

TOGETHER WITH THREE FRANCIS'

A Marist Prayer for Laudato Si' Week (May 24-31)

CALL TO PRAYER



Ten years ago, Pope Francis followed the inspiration of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, and issued his letter *Laudato Si'*, in which he called the Church and the world to a renewed appreciation of and commitment to the Earth, Our Common Home. In taking this call to heart, Marists also follow the example of a third Francis, our own Bro. Francois who became the first leader of the Marist Brothers after St. Marcellin Champagnat. Bro. Francois was a gardener who saw God's goodness reflected in nature.

This week, Marists throughout the world rejoice in several different languages as together we celebrate the gift of our natural world and our duty to safeguard it, aware that "our human ability to transform reality must proceed in line with God's original gift of all that is" (*Laudato Si'* #5).

We begin in the *Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit*, as we first open our hearts and ears to God's Creation:



Call to Prayer



OUR RESPONSE

In one of his personal notebooks, Bro. Francois wrote that, “the world is like an immense temple that God has raised up for His glory. The sky is like the vault; the earth, the paved floor. The stars are flaming torches. The song of the birds is a chorus or concert of harmony. The different seasons match the colors of the temple’s ornaments. The fragrant woods and flowers are a perfume, a continuous incense that rises to the throne of the Creator.”

a moment of sacred silence

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS (1: 29-31)

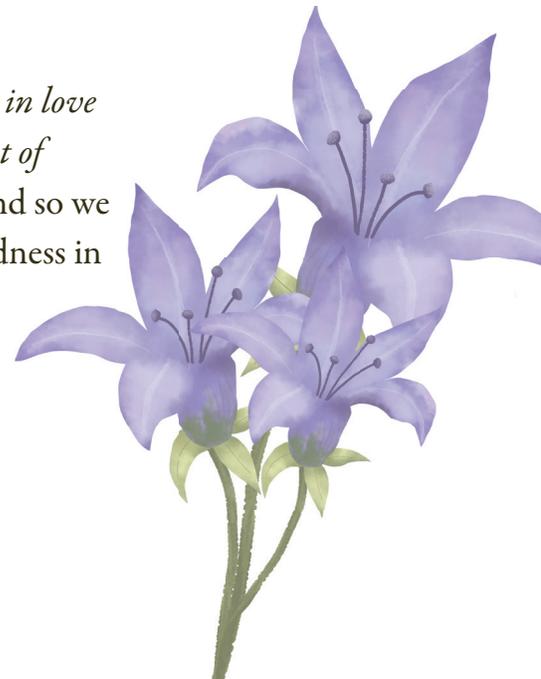
God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

OUR RESPONSE

Pope Francis wrote of St. Francis of Assisi: “*Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise.*” And so we use the words of St. Francis as we give our joyful response to God’s goodness in Creation.



Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor; and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

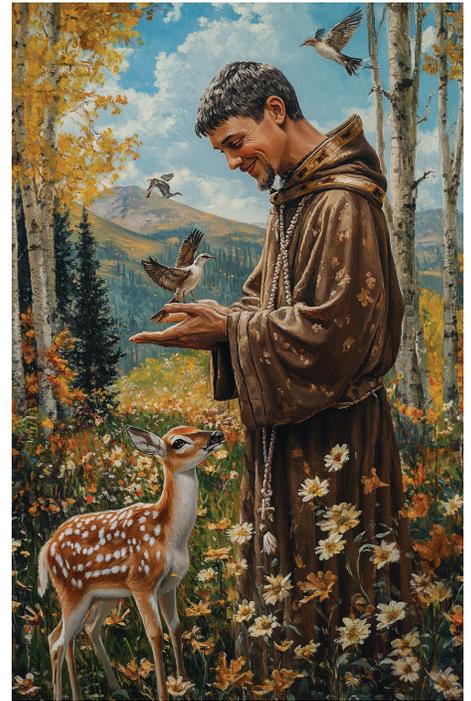
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather, through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

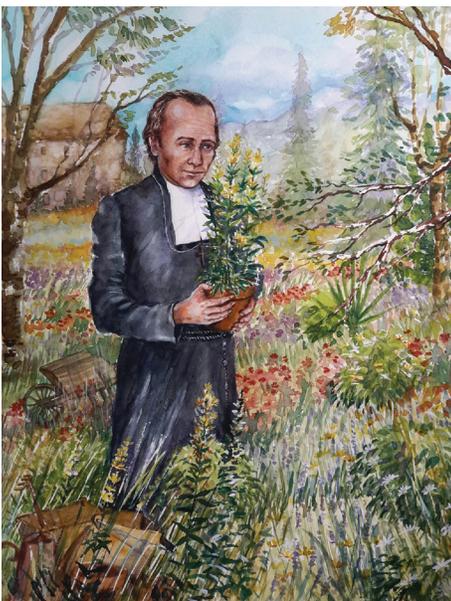
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation. Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

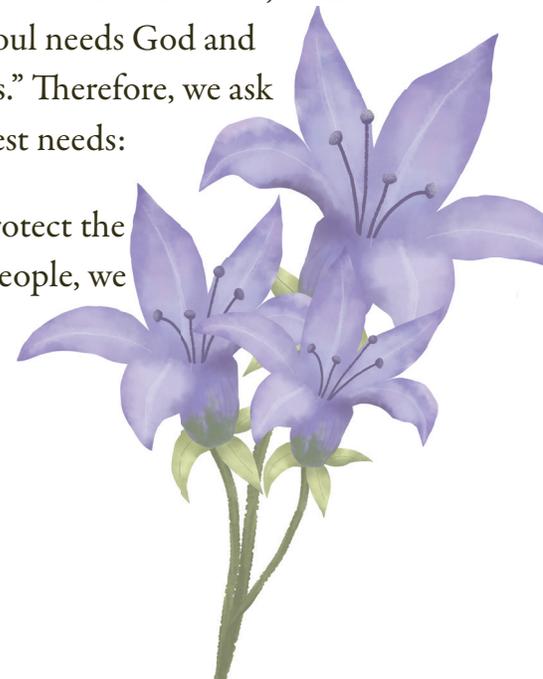


PRAYERS OF PETITION



Bro. Francois wrote that “Plantlife needs soil with water; without these, the plants die. The life of the soul needs God and his grace; without these, the soul dies.” Therefore, we ask God, Our Father to supply our deepest needs:

- That world and local leaders protect the earth and care for vulnerable people, we pray...
- That the sick and the suffering may find comfort in their time of need, we pray...



- That those living in danger may know peace and safety, we pray...
- That we may enjoy God's goodness and practice care for our Common Home, we pray...

OUR FATHER

CLOSING PRAYER:

A prayer for our earth (Laudato Si' #246)

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.

St. Marcellin Champagnat... Pray for us!
Mary, Our Good Mother... Pray for us!
And let us remember... To pray for each other!

