

# Submit an Entry to Earth Ministry's 4th Annual St. Francis Creation Care Sermon Contest

Earth Ministry's Celebration of St. Francis  
Saturday, October 1, 2011

What sparks your passion for faith-based environmental stewardship?

*The sacredness of water?*

*Christ's call to speak for those without voice?*

*The impact of climate change on impoverished communities?*

*Seeking the reflection of the Creator in creation?*

Share your message of faith, hope, or action for the Earth!

**Submission Deadline  
July 31, 2011**

**Who:** All clergy and lay leaders

**What:** A creation care sermon

**When:** Submit by July 31, 2011

4 finalists announced August 12

Sermons given on October 1

**Where:** Seattle, WA

**Why:** To inspire and mobilize other people of faith to care for God's great gift of creation

## Contest Rules

**Sermons must be no longer than 8-10 minutes in length and focus on a creation-care theme.** The most successful entries will be inspiring, have a compelling delivery and a clear call to action, and be rooted in theology and scripture. Sermons must be submitted in written format.

**The deadline for submission is July 31, 2011.** Send submissions to [emoffice@earthministry.org](mailto:emoffice@earthministry.org) or mail to Earth Ministry, 6512 23rd Ave NW, Suite #317, Seattle, WA, 98117.

Entries will be accepted from anywhere within the United States; finalists must provide their own transportation to Seattle. Home stays are available, if desired. Feel free to nominate other people! **Contestants must be members of Earth Ministry.** If you would like to enter but are not a member of Earth Ministry, membership begins at \$35 and you may submit a check with your entry or join online through our secure website ([www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)). Finalists will be notified by August 12, 2011.

## Judging

Sermons will be initially screened by a panel of clergy and lay judges and narrowed to four finalists. The sermon contest is a fundraiser to support the religious environmental work of Earth Ministry. Attendees of the St. Francis Sermon Contest on October 1 will be able to "vote with their dollars" by making a donation to Earth Ministry and indicating which sermon most inspired their gift. Two awards will be presented: *The People's Choice Award* will go to the contestant with the highest number of votes as indicated on the donation ballot. *The Franciscan Philanthropist Award* will go to the contestant whose votes raise the most money in support of Earth Ministry's mission.

## Prizes

All finalists will receive a copy of the book *Natural Saints: How People of Faith are Working to Save God's Earth*, by Mallory McDuff. The winners of each award will be invited to preach their sermons at a local Seattle congregation the following morning (Sunday, October 2). Winning sermons of both awards will be published in the Winter 2011-2012 issue of *Earth Letter*, Earth Ministry's newsletter.

For more information, contact Earth Ministry at [emoffice@earthministry.org](mailto:emoffice@earthministry.org) or call (206) 632-2426