

Examen of Consciousness—The Season of Creation, 2019

Call to Prayer: Let us take a moment and be conscious that we are in the presence and power of God, within us, among us and before us...

Song of the Builders by Mary Oliver

On a summer morning
I sat down
on a hillside
to think about God –
a worthy pastime.

Near me, I saw
a single cricket;
it was moving the grains of the hillside
this way and that way.

How great was its energy,
how humble its effort.
Let us hope
it will always be like this,
each of us going on
in our inexplicable ways
building the universe.



Pause

Reader: This evening October 4th marks the conclusion of what we have come to know as *The Season of Creation*. From its beginning on September 1st through this evening, the world community, and especially the interfaith community, has been reflecting on the gift of creation, the various natural resources that bless us all, and the many ways our human activities have inflicted suffering across planet earth. The purpose of our observance of the Season of Creation is to nurture our relationship, our kinship with our planet, and every element and species that inextricably is connected to the web of life. (Pause)

Reader: October 4th is also the feast of St Francis of Assisi. Francis and his followers then and now, honor the world around them and are celebrate the immance of God in their everyday experiences. In contrast to his contemporaries, Francis did not split the world into that which is profane and that which is holy, but Franciscans could see God in the dirt, and the worms, the suffering of life and in the leper and outcast. Francis was able to see God embedded in a marvelously interconnected world with God as the source of each and every thing. He saw the world in universal kinship with every creature with every person, with every element of Creation.

Reader: Tonight, as we reflect on how we are called to be consciously connected as members of the web of life to all other elements of the web, let us pause, and consider the questions and grace of this ecological examen of consciousness. (Pause)

Reader: I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. (Pause)

- *Where did I feel God's presence in creation today? (Reader: wait 2 minutes and place a lit candle in the centerpiece.)*

Reader 4:

I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering. (Pause)

- *Where have I contemplated the beauty of creation today? .Have I heard the cries of the earth and the cries of people who are poor?(reader wait 2 minutes and place a lit candle in the centerpiece (Reader: wait 2 minutes and place a lit candle in the centerpiece.)*

Reader 5:

I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and persons who are poor and vulnerable. (Pause)

- *What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? (Pause)
How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor? (Reader: wait 2 minutes and place a lit candle in the centerpiece.)*

Reader 1: Together let us pray:

I confess **to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters** of every species that I have sinned through **my** own fault, in **my** thoughts and in **my** words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and **you, my brothers and sisters**, to pray for me to the Lord our **God**.

Blessing: (With Water) May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring all to everlasting life, Amen.