

Worth Pro-Earth: Journey to 2030 Lenten Reflections

Session 1 Healing our Sick Planet

Let us remember that this is the Year of the Word. God speaks to us first through the Bible. In more recent years God's message has been expressed through the prophets, mystics and theologians. Today Pope Francis articulates a call to conversion; to redirect our relationship with all of creation, through the encyclical "Laudato Si". We are invited to be more "Pro Earth on our Journey to 2030.

This first session we will focus on the sickness of our world and its' inhabitants. Pope Francis reminds us that "The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin is reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, the water, the air and in all forms of life." (LS21)

Readings – Use

Genesis 1 and 2 (God saw all creation as very good)

Isaiah 45:18 Thus says the Lord, who creates the heaven, who formed the earth and made it, he established it; he did not create it in chaos, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord and there is no other.

Isaiah 58: 5-9a (suitable for the beginning of Lent)

John 10:10

Laudato Si

13 The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents for having created us. Humanity still has the humanity to work together in building our common home. Here I want to recognise, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share ... The young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and sufferings of the excluded.

14 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 that we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all... All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation and according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.

Reflect in relation to our world today (10-15 minutes)

Share anything that strikes you or use the following questions

- What do we see as some of the forms of sickness of our world?
- What can we do individually or in groups to redress this situation?
- What gifts do I have that I could use today to help to save the planet?
- “A deep sense of communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.... Concern for the environment needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of our society” (LS91)
What does this say to you? Does it suggest some action?

Prayer for our world

Creator God, who made our beautiful world,
appointed us as its guardians
and gifted us with everything we need,
forgive us for the times we cause it harm, for the times our way of life
affects our neighbours.

Inspire us to care for the environment;
to help rebuild lives and communities;
to share in the griefs and anxieties,
joys and hopes of all your people,
so that all your creation may flourish.

Amen.

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