

International Mother Earth Day

“Coming back home” – “Our Power, Our Planet”

SEE.

The International Mother Earth Day was inspired by the indigenous people. The term “Mother Earth” is used because it reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit; at same time it expresses the maternal tenderness of the Earth as life given mother.

Mother Earth is a self-sustaining and living system that provides essential resources like air, water, food, and medicine, nurturing all life forms. As our home, she is a highly interconnected system: the diversity of oceans, forests, and mountains, and the immense biodiversity, expresses the splendor of God’s art.

However, this complex and wonderful common home is suffering because our anthropocentrism and the technocratic paradigm that shapes our lives are systematically corroding the very roots of life (cf. Laudato Si’, chapter 3). The consequences are becoming increasingly unpredictable, including climate change, pollution of air, water, and soil, desertification of land, rapid loss of biodiversity, and so on.

JUDGE.

“I will set out and go back to my father’s home” (If it is possible can be read Lk 15:11-24)

Claret contemplated the earth as fertile and humble, as the garden of Eden where all creatures share life with joy of heart, with whom he wanted to identify himself:

“January 6, 1859. The Lord made me understand that I am like the earth; in fact, I am earth. The earth is trampled on and is silent; I should be trampled on and be silent. The earth is raked; I should be mortified. Finally, the earth needs to be watered if it is to be productive; I need grace if I am to produce good works” (Aut. 680).

Just as Pope Francis states in the first numbers of the ecological encyclical Laudato Si, “We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air, and we receive life and refreshment from her waters” (LS 2).

Questions for Reflection

The effective way of response implies ecological conversion: “coming back home”. Therefore, we invite everyone to reflect on the harmonious relationship with our Mother Earth:

1. Review your lifestyle: how do you relate to the various elements of our Mother Earth?
2. Year after year, natural disasters are increasing on our planet. How can you contribute to raising ecological consciousness that promotes justice, peace, harmony, compassion, and respect for all creatures?

Community Prayers:

1. God-Trinity, the inspiration and artist of our mother earth, help us to come back to our common home and live in peace with our fellow brothers and sisters, and specially with our mother earth.
2. Jesus our master and guide, you experienced fully the reality of our earth, help us to be always salt and light in the midst of our misuse and unhealthy decisions and actions.
3. Holy Spirit, the loving relationship of the Father and the Son, continues inspiring new ways of being in communion and solidarity with our earth and its children, the poor.
4. All the initiatives that foster life, dignity, care of our common home find their sources in our spiritual connection with God of life.

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.
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.

- Every day or as much as possible contemplate the immensity and the beauty of the Earth and give thanks to God.
- Reduce the use of elements that pollute and contaminate the water, soil, air and other elements of nature.
- Join or promote initiatives that protect and care about our planet, no matter how big or small they are.

Some links to protect and care our mother earth:

Healing Earth <https://healingearth.ijep.net/>

The cry of our mother Earth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcSpgpDSFHk&t=142s>