

**Karli Siefker**

- Major: Theology
- Minors: Sustainability; Catholic Social Tradition; and Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Margaret Pfeil

Creaturely Communion: A Liberationist Lens on Creation Theology

My project uses liberation theology to develop a theology of creation that includes non-human creation in salvation. To do so, my project relies on an understanding of salvation as communion and integrates all creation into this communion. I draw on the work of liberation theologians to build a spirituality of creation care that responds to the climate crisis in theological terms.

I believe theology is important because it aids humanity in understanding and responding to our world. Theology offers rich insight into creation care. In the context of the climate crisis, this theology is needed to develop a holistic spirituality that can address the brokenness of our world. I choose this topic in the hopes of adding to the theological response to the climate crisis.

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Fertile Ground: Sustainability Education as a Restorative Justice Practice

For this capstone project in collaboration with biology major Elsa Barron, we designed and implemented a sustainability and environmental justice curriculum for DePaul Academy in South Bend, which provides an alternative to incarceration for youth. Our curriculum allows students to learn about climate science, environmental justice, and community action and also provides ways to engage hands-on with nature, a tool for healing from trauma.

We chose this topic because of our desire to engage in a community-based project and build on the inspiring mission of DePaul Academy. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, we had to implement our curriculum via Zoom, but we were able to do so in collaboration with the faculty at DePaul Academy and engage remotely in hands-on activities like seed germination.

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