

Down-to-Earth Practicality



The image of Joseph as a tradesman and farmer paints a varied picture of his interaction with the created world. The Jewish attitude of living in harmony with the land was very much part of the common endeavour of praising the Creator. Stewardship of the earth accepted that all of creation is gift and that human involvement in its care is an act of partnership with God.

In scientific circles Fr Julian Tenison Woods's appreciation and understanding of the natural world won him universal respect. A hundred years before the Green movement came into being Julian was advocating for legislated protection of forests,

'lest, peerless and priceless as they once were, they be but things of the past.' Coupled with this inherent value of creation was the phrase 'roll-your-sleeves-up' written in the language of every country in which Sisters of St Joseph ministered.

Down to earth values in the daily living of the Sisters of St Joseph, Whanganui connect them to the rhythms and seasons of the natural world and with the cosmic story. It grounds them in the reality of who they are and their place in this story. In recent years practical ways of caring deeply for planet Earth, Papatuanuku and ensuring her resources are protected have resulted in a commitment to the land on which they live. As well as the restoration of the wetland recent initiatives include a worm farm, vegetable gardens and planting of fruit and nut trees on the banks of the Mt St Joseph site. Another expression of the 'roll-your-sleeves-up' attitude and an example of being prepared 'to give it a go' is Josophia Craft supplying handcrafted items for sale to the local and wider community with the proceeds going to assist women and families in need. Kia kaha! Kia manawanui! Kia toa!

- ◆ Do you feel a sense of stewardship and connectedness to creation?
- ◆ In what ways is this expressed in your spirituality?
- ◆ Is there a particular area of your life in which you are being called 'to give it a go'?



Every rock, every leaf, every insect has something beautiful nay wonderful to tell... Fr Julian Tenison Woods