



From: The Commission for Justice,
Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

For: JPIC Contact Persons

LAUDATO SI WEEK – MAY 16TH – 24TH

Each day read the short reflection and the question(s) that follow. What personal actions might the reader take for just that day?

Everyday Prayer

Creator, Redeemer, Holy Spirit, thank you for the gift of Laudato Si', which teaches us that "The Creator does not abandon us; he never withdraws from his project of love. He never regrets creating us. Humanity still has the capacity to collaborate in the construction of our common home."

Day 1: "The world is facing a mass extinction of species. All species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, arthropods (insects and arachnids), fish, crustaceans, corals, and plants have declined, in many cases severely. Human civilization has had a negative impact on most living things. We are amidst the largest period of species extinction in the last 60 million years. Normally, between one and five species will go extinct annually. However, scientist estimate that we are now losing at 1,000 to 10,000 times the normal rate, with multiple extinctions daily. Habitat destruction, exploitation, climate change are driving the loss of half of the world's wild animal population."

~ Earth Day Network- *Global Species Decline Factsheet*

- (1) Was I even remotely aware of the destruction that exist all around me?
- (2) What steps can I personally take to prevent my contributing to this destruction?

Day 2: Following on yesterday's reflection... "It is not enough to think of different species as potential 'resources' to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves. Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which the children will never see, because they have been lost forever. The great majority became extinct for reasons related to human activities. Because of us, thousands

of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

~ Laudato Si #33

- (1) Have I taken time today, or during this week, to look at the world surrounding me, and to thank God for that goodness and beauty?
- (2) Have I contributed to the extinction of God's creation through the use of pesticides?

Day 3: "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to see a sustainable and integral development. ...Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the suffering of the excluded."

"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 concerns and affects us all."

~ Laudato Si - # 13 and #14

- (1) The United Nations warns of dire climate impacts. What more can I do to lessen this prediction?

Day 4: "Each creature, man, as well as animal and plant, possesses its own particular goodness and perfection. For each one of the works of the "six days" it is said: "God saw that it was good." By the very nature of creation, all that have been created are endowed with its own stability, truth and excellence, its own order and laws. Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness. Men, women and children must therefore respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things which would be in contempt of the Creator and would bring disastrous consequences for human beings and their environment.

~ Catechism of the Catholic Church - #339

- (1) Is there one specific thing I can do today to honor God's creation?

Day 5: "The ecological age fosters the deep awareness of the sacred presence within each reality of the universe. There is an awe and reverence due to the seas and the continents; to all living forms of trees and flowers; to the myriad expressions of life in the sea; to the animals of the forest and the birds of the air. To wantonly destroy a living species is to silence forever a divine voice."

~ Thomas Berry - *The Dream of the Earth*

- (1) Can I allow myself time to take a walk today and thank God for the creation that surrounds me?

Day 6: “Creation... is almost like another sacred book whose letters are represented by a multitude of creatures present in the universe.

~ Pope John Paul II (2002)

- (1) How should we respond to the silencing of divine voices of thousands of species that no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us?
- (2) Does this thought move us to change our behavior or view the world differently?

Day 7: The earth’s climate is changing. Temperatures are rising. Snow and rainfall are shifting, and more extreme climate events – like rainstorms and record high temperatures – are already happening. Many of these observed changes are linked to the rising levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, caused by human activity.

~ Climate Change indicators in the U.S. – U.S. EPA

- (1) Write a letter to your representative regarding fossil fuels and the destruction of the environment as a result of the greenhouse gases. Ask that responsible action to taken to limit these gases.

Day 8: “To follow Jesus is to be a wholemaker, essentially to love the world into new being and life.”

~ Sister Ilia Delio – *Making All Things New*

- (1) Do you see the care of creation, especially as Pope Francis encourages us to in *Laudato Si*, as part of making the world whole, and bringing the world to new being and new life?
- (2) How can you protect creation as a follower of Christ? What can you commit yourself to do today and into the future?

Day 9: Prayer (Prayer at the conclusion of the week)

Creator God, maker of heaven and earth.

Today we come before you saddened by our shameful attitude and behavior toward all your creation.

We acknowledge that we play a part in the dying and extinction of your creation by our carelessness, Ignorance and indifference. Forgive us our part in the death of healthy ecosystems

and in the resulting extinction of your creatures. Our indifference to climate change has destroyed the world that you created.

Renew in us a love for all that you have made. Strengthen our resolve to advocate, fight, nurture and defend our world and all that inhabit it.

We thank You for the beautiful world you have given us, and for those who call us to be mindful of our obligation to care lovingly for that world.

We ask for your help to restrain us from further destruction of your creation, energize us for service, and fill us with courage and hope for the future.

Suggested activities:

~ Refrain from using single-use plastics (i.e. forks, spoons, straws, cups, etc.)

~ When possible, walk rather than ride.

~ Plant flowers

~ Have at least one meatless meal a week

~ Compost leaves and food waste

~ Reduce food waste

~ Participate in public witness events or demonstrations that call attention to climate change and care of the earth.

~ Write to government representative supporting legislation to limit harmful fuel emissions.

Sr. Linda Pepe

Sr. Neha Choorathuruthel

Ir. Nilva Dal Bello

Ir. Vânia Ferreira de Mello

Sr. Vasantha Mary Joseph

Sr. Mariaelena Aceti