

April Prayer 2022

Prayer for Climate Change and Earth day April 22



"All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being." - **John 1, 3**

"We are collaborating in efforts to change everything that condemns some to live as marginalized. This witness in favor of justice must have the characteristics of the merciful Love that is the very essence of the Gospel and the social doctrine of the Church."
Article 6 of the Constitution of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd.

"The path to peace does not mean making society blandly uniform, but getting people to work together, side-by-side, in pursuing goals that benefit everyone. The path to social unity always entails acknowledging the possibility that others have, at least in part, a legitimate point of view, something worthwhile to contribute, even if they were in error or acted badly."

Fratelli tutti – Encyclical letter of Pope Francis, number 228

1) Preparation for the framework of prayer – community and/or individual

Prepare a space for prayer. Use symbols/images that represent the earth, the climate, the world (The Globe, green plants, water, light...). Listen to the instrumental [music](#) of the "Psalm of Creation" and create an atmosphere of prayer. Ensure that your body is in a comfortable position for prayer: both feet firmly planted on the ground, hands on our knees, eyes contemplating the decorations in front and then closing them gently.

2) Song for a gathering:

Refrain: *Together (2) we can make a new world!*

- Together to change, this world with a wounded heart, where we will love each other, and live in peace. **Ref.**
- Together to build a brighter, more just and more humane future, without war or hunger. **Ref.**
- Together to build, make live and rejuvenate. The Church of tomorrow is in our hands. **Ref.**

Opening Prayer: Psalm 65 (Edited)

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion ; and to you shall vows be performed,
By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation ;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.
You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.
Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows
clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing
together for joy.



What is my personal/community commitment to fight against the devastating effects of the destruction of the planet caused by greed and apathy? (silence)

Reading: Isaiah 45:18–19

Reflection and free sharing:

"Humanity is waging war on nature. It's suicidal," UN Secretary-General [António Guterres](#) said in a speech at Columbia University in New York, USA. "Let's be clear: human activities are at the root of our descent into chaos." So, in the face of the challenges of our world today, we all have a responsibility to take part in its building. Let us take this commitment into our own hands. Let us make peace with creation! This is a commitment of all of us in this 21st century. (A moment of integration before intercession.)

Intercessions:

God who created this world so beautiful and habitable to all. You commit us to continue the work of your creation. We have been privileged by your grace and we are proud of it. Today, we recognize that we have reigned supreme and destroyed the common home: our planet is sick, our dignity is violated, the earth is wounded and the whole of humanity is helpless. The earth and the planet are calling us to action:

-  Teach us to make a firm commitment where we are, in connection with the "Laudato Si Platform for Action".
-  Open us to the the position documents of the Congregation and embarking on a path of implementation.
-  Bless those working to combat the devastating effects and destruction of the planet.

- ✚ Heal us of the greed and apathy that anesthetizes us and pledge to never tire of doing good around us.
- ✚ Heal us of our greed to unscrupulously dominate and destroy your creatures and even make them disappear.
- ✚ Forgive us for not respecting life, our waste, our indifferences and our habits of exploiting humans.
- ✚ Give us to listen to your Word, to have a life of deep prayer and to live your Love, so that we may respect life in the image of Christ.

Together with all those who unite in the same struggle for the preservation of the planet and all people of good will, we say this prayer together:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Amen!

Final Blessing:

As a sign of reconciliation with the planet and earth bruised by humans, we will bless each other, and also bless all of God's creation. (*Everyone is free to choose their expression of this reconciliation: by the sprinkling of water, by the hand extended to his neighbor, by giving their hand, by a hand raised to the sky...*)



Prayer prepared by Sister Francette and Sister Florentine, Unit of the District of the Islands (Reunion – Mauritius – Madagascar).