



Prayer of Praise and Concern for Creation

Leader: Pope Francis has written a letter to the world entitled *Laudato Si*, challenging us all to care for the earth. Following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Holy Father reminds us of the inseparable connection among concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. As Missionary Children, we join in prayer to thank God for the gift of His creation, and to ask for His help in guiding our choices for the greater good.

As we remember that we are in the Creator's presence, we begin:

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reader 1: *Psalm 24:10*

Who is this king of glory?

The LORD of hosts,
he is the king of glory.

Litany of Praise:

Reader 2: For all the gifts of the earth

All: We praise You!

Reader 1: For the land and the seas

All: We praise You!

Reader 2: For insects, animals, birds and fish

All: We praise You!

Reader 1: For summer, fall, winter, and spring

All: We praise You!

Reader 2: For our hearts, heads, and hands

All: We praise You!

Leader: A reflection from *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

The earth's atmosphere encompasses all people, creatures, and habitats. The melting of ice sheets and glaciers, the destruction of rain forests and the pollution of water in one place can have environmental impacts elsewhere. Responses to global climate change should reflect our interdependence and responsibility for the future of our planet. Individual nations must measure their own self interest against the common good and contribute equitably to global solutions. Heat waves, droughts and storms fall most heavily on the

poor who do not have the resources to either adapt or ward off the expected impact of climate change.

Reader 1: Let us pray. God, our Creator, You called everything You made "good." Help us to respect our natural resources. Teach us to use all Your gifts wisely so that all may have a fair share. We pray now for those most affected by our inattention to Your great gifts.

All: Our Father...

Go Green at Home!

- Walk or ride your bike instead of taking the car when possible
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth
- Turn off lights and electrical appliances when not in use
- Replace a regular light bulb with an LED or compact fluorescent one
- Use both sides of a sheet of paper
- Plan meals so you don't waste food
- Pack reusable bottles instead of plastic ones; donate the cost savings to MCA
- Brainstorm with your class or family about other ways to care for God's gift of creation.



"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."

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, #217