FOR THE COMMON GOOD,
FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Begin by placing yourself or your group in a posture that allows you to be open to the ways the Spirit is working in you. Go at a pace that works for you; pause at sections that you would like to reflect more on. If you are in a group, consider discussing what emerged in your personal contemplation once you are done with the reflection.

Let us center ourselves in the midst of God who is the God of unconditional love and infinite creativity.
Imagine how the God of love created the beauty of the universe.

I/we give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made.
Recognize that all that we are, the person we are now and the person we are becoming, the possessions we have and the earth we inhabit, is all a gift from a loving Creator.
  • Where did I feel God’s presence in creation today?

I/we ask for the grace to see creation as God does – to see the world in all its goodness and interconnectedness, in all its splendor and suffering.
Recognize the relationship between all creatures and our common home, and how we are dependent on one another.
  • Where do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the marginalized?
  • How do I contribute to systems that inflict harm?
  • In what ways through my actions can I stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable who are disproportionately affected by the environmental crisis?

I/we ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation, the marginalized and future generation.
  • What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation?
  • How present am I to the world around me?
  • How do I show my love for God through my respect for creation and my neighbor?
  • How do I interact with water, energy, and food?
  • How does my environment shape who I deem to be my neighbor or part of my community? Who is left out?
I/we ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation with creation.

- Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters?
- How can I repair my relationship with God, creation, and humanity, and make choices consistent with my desire to contribute to a more socially and ecologically just society?

I/we ask for the grace to say yes to the call to be caretakers of the earth not simply to take the earth’s resources for our own benefit, but to use the earth’s resources to praise, reverence, and serve God.

We are called to “help heal a broken world,” to embrace a culture of solidarity and encounter. This means embracing a new sustainable path forward and a new way of producing and consuming that puts God’s creation at the center.

- In what ways will I advocate for environmental policies that care for creation and the most vulnerable?

Closing Prayer:

Creator God, we thank you for all that you have given us. Open our eyes to see your love throughout creation. Inspire us to treat creation and each other as you would, with respect and compassion.

God of Life, help us to see your gifts are meant to be shared by all, not just exploited by a few. Lead us to take action to make a change not just for ourselves, but for all creation.

Loving God, fill our hearts with compassion for the earth and all its peoples. Lead us to be good neighbors to all who are in need.

God of wonder, open our eyes to see you in all that you have created. Through the contemplation of your goodness, move us to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers and with the earth that we share.

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Adapted from the Ecological Examen