

## HOLY WOMEN COMPANIONS: Caroline Herschel and Greta Thunberg

### *Tending to the Universe and the Planet*

#### **Caroline Herschel (1750-1848)**



She was a German-born British astronomer who was a pioneer in the field and is considered the first professional female astronomer though she still lacks name recognition two centuries later. She detected by telescope three nebulae and she became the first woman to discover a comet; over the next 11 years she spotted seven other comets.

Although she has never received the recognition she deserves she was the first woman officially recognized in a scientific position, and her work is still used in the field today.

*“Occurrences which according to received theories ought not to happen, are the facts which serve as clues to new discoveries.”*

Reflection Questions: What are the stars teaching me these days? What of my “discoveries” am I willing to share, even if no one seems to notice or give credit where it is due?

#### **Greta Thunberg (2003 -)**



Greta Thunberg is a Swedish environmental activist known for challenging world leaders to take immediate action for climate change mitigation. Thunberg's climate activism began when she persuaded her parents to adopt lifestyle choices that reduced her family's carbon footprint. Greta has Asperger syndrome, a condition that affects how people socialize but it has not held her back. She is credited with raising public awareness across the world, especially among young people. Many commentators call this "the Greta effect."

*“I have learned you are never too small to make a difference. I have promised myself that I'm going to do everything I can for as long as I can.”*

Reflection Questions: What is my response to the climate crisis facing us? What is the difference that is mine to make and encourage from others?

**Prayer:** Creator God, your creation was the first manifestation of who you are as God. May we gratefully receive and generously share the resources that are ours to tend. May we cherish NOW all that we hope to pass on LATER to future generations. May it be so. AMEN!

