



We Care for God's Creation

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles (unlit), a globe to represent the missions, and a World Mission Rosary which can be obtained from the Missionary Childhood Office.

Leader: In today's reading, we hear the story of Creation—how God made this beautiful world of ours and saw that "it was very good."

Let's pause for a moment and think about how our faith calls us to be responsible for the earth—to be good stewards of the gift God gave us.

Reader 1: A reading from the book of Genesis (Genesis 1: 28-31) God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Pause for silent reflection.

Reader 2: We are blessed with clean water and nutritious food. Others work so that we may have shoes, sturdy clothing, and fun games to play. Let's now pray to ask God for the grace to be grateful, and not wasteful of all the gifts, remembering that not every person has them.

Reader 1: Our response is:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: While we eat three meals a day, we know that children in refugee camps in **Syria** go hungry. Help us remember not to waste food. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 1: When we see trash on the roadside, Lord, remind us to pray for children in **Haiti**, some of whom live on a garbage dump. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: Our tap water is good and healthy, yet we still buy bottles of water. Remind us to fill reusable bottles from the tap so that children in **Liberia** can get access to clean water with our savings. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 1: This year has taught us the value of traveling on good roads to get to doctors. We offer our gifts to the children of **Papua New Guinea** who must travel long distances on rutted dirt roads to find health care. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We have so many choices of what to wear each day! Help us to give away what we don't need so that others can share in our bounty. We remember children in **Kazakhstan** who aren't so blessed and ask that our sharing and prayers may help to keep them warm. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of all Creation, you gave us a beautiful world in which to live. Some of us are able to enjoy it more than others. Help us to remember that all of your children deserve to see the world around them as a gift, not a burden. We pledge not to waste your gifts and to share them with others. We ask for Your blessing to live up to this promise with the intercession of the Blessed Mother as we pray:

Hail Mary... Amen.