one moved by God to seek peace and harmony. His joy in the end practically sparked off the pages.
<u>Song of Creation</u> Goble, Paul  Daniel 2:23 ff Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Holy Children  Grades 1-4  <b>Catholic Library Association, Regina Medal (2006)</b>	Every element of creations- from the magpie to the minnow - glorifies God in its own way in this bold and brightly illustrated work. The reader is invited to join with the land and the animals in singing praise to God.			
<u>Sooper Yooper</u> Mark Newman  Upper Elementary, grades 3-8	All creation works together. Each creature has its own purpose (Niche). Ecology is the relationship of living organisms and the environment. Everything is connected. We come together to care for our home. Like the Trinity, the world is a web of relationships.	Billy Cooper (our hero) chases down the source of zebra mussels, sea lamprey, mud snails, bloody red shrimp, Asian carp and other Great Lake's invasive species. He points out the dangers of ballast water from interoceanic freighters that regularly visit the Great Lakes.	Invasive species disturb the food chain in this ecosystem. They threaten the very existence of some species by over feeding. All native species should be protected. Action should be immediate. This northernmost portion of the Great Lakes represents 21% of the world's fresh water supply	It is imperative that we leave an inhabitable planet for future generations. Environmental education needs to instill good habits, not just information. Much can be done at the local level. Every individual can make a difference. Catechetical Theme: Jesus fishing the Sea of Galilee w/Apostles.

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<u>St. Francis</u> Wildsmith, Brian	He loved all God's creatures and called them his sisters and brothers			This is the story of a rich man's son who gave up his wealth and lived and worked among the poor.
<u>Strega Nona's Harvest</u> De Paola, Tomie  <a href="http://www.bestbeginningsalaska.org/imagination-library/books-book-activities/strega-nonas-harvest">http://www.bestbeginningsalaska.org/imagination-library/books-book-activities/strega-nonas-harvest</a>	A beautiful story of precise and wholehearted garden planning, planting and harvesting. Strega Nona is perfect in this manner. However, Big Anthony has a nagging sense he wants to plant his own garden, in haste. any	How does Strega Nona plant her garden? How does Anthony plant his garden? Both are good; how are they different? Anthony's harvest is gorgeous. Why is Strega able to donate many mysterious vegetables?	What vegetables grow? Is one garden better than the other? Why is there a difference in each garden? Which do the townspeople prefer? Why? This is a creative way to connect children to love nature and gardening.	What type of conversation should take place between Strega Nona and Anthony to make any kind of change happen? Is there a prayer you could say to make the people more agreeable?
Thank You, God <u>Wigger, J. Bradley</u> Jago (Illustrator)  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdsI8KixpDw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdsI8KixpDw</a>	This bright, lyrical book offers readers of all ages and backgrounds the perfect chance to reflect on all the things that they have to be grateful for. Thank You, God is a celebration of family and friends, of homes and food to share, and of the wonder of creation from the first light of day to the calm, peaceful night.			
<u>That's Why We Don't Eat Animals</u> Roth, Ruby  Action ideas at end of book		The concern about the abuse of animals and the destructive nature of factory farms is a good study. That becoming a vegan is a necessary response is debatable.		How are we called to be stewards of creation? Need for discussion on the difference of stewardship and domination.
<u>The Blessing of the Beasts</u> Pochocki, Ethel Moser, Barry  Utube on ceremony at St. John the Divine <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpBmrvWnzv8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpBmrvWnzv8</a>	A cathedral plans to celebrate all creatures to honor St. Francis.  Good for parishes with blessings of the Animals.	A skunk, named for St. Martin de Porres, and a cockroach, named for St. Francis of Assisi, wonder if they would be welcomed to the celebration. They will be outcasts, but realize "there's more to life than garbage,"		



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<p><u>The Down to Earth Guide to Global Warming</u> David, Laurie and Gordon, Cambria</p> <p>Resources and activities <a href="http://www.scholastic.com/downtoearth/checklist/">http://www.scholastic.com/downtoearth/checklist/</a></p>	<p>The authors introduce the negative effects of global warning by first showing the positive relationships that need to be protected.</p>	<p>This essential guide will help you understand why global warming happens, how it affects the planet, and the simple steps you can take to get involved in protecting the environment</p>		
<p><u>The Lorax</u> Dr. Seuss</p> <p>Resources, activities at <a href="http://www.seussville.com/Educators/lorax_classroom/educatorlorax_discuss.php">http://www.seussville.com/Educators/lorax_classroom/educatorlorax_discuss.php</a></p>		<p>If used with older students, the book should be evaluated in terms of systems of economic organization to move beyond the primary concept of one person's greed and one hero's rescue.</p>	<p>The Lorax speaks for the trees. A cautionary tale of greed and destruction as the Lorax tries to save the Truffula Forest and its inhabitants from disaster at the hands of an insatiable factory owner.</p>	<p>Use of natural resources needs to be aware of the balance of nature - the web of life</p>
<p><u>The Michigan Counting Book</u> Kathy-jo Wargin (Michigan author)</p> <p>Preschool – grade 2</p>	<p>Each creature has its own purpose (84). Michigan is a state with a wide variety of biodiversity. It is the home of many plants and animals. Each has its niche and place in the food web.</p>	<p>Any given place can be a setting for a dignified life (147-148). The book portrays the different species that are native to Michigan and also lists the endangered species (Kirtland Warbler, Karner Blue Butterfly, Gray wolf, Piping Plover), and the threatened species (dwarf Lake Iris and the Bald Eagle).</p>	<p>Noah's Ark (70)</p>	<p>Nature is a constant source of wonder and awe (Spirituality, beauty/art) (85). Hymn of St. Francis (87). All creation is holy; all are sisters and brothers (221). Catechetical Theme/Care for the Earth Values: Praise and Thankfulness.</p>
<p><u>The Rockpool</u> Bellamy, David</p> <p>Grade level: 2-7</p> <p>Part of the OUR CHANGING WORLD series.</p>	<p>This is the story of the many different creatures and plants in a rock pool, from starfish and sea urchins to barnacles and blennies. Each creature has its own purpose. (84). All creatures are interdependent (86).</p>	<p>An oil spill at sea washes ashore and destroys their home. This book emphasizes the concepts of community, interdependence, and food chain.</p>	<p>An oil spill threatens to destroy habitats. What can prevent that destruction?</p>	<p>Many workers and volunteers help clean up the oil in the water and care for affected animals. Catechetical theme: 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Care and concern for God's creation; Baptism; We are keepers of the earth.</p>

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<p><u>The Song of Francis and the Animals</u> Mora, Pat Frampton, David</p>	<p>With lilting verse and playful imagery, Pat Mora celebrates the tender relationship between the beloved saint, and the animals he loved. Woodcut artist David Frampton captures the exuberant songs of Francis and the animals that underscore the harmony between humans and the natural world. Inspired by Saint Francis's own reverence, and love for animals, this book will encourage readers young and old to join in with the clucks of the chickens, the whirring of the cicadas, and the songs of the nightingale.</p>	<p>A piece of the story of the Wolf of Gubbio is presented.</p>		
<p><u>To Everything there Is a Season</u> Daly, Jude</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 31-8</p> <p>Illustrations rooted in <b>South African</b> motifs</p>	<p>With sunny watercolors, Daly interprets the familiar words of Ecclesiastes. A small farm by the sea provides an evocative setting for the life cycles of the natural world and of a family. As the simple text reads "A time to be born," a pregnant woman rests outside the farmhouse while the Father works on his fishing net and their daughter plays with a doll. Above the words "and a time to die," readers see only the boots of an old-woman neighbor outside of her darkened, shuttered hut. As time passes and seasons change, so does the family change and grow with its surroundings.</p>	<p>Ecclesiastes invokes discussions about brokenness both natural and destructive.</p>		

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<p><u>Too Much Talk</u> Vitali, Stefano</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X9Jv74_6ak">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X9Jv74_6ak</a> (read dramatically by adults)</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtWvxDaD2S4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtWvxDaD2S4</a> (read by a child)</p>	<p>A brightly illustrated retelling of a folktale from <b>Ghana</b> concerns the fun that starts when everything starts talking, including the farmer's yams, the fisherman's fish, and the weaver's cloth.</p>			
<p><u>Two Little Birds</u> DePalma, Mary Newell</p>	<p>Two little birds hatch and grow until one day, they see an amazing sight: hundreds of birds, all flying together in one direction. They decide to join in, and so begins an amazing and sometimes dangerous adventure. Eventually they return home and the cycle starts over again.</p>	<p>This simple story, nicely complemented by warm and colorful illustrations, subtly celebrates the wonder of migration. <u>Two little Birds</u> is a perfect book for introducing young children to nature's small miracles, putting the broken back together again.</p>		

**NOTE:** These reviews were written by several people over the last six months (March-September 2015). Some reviewers included reference number to paragraphs of the Encyclical *Laudati Si*. Website references and resources (i.e., youTube, lesson plans, etc.) are often included in the column TITLE, AUTHOR, ILLUSTRATOR, TEACHER NOTES.  
Sr. M. Brigid Clingman OP 9/17/15