

Celebration for Sister-Mother Earth



First moment - Time for awareness

In the name (†) of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Proposals for raising awareness of our unity with Creation (choose one):

1. Community reading of the **Prayer for our Earth** (*Laudato Si*) (see appendix).
Each member can read a paragraph, so that everyone can concretely express their connection with the Earth.
2. A video or a song based on the Prayer for our Earth can be played:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_gYWVkp_pU (prayer)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJz0ZuxxMI0> (song).
3. To be aware that we are facing a critical moment in the history of the Earth and that it is high time that humanity must choose the future of its Common Home, we propose an **Ecological Examination** (see appendix).

A proposal of the Subcommittee on Integral Ecology



Second moment - The Word of the Lord

We suggest the reading and meditation of passages of the Word of God (choose some):

Gen 1:31 "God saw everything he had created and it was very good."

Psalms 24:1: "The Earth belongs to the Lord."

Psalms 136:6: "Give thanks to the Lord who established the Earth on the waters, for eternal is his love!"

Mt 8:27 Jesus lived in complete harmony with creation "Who is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Col 1:19-20 Through Jesus, God the creator wanted to reconcile with himself everything that exists on Earth.

We allow ourselves to be embraced by the Word of God, contemplating it and making it alive in our daily projects.

Third moment – Ecological conversion

Illumination - Encyclical Laudato Si'

LS 217

*"The external **deserts in the world** are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast". For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. (...)*

Reflection:

Made of the earth, from the earth we come, and to it we return. This biblical image tells us about the profound unity that humans have with the rest of creation: our constituent biochemical elements are the same as those that constitute the earth, plants, and all the animals. Not taking care of the Earth, by virtue of that profound unity, also signifies harming ourselves. The external deserts are entering our lives also as bodily deserts: we incorporate the waste that the external deserts cause. All because we live anchored in great interior deserts oblivious to the face of Christ who awaits our integral conversion so that springs of living water may be reborn in us, that regenerate our interior and exterior deserts. Have we converted yet?

Fourth moment – Thanksgiving for the Creation

Let us give thanks to God, inspired by the canticle that Blessed Francisco Palau dedicated to Nature.

"Thank God for the sun that he has created to illuminate the great hall of the universe during the day and for the moon and the stars that shine so admirably in the firmament at night (...)"

"Thank you for the solitude in the depths of the earth and the peace felt at the peak of the hills. For the soft murmur of the rocks, for the night breeze that gently moves the leaves of the trees of the forest. (...)"
(Francisco. Palau - Different fragments of MR)

We continue giving thanks for the Nature and for what we have lived, adding spontaneously other prayers.

"Thank you for..."

Commitment to make a plantation, according to the possibilities of each community or group.

1. If you have enough space in the garden, choose a tree native to the region.
2. If not, sow a small plant.
3. Or sow seeds, directly on the ground or in pots.

An optional dynamic "knots/seeds" can accompany the plantation. Explanation:

- ✚ Take a long thread of natural fibres, long enough so that each participant can tie a knot to complete a circle.
- ✚ The coordinator begins the dynamic by taking one end of the thread and, while expressing a commitment/dream/longing for nature and the others, makes the first knot with the thread.
- ✚ All the participants continue in turn until the end of the round.
- ✚ At the end, the thread will have many knots. The coordinator takes it and roll it forming a ball.
- ✚ The ball, like a seed, will be planted next to the tree, symbolizing the desire that our commitment will grow as the plant grows. It will need care, attention, effort, dedication; but it will grow with the certainty that the Creator Spirit will give the strength that is not visible, to grow together with nature and others.

Final reflection

"We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit.

Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow." (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, 159)

End with the prayer **Our Father**. Amen.

Appendix 1

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Appendix 2

ECOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

1. **I thank God for the wonder and beauty of all creation.** Where have I felt the presence of God in creation today?
2. **I ask for the grace to see creation as God does, in all its splendour and suffering.** Do I see the beauty in creation and hear the cry of the earth and the poor?
3. **I ask for the grace to look carefully and see how my life choices affect creation, the poor and the vulnerable.** What challenges or joys do I experience while remembering my care for creation? How can I move away from the throwaway culture and show solidarity with creation and with the poor?
4. **I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation.** Where have I failed in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters? How can I ask for a conversion of heart?
5. **I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and be in solidarity through my actions.** How can I restore my relationship with creation and take coherent decisions with the desire for reconciliation with creation?
6. **I offer a final prayer for the Earth and the vulnerable in our society.**

Sources:

- Encyclical letter of the Holy Father Francis. LAUDATO SI, on the care of the common home
- Prayer Book Laudato Si Movement (MLS)
- Song to Nature, Blessed Francisco Palau