

## **Stella Maris Creation Care Mission environmentally themed movie and book suggestions to check out this winter!**

*This listing of environmentally themed movies (mostly documentaries) has not been previewed by the Creation Care Mission team. Brief descriptions extracted from reviews are included and trailers for almost all are available online. While some appear dated they may still be useful for background.*

**A Beautiful Planet – 2016** - Narrated by Academy Award winner Jennifer Lawrence, A breathtaking portrait of Earth from space, providing a unique perspective and increased understanding of our planet and galaxy as never seen before. Made in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the film features stunning footage of our magnificent blue planet - and the effects humanity ...

**An Inconvenient Sequel - Truth to Power – 2017** \*\* Very Controversial...political ...A decade after **An Inconvenient Truth** brought the climate crisis into the heart of popular culture, comes the riveting and rousing follow-up that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution. Former Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight, traveling around the world.

**Before the Flood – 2016** - Presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, traveling to five continents

**Blue Gold: World Water Wars – 2008**- Wars of the future will be fought over water as they are over oil today, as the source of human survival enters the global marketplace and political arena.

**Chasing Ice – 2014** - Received the 2014 News and Documentary Emmy® award for Outstanding Nature Programming. The film made its TV debut on the National Geographic Channel on April 19, 2013. Since that day, the film has screened in more than 172 countries and on all 7 continents.

**Coal Country – 2008**- \*\*Controversial - Coal seams are extracted from a mountain by removing the land, or overburden, above the seams. Where is this Occurring? Less expensive to execute and requiring fewer employees, mountaintop removal mining began in Appalachia in the 1970s as an extension of conventional strip mining techniques.

**Cowspiracy – 2014** -\*\*A very controversial look at meat production and consumption and its environmental effects.

**Dam Nation -2014** - Powerful film odyssey across America explores the sea change in our national attitude from pride in big dams as engineering wonders to the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the life and health of our rivers.

**Food INC -2008**- Doc. Nominated for Academy Award- An unflattering look inside America's corporate controlled food industry.

**Gasland 1 and 2 (2010)** -\*\*Controversial - The film focuses on communities in the United States where natural gas drilling activity was a concern and, specifically, on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), a method of stimulating production in otherwise impermeable rock.

**HOME – 2009** - The film is almost entirely composed of aerial shots of various places on Earth. It shows the diversity of life on Earth and how humanity is threatening the ecological balance of the planet. The English version was read by Glenn Close.

**Honeyland, 2019** - Multiple international awards, three awards at Sundance Film Festival and two Academy Award nominations. Documentary filmed in Macedonia. Gorgeously imagistic and an aching, sweet meditation on survival, impermanence, and the conditions of interdependence that honors the resiliency and fragility of life, for both humans and the living beings we share this planet with.

**The Islands and the Whales – 2017** -Documentary filmed in the Faroe Islands off the coast of Denmark. The whale hunters of the Faroe Islands believe that hunting is vital to their way of life, but, a local professor makes a grim discovery about the high mercury levels and the effects of marine pollution.

**The Man Who Planted Trees – 1988** - (narrated by Christopher Plummer) The story of a shepherd's single handed quest to re-forest a barren valley in the Alps. On a walking trip the young man comes to a desolate land of sparse nature and takes up the tremendous cause of reforestation. Based on the following:

**The Man Who Planted Trees – Book** – The story of Elzeard Bouffier, a man who, after his son and wife die, spends his life reforesting miles of barren land in southern France. Bouffier's planting of thousands and thousands of trees results in many wondrous things occurring, including water again flowing in brooks that had been dry for many years

**The Need To GROW – 2019**- Follows pioneers of cutting edge technology as they fight to localize sustainable food systems and regenerate Earth's dying soils.

**The Pollinators 2019** - A cinematic journey around the United States following migratory beekeepers and their truckloads of honey bees as they pollinate the flowers that become the fruits, nuts and vegetables we all eat. The many challenges the beekeepers and their bees face en route reveal flaws to our simplified chemically dependent agriculture system.

**Reaching Drawdown**- Current -Climate Solutions for the New Decade. Project Drawdown also has a You Tube channel that includes a video of a presentation about climate solutions.

**The Salt Of The Earth- 2014** -The life and work of photographer Sebastião Salgado, who has spent forty years documenting deprived societies in hidden corners of the world.

**The True Cost -2015** -documentary film that focuses on fast fashion. It discusses several aspects of the garment industry from production—mainly exploring the life of low-wage workers in developing countries—to its after-effects such as river and soil pollution, pesticide contamination, disease and death. Using an approach that looks at environmental, social and psychological aspects, it also examines consumerism and mass media.

**The Vanishing of the Bees- 2009** - A documentary film by Hive Mentality. The story is centered on the sudden disappearance of honey bees from beehives around the world, caused by the poorly understood phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD.

**Every Day is Earth Day 2019 short film listing:** Piggies in Viola, Paradise Lost, The Greening of the Desert, Pesticide Perils, We Are Water, Fresh (70 minutes)

**Additionally: *The Secrets of Nature*** - Natural history You Tube series offers documentaries on widely varied subjects.

**Childrens films:**

*The March of the Penguins* - *Fern Gully*, - *Wall E* - *The Lorax*

Winter's weather enables trees, soils and vegetation to rest so they can reawaken strong and healthy in spring. Easter, rebirth, new life ...all part of God's design. Hallelujah!! We wait for the season's change looking forward to more time in the sunshine. Happily, some days temperatures allow us to be out enjoying fresh snow, iced ponds and snow covered conifers, breathing in fresh air. But still, for many winter tends to inspire indoor activities as the pandemic keeps us in our homes. As the Creation Care Mission team was planning bulletin articles for the year, the undeniable fact of February's chill brought forward the thought it would be a good opportunity to compile a listing of movie titles and media offerings with environmental themes (Insert in today's bulletin). Mother earth still needs us to be aware of how fragile she is winter, summer, fall and spring every day of our lives.

Some films listed are very harsh and / or controversial. Some deal with unethical treatment of animals. Some are educational and inspiring and some provide sheer enjoyment. Many explore the wonders of the earth, and the beauty of so many souls that honor and respect His creation. Viewing a movie or reading about challenges that society faces may kindle the spark we need to remain ever mindful that earth and all its inhabitants are entrusted to our care.

Time honored Catholic teaching and more recently Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si'* calls us to do what we can for the good of fellow man, beast and our common home, the planet. We can learn to exist with nature, and abstain from doing harm. These films and stories bring those principals to the forefront in graphic ways. They are harsh or heartwarming, fun or controversial but hopefully always thought provoking.