

## My Laudato Si Reflection

Long have I loved this land where I live; deep are the roots that sustain me.

Four generations of fathers and mothers have tilled the soil and cared for the farm and passed it on.

As a child I roamed the fields and wandered in the woods and sat by the stream.

Now, I know. The joy I felt then was a connection with the Creator, a prayer of praise.

I left at eighteen, eager for new adventures, new places, new relationships...

But many blessed years ago

I returned with my husband and our four daughters, to live among family.

They built us a home and we've settled in, planted native grasses and trees and vegetables and flowers and loved the seasons and the family and creatures that share this space.

Living next to my parents, we accompanied them till they left this life and cherish the gifts they gave.

Here are the values we strive to live by:

Faith

Family

A Modest Lifestyle

Generosity

Forgiveness

Appreciation and Care for Creation

Deep Gratitude

I've been led to Franciscan profession and fraternity

and work for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, the hungry and homeless.

Still and again, I roam the fields, walk in the woods and sit by the stream, in prayer of praise.

Now, my sisters and brothers agree, this land we inherit is going into reserve,

the fields planted in native grasses, the wetlands restored, the woodland preserved.

My mission: to develop an appreciation, in generations beyond my own, of the land as sacred trust.

THE LAUDATO SI CHALLENGE:

I embrace the call to go deeper and broader, more wholeheartedly, and to invite others on the journey, with respect for all who have shared this home in ages past and for all who are yet to be born.

Long have I loved this land where I live, this Earth, this Common Home, this GIFT.

Laudato Si.

Mary Higgins OFS