

Care of Creation Day

September 1, 2017

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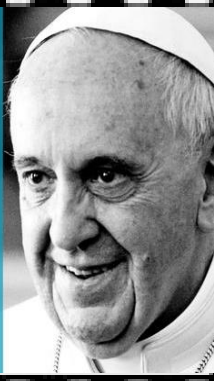
"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs."

St. Francis, Canticle of the Creatures



"The contemplative gaze renders the whole world sacramental."

- Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ



In the face of the emergencies of human-induced climate change, social exclusion, & extreme poverty, we join together to declare that:

Human-induced climate change is a **scientific reality**, and its decisive mitigation is a **moral and religious imperative** for humanity.



"A prayer for our earth"

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.

— Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*

God of all living things,

may it please you

<p>On the third day, you brought forth vegetation: Every plant that bears seed, Every tree that bears fruit. You saw that it was good And it pleased you.</p> <p>How creation must have danced to know of your pleasure.</p> <p>May our stewardship of this garden so please you. May our protection of your fertile ground so please you. May our just treatment of all who labor in your fields so please you.</p>	<p>May our sharing of and care for your life-giving water so please you.</p> <p>May our sharing of the knowledge of cultivation so please you.</p> <p>May our sharing of the fruits of our harvest so please you.</p> <p>Lord, even before you breathed us into existence, This garden you created— unfathomably bountiful, unutterably beautiful. And in your love for us, thought to place us among it.</p>	<p>Make us worthy of this earth: in what we sow and what we reap, in what we plant and what we prune. So that when that last harvest comes, When we are called to stand before you, It may once more be said of this people:</p> <p>"He saw that it was good."</p> <p>amen</p>
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