

PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION
HOLY HOUR - EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

September 2020

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Entrance Hymn (Great is Your Name Lord **Or** Please choose a relevant Hymn)

Introduction:(The following is to be read from the Holy Father's letter of 6 August 2015 to Cardinals Koch and Turkson designating September 1 as the Day of Prayer for Creation.)

As Christians we wish to contribute to resolving the ecological crisis which humanity is presently experiencing. In doing so, we must first rediscover in our own rich spiritual patrimony the deepest motivations for our concern for the care of creation. We need always to keep in mind that, for believers in Jesus Christ, the Word of God who became man for our sake, "the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us" (Laudato Si', 216). The ecological crisis thus summons us to a profound spiritual conversion: Christians are called to "an ecological conversion whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them" (ibid., 217). For "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (ibid.).

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live. The celebration of this Day, on the same date as the Orthodox Church, will be a valuable opportunity to bear witness to our growing communion with our Orthodox brothers and sisters. We live at a time when all Christians are faced with the same decisive challenges, to which we must respond together, in order to be more credible and effective. It is my hope that this Day will in some way also involve other Churches and ecclesial Communities, and be celebrated in union with similar initiatives of the World Council of Churches.

Leader: In the midst of the pandemic which rages and affects all of creation, as Christians today we wish to contribute to resolving the ecological crisis which humanity is presently experiencing. In doing so, we must first rediscover in our own rich spiritual patrimony the deepest motivations for our concern for the care of creation

Reader 1: We need always to keep in mind that, for believers in Jesus Christ, the Word of God who became man for our sake, "the life of the Spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us" (Laudato Si', 216).

PAUSE for silent reflection

Penitential Rite

Leader: The ecological crisis thus summons us to a profound spiritual conversion: Christians are called to "an ecological conversion whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them" (Laudato Si', 217).

Response: We Ask Your Pardon, Lord -

Leader: Let us reinvigorate the much-needed sense of responsibility for environmental ecology as well as for human ecology. Caring for the environment and caring for our neighbours must always come together. For the times we have failed we pray,

Response: We Ask Your Pardon, Lord -

Leader: Let us educate and form the faithful in our vocation to be stewards of creation, co-workers of God in developing the goods of the earth for the benefit of all, the promotion of the common good and the stability of future generations. For our shortcomings we pray,

Response: **We Ask Your Pardon, Lord -**

All Pray Together: For “living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience”

Leader: May Almighty God forgive us our sins especially our failure to care for our Environment and for taking it for granted and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

All Pray Together: We praise and bless you, O Lord, for you are the King of all ages, and through Christ your Son you have made all that is.

(The Following Prayer to be prayed in Choir... Two groups, Choir 1 and Choir 2

Leader: In the beginning of the beginning, you breathed upon the waters of creation, and filled the earth with life through your vibrant Spirit.

Choir 1: The heavens declare your glory, O Lord, and the stars of the sky bring light to our darkness. You spoke, and the earth burst forth in life, you saw that it was good.

Choir 2: You called forth creation, and enlivened every creature on land and sea. You made human beings in your image, and set us over the whole world in all of its wonders.

Choir 1: You gave us share in your dominion, and called us “to till and to keep” this garden, the work of your hands.

Choir 2: As day gives way to evening, we praise you for your manifold gifts.

Choir 1: May our adoration give glory to your name, so that we may serve you with faithfulness and love.

Choir 2: May our daily care for your creation show reverence for your name, and reveal your saving power in every creature under heaven.

All: We make this prayer in the name of Christ your son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:26 – 2:3.15;

Pause for Silent Reflection (Suitable Hymn to be sung)

Matthew 6:25-33

Reflection: (To Be read slowly, The Introduction and then the paragraphs from Laudato Si’, with a pause after each paragraph for silent meditation).

We are living in very challenging times today, through history-shaping events like our present pandemic crisis. People everywhere at this time of pandemic are crying out for hope, and our faith is urgently needed at this time to shed light for our way. It is but fitting in a time like this, when the world has come together as one in the face of a crisis that we turn to our faith. Our Faith - in our God who is Father who cares for us, Son who is with us and Spirit within us.

Laudato Si’, the Encyclical of Pope Francis on Care for Our Common Home was issued 5 years ago on 24th May 2015. It teaches us how-to live-in harmony with our world and how to build a better world-together as children of Our One God. We now become aware that we stand united with our brothers and sisters in faith as we grow through the crisis of this moment to build a better tomorrow for ourselves and our children.

Let us during this time of prayer reflect on the Encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* and search our hearts to understand the situation our creation faces and how we can play our part in protecting our Creation.

Reader 1: Pope Francis says: “Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal” (#202).

As practical steps Pope Francis suggests: “Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity. (#211)

Pause for Silent Reflection: Followed by

Laudate omnes gentes, Laudate Dominum. (Taize Chant 3 times) Or any other suitable chant

Reader 2: Speaking on the challenge we face with regard to Water as a precious resource Pope Francis says: “One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor.... Yet access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity” (#29-30).

Pause for Silent Reflection: Followed by

Laudate omnes gentes, Laudate Dominum. (Taize Chant 3 times) or any other suitable chant.

Reader 3: The Holy Father cautions all on the effect of Global warming: “A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it.” (#23).

Pause for Silent Reflection: Followed by

Laudate omnes gentes, Laudate Dominum. (Taize Chant 3 times) or any other suitable chant

Reader 4: Pope Francis draws our attention to the intimate connection between the destruction of the environment and its effect on the poor. He says: “The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: ‘Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest’” (#48).

Pause for Silent Reflection: Followed by

Laudate omnes gentes, Laudate Dominum. (Taize Chant 3 times) Or any other suitable chant.

Finally, The Holy Father urges us all never to give up but to be people of Hope, but hope is built through definite action in the here and now. “Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom. No system can completely suppress our

openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us. (#205)”

(Silent Reflection/Adoration)

Hymn: This World Oh Lord is a beautiful Place OR any other suitable hymn

Intercessions

Leader: As we pray in gratitude for God’s blessing upon all of creation and the work of our hands, let us not forget that we must do the works of holiness in our lives. Let us, then, pray to God, saying: Lord of Creation, hear our prayer.

Response: Lord of Creation, hear our prayer.

+ All provident God, your care has given us food from the earth; grant that the crops we harvest may sustain us in body and help us to grow in spirit, we pray to the Lord...

+ You feed the birds of the air and clothe the lilies of the field; teach us to seek first your kingship over us and teach us your way of holiness, we pray to the Lord....

+ Through Jesus Christ you have made the world abound in works of holiness; grant that, living in him, we may share in his fullness and life and bear much fruit, we pray to the Lord....

+ In the Eucharist you have taken up the fruits of our hands as signs of the mystery of faith; grant that the gifts we bring especially of our talents and capabilities, our very lives be consecrated at your son’s table and may work for the continuing good of the Church’s life, we pray to the Lord...

+ You planned that all your children should share in the goods of your creation; grant that all those who are in need may come to enjoy an untroubled life and to glorify you and praise your holy name, we pray to the Lord...

+ You govern creation with your wisdom and grace: we pray that our world and national leaders may learn from you and do all it takes to protect, promote, and foster harmony in creation, we pray to the Lord...

+ You are the great healer of heart and mind, restorer of all creation; we pray that you bring healing to our suffering world torn and wounded by the pandemic, that you give solace to the suffering, hope to the dejected, help to the unemployed, and reinvigorate all who call on you for grace and strength, we pray to the Lord...

(Local needs and intentions may be added)

+ Let us pray in silence before the Eucharistic Lord for our own personal and family needs at this moment..... We pray to the Lord...

Our Father ... Let us pray together in the words the Lord has taught us...

CONCLUDING BLESSING

Leader: May your blessing act in us, O Lord, and transform us with your renewing power, so that we might be wholly disposed to heed the cry of the poor and the earth and give ourselves wholeheartedly to their care and protection. And may we receive the joy of your gifts and praise your name, now and forever. (Amen)

Benediction Hymn:

Benediction

Concluding Marian Hymn:(Recommend the Magnificat)

(Text prepared by Rev. Joseph Ivel Mendanha, C.Ss.R.)