

Restore Our Earth

“You carry Mother Earth within you. She is not outside of you. Mother Earth is not just your environment. In that insight of inter-being, it is possible to have real communication with the Earth, which is the highest form of prayer.” -Thich nat Hanh

Let us create a sacred space where we feel the presence of the whole creation.

Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7b-pXRHMks&ab_channel=sodiacTV

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGm6YzBrxii&ab_channel=PRIMALEARTHSOUNDS

Let the group watch the video or listen to any other appropriate music while reflectively listening to the following lines

1. The God of evolution is the God of adventure, a God who loves to do new things and is always new. We are created from the Earth, our bodies sustained by nature’s elements, our very lives kept in being by breathing her air, our energies and health preserved by her healing water. We all should know that we revere the earth because it is God’s child, God’s evolving body, God’s dream made visible.
2. ‘In God’s loving plan,’ writes Pope Francis, ‘every creature has its own value and significance’
3. The Creation is already a special story about God, a precious book in which every page, every creature, is a revelation of the divine Creator.
4. The world is a sacred and divine body to which we have a sacred and divine responsibility. A respect for the rights and intrinsic truth of the environment is based on two undeniable reasons: Because human beings are part of the environment and because we live in communion with it. The environment itself entails ethical limits which human activity must acknowledge and respect.
5. Not only the beauty and majesty but also the chaos and power of the natural world inspire our poetry, our art, and our spiritual lives with a sense of wonder.
6. The Earth and ourselves are inseparably and intrinsically connected. The pain of one is the pain of the other.
7. We are born into life, and we are baptised into Christianity to build the kingdom, to form unity, deepen belonging and protect our community, including our Mother Earth and Sister Nature



8. The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw, and knew I saw, all things in God and God in all things.

(An Astonishing Secret by Daniel O'Leary)

Together recite Psalm 96 or sing an appropriate hymn.

Reading: Romans 8 19-21

Reflection:

Only when we begin behaving as though the Earth is our true home does it begin to really feel like one. We may each have a different religion, language, culture or skin colour, but under the one sky we all belong to one human race, one planet in one universe of immense beauty. And, as Pope Francis has taught, all are equally the people of God. Until we expand the horizons of our hearts and minds we will never feel the consolation of being at home, but of feeling lost and cautious on a foreign shore. There are levels of living that we have still not experienced. There are depths of belonging to our environment that are yet unknown to us. Yet it was to experience this depth that we were born. Until we see the world we live in, beautiful and broken though it



may be, with a tender care, and love it as we would our own family, we will never experience the abundant life promised to all God's beloved creatures – that is everyone and everything. (Astonishing Secret by Daniel O'Leary)

Even though we as human beings are called to realise and live with this experience of God in everything, we have failed to accept this truth, Hence

- Every year, we extract an estimated 55 billion tons of fossil energy, minerals, metals and biomass from the Earth.
- The world has already lost 80% of its forests and we're continually losing them at a rate of 375 km² per day!
- At the current rate of deforestation, 5-10% of tropical forest species will become extinct every decade.
- Every hour, 1,692 acres of productive dry land become desert.
- 27% of our coral reefs have been destroyed. If the rate continues, the remaining 60% will be gone in 30 years.
- We have a garbage island floating in our ocean, mostly comprised of plastics –
- We are using up 50% more natural resources than the Earth can provide.

<https://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/environmental-degradation-facts>

Let us listen to the cry of our mother earth with a sensitive heart:

Video: <https://youtu.be/calo1UGSDgw>

Now let us reflect and see,

How have we neglected God in creation?

Am I a contributor in bringing about division within the creation?

What can I do more to bring back the divinity in the creation?

Final Prayer:

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 taken from Pope Francis' Encyclical ' Laudato Si ')

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