

*The following prayer is offered by Pope Francis at the end of the Encyclical to
"share with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator."*

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.

+ Amen

ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Reflections for Laudato Si' Week

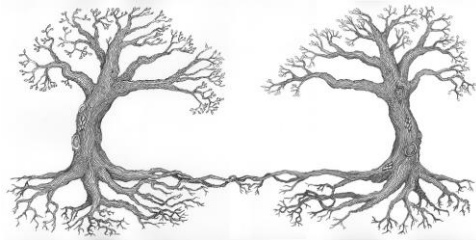


“DEEPENING OUR ROOTS & BRANCHING OUT”

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about
how we are shaping the future of our planet.
We need a conversation which includes everyone,
since the environmental challenge we are undergoing,
and its human roots, concern and affect us all. (14)

Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined
to a sincere love for our fellow human beings
and an unwavering commitment to
resolving the problems of society. (91)

On Interconnectedness



The deterioration of nature is closely connected to the culture which shapes human coexistence (6)

I will point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology, the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious responsibility of international and local policy, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle.” (16)

Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. (42)

When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected. (117)

Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity. (240)

On Deepening Our Roots “within” to Branch Out to the Entire World – Ecological Conversion –

This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness.

First, it entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God’s loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works

It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion.

As believers, we do not look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which the Father has linked us to all beings. By developing our individual, God-given capacities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world’s problems (220)



For more information on Laudato Si’ Week and Care for Creation in the Tucson area see: holygroundcommonground.blogspot.com