

TOPIC : ENTERING INTO THE ORDER OF CREATION



Opening song (or an appropriate song)

Psalm of Creation

Refrain:

I want to shout out my God! You are great, you're beautiful,
Living God, God Most High, You are the God of love!
My God, You are great, You are beautiful, the living God, God Most High
God present in all creation.

1- For heaven before You, Splendor and majesty
For the infinitely great, the infinitely small,
And for the firmament, Thy starry cloak
And for brother sun ... **Refrain**

2- For every mountain and every valley,
For the shade of forests and the flowers in the meadow,

For the buds of the trees and the grass of the prairie,
For fields of grain ... **Refrain**

3- For all the animals of the earth and water,
For the song of the birds, for the song of life,
For humanity that You made lesser than thee
And for all the children ... **Refrain**

Introduction:

** "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters. God said..." Genesis 1:1-2

- It is necessary and even urgent for us **to enter** into this realization: Creation came out of "Tohu Bohu," from disorder into the ORDER of Divine Word. (Brief silence)

** "When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place." Psalms 8:4

- It is necessary and even urgent for us **to enter** into contemplation of this vast universe, to be impressed and amazed by these interplanetary spaces in which we are immersed.

** "Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding." Job 38:4

- It is necessary and even urgent for us **to enter** into the understanding of our finiteness, our smallness. The ego tends to draw everything to itself, its problems, its reputation and its interests, while the Greater Self embraces us all in an infinite goodness.

In the spirit we are called to leave our human realm, where everything is within our custom, to open ourselves to the sense of proportion, to the grandeur of Mother Earth, the Environment, and other horizons designed by God... respect, preserve, protect... (Brief silence)

** "For creation awaits with eager expectation... to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God." Romans 8:19, 22

- It is necessary and even urgent for us **to enter** into this expectation of creation, to know ourselves as "Children of God," heirs of God and of God's works through Christ. (Brief silence)

Story to meditate upon:

Listen to this story that comes from China:

"In the Chinese province of Chiao-Chou a severe drought raged. For months there was not a drop of rain. The situation became catastrophic. The Catholics made processions, the Protestants said prayers, the Chinese burned incense... but without any result. Finally, the Chinese said, "Let us bring the rainmaker!" And from another province came a shrunken old man. The only thing he asked for was a quiet house, and he shut it for three days. On the fourth day the clouds gathered and there was a storm... Richard Wilhelm went to ask this man how he had done it... He said, "They call you the rainmaker. Can you tell me how you made it rain?" The old man replied, "I did not make it rain. I'm not responsible ... I come from a country where things are in **ORDER**. Here, everything is in **disorder**. Things are not as they should be according to the order of heaven. The whole country is not in harmony, and neither am I. I am not in **the natural order of things**, since I am in a disordered country. So I had to wait three days to return to the Way and then the rain came naturally."

Some points of reflection:

- Creation, the Earth, the Environment are like the old man, aged billion years. They always work in the Way of the Creator, in harmony and fidelity, but today they are no longer in their natural order. They groan... they suffer!
- How do we help them to return into unity with the Creator? They are waiting for the three days of redemption, the KAIROS of the Creator, this healing time that will help them return to the Way. What can we do on our part?
- Burning incense, making processions, are these still sufficient? How should we act?
- Why, despite the gravity of the problem, is nothing serious done? Are we participating in the destruction of the ecosystem by quietly continuing our lives?

The Word of God:



Let us listen to the book of Revelation: 12:15-17

“The serpent, however, spewed a torrent of water out of his mouth after the woman to sweep her away with the current. But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth and swallowed the flood that the dragon spewed out of its mouth. Then the dragon became angry with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, **those who keep God’s orders** and bear witness to Jesus.”

Comment: In this Jubilee Year dedicated to the Divine Mercy, Mother Earth is exemplary. She opens her heart to absorb the torrent of human violence and save our descendants.

Consider sharing this time to thank God for giving us such a merciful Mother.

*****Time for open sharing*****

Intercessory Prayer:

The environmental problem is an insidious reality. It lies in destruction and global and daily pollution of the biosphere as a result of economic laws that push people to over-exploit natural resources, not for the pleasure of overuse or pollution, but rather to meet an economic interest.

Let us pray to God,

- That we are not driven on a personal level by immediate desires, saying “The planet is beyond me.” As we are generously included in the planetary realm, let us include God in our personal realm. God we pray,

Rf. O God, send your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

- That ideologies and economic beliefs do not impede our common sense and isolate us from reality. God we pray,

Rf. O God, send your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

- That we do not avoid our anguish of ecological problems by attempting to minimize or forget them while we bury our heads in the sand. God we pray,

Rf. O God, send your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

- That our philosophy is not that of “After me, the earth can be destroyed,” or “I am not the only one who should have to sacrifice my interests for the planet.” God, help us to realize that material pleasure is not the purpose of life. God we pray,

Rf. O God, send your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Closing prayer:

Let us pray with Pope Francis:

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace. **AMEN**



Prayer prepared by Sister Souhaila Bou Samra, Province of Lebanon/Syria