

Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

Father of all,
Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship--
with You,
with ourselves,
with one another,
and with creation.



Christ our Lord, both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the human family
by recognizing that we are all connected—
to our brothers and sisters around the world,
to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit, giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all—
individuals and families, communities of faith,
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home. Amen.

~ The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops based on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.



***“Be praised, my Lord,
for Sister Earth, our Mother,
who nourishes us and sustains us,
bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds
and flowers of many colors.”***

~ From the Canticle of Creation



“Creation therefore remains a kind of first revelation which speaks to us clearly of the Creator and which can lead us ever more deeply into the mystery of God’s love for us.”

~ Pope St. John Paul II, General Audience Address, 2002

“The whole human race suffers as a result of environmental blight, and generations yet unborn will bear the cost for our failure to act today. But in most countries today, including our own, it is the poor and the powerless who most directly bear the burden of current environmental carelessness.

“The environmental crisis of our own day constitutes an exceptional call to conversion. As individuals, as institutions, as a people, we need a change of heart to save the planet for our children and generations yet unborn.”

~ An Invitation to Reflection and Action on Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching
A Pastoral Statement of the United States Catholic Conference, 1991



Do you truly have a heart for all of God’s creation? Especially the parts that seem not so lovely or loveable? How can you increase your heart for those parts of creation?

“When you realize **HEART** and **EARTH** are spelled with the same letters, it all starts to make sense.”



“How can we restore a harmonious relationship with the earth and with the rest of humanity? ... We so often lose sight of harmony: harmony is a work of the Holy Spirit. In our common home too, on the earth, and in our relationships with people, with our neighbour, with the poorest, how can we restore this harmony? We need a new way of looking at our common home. For this is not a storehouse of resources for us to exploit. For us believers, the natural world is the “Gospel of Creation”: it expresses God’s creative power in fashioning human life and bringing the world and all it contains into existence, in order to sustain humanity. As the biblical account of creation concludes: “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” (Gen 1:31). When we see these natural tragedies that are the earth’s response to our mistreatment, I think: “If I ask the Lord now what he thinks about it, I do not believe he is saying it is a very good thing”. It is we who have ruined the Lord’s work!”

~ From Pope Francis’ Earth Day Letter, April 2020



This year also marks the 5th anniversary of the much anticipated encyclical, *Laudato Si*; which marked a timely and important turning point in the global conversation about the state of our common home. I invite you to read or re-read the document in the light of this global pandemic we are all experiencing. See what new insights or thoughts come up for you.

“God has written a precious book, whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe.

“This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice.” (LS #85)

Pope Francis writes, *“Everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others.”*

❖ **What evidence do you see of this in your own life, family and faith community?**



Your Weekly Call to Action

Each of us are called to take concrete steps – from reducing consumption to working for political change – to better care for creation. Here are some ideas.

1. **Become more aware of our connectedness.** Care for one another and creation includes understanding that “everything is connected” (no. 91) and that the economy, politics, community involvement, and technology all affect the future of the planet and humankind. How can we become more aware of our connectedness?

2. **Changes to lifestyle and consumption habits can make a big difference.** For example, get a re-usable water bottle, take shorter showers, walk, bike or take public transportation instead of driving, recycle, compost food waste, and buy energy efficient appliances.

3. **Make changes institutionally at your parish, school, or workplace.** For example, start recycling and composting, use washable dinnerware in cafeterias, share electronically instead of printing, do an energy audit, and install solar panels.

4. **Support local efforts to solve environmental problems.** Community groups around the country are working to make city, county, and state-wide changes that can have a big impact. Find out what is going on locally and get involved.

5. **Contact your members of Congress** to share Pope Francis’ message and urge action to address climate change.

~ From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Please feel free to share your thoughts and insights with me at [ctownes26 @ gmail.com](mailto:ctownes26@gmail.com). Use **“Creation 3, 2, 1”** as the subject line. I would love to hear how you are making a difference for Sister Mother Earth.



Thank you for making a difference.
Feel free to share this **Creation 3, 2, 1** with friends and family.