

“Blessing for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation”

As Christians we wish to contribute to resolving the ecological crisis which humanity is presently experiencing. In doing so, we must first rediscover in our own rich spiritual patrimony the deepest motivations for our concern for the care of creation. We need always to keep in mind that, for believers in Jesus Christ, the word of God who became man for our sake, “the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us”. The ecological crisis thus summons us to a profound spiritual conversion: Christians are called to “an encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them”. For “living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience”.

- Pope Francis, September 2019

CONTEMPLATION OF THE GARDEN
*...that He may enlighten the eyes of
our soul*

MATTHEW XXV GARDEN



“Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me...” (Mt. 25:34-36)

WHY THE GARDEN PLAQUES?



From Saints Francis of Assisi and Bonaventure, we learn that whatever is generated in this world is generated and produced by the natural power of light acting on the four elements of earth, water, fire and air. This produces things such as minerals, plants, animals and our human bodies. Further, we learn that what governs the above we call angels, by receiving from “First Cause, God,” an influx of power which they in turn distribute in their task of governing.

From this we can infer that our capacity for understanding why this is true and why things do what they do can only be arrived at through contemplation...*that He may enlighten the eyes of our soul.*

WHY CONTEMPLATION?

“We can say that alongside revelation contained...in sacred scripture, there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night. Paying attention to this manifestation, we learn to see ourselves in relationship to all other creatures. ...(in) my effort to decipher the sacredness of the world, I explore my own.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

CANTICLE OF THE SUN (Excerpts)

By SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SUN: Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him, and he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

MOON & STARS: Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and beautiful.

AIR: Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through which you give your creatures sustenance.

WATER: Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

FIRE: Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten the night. He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.

EARTH: Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.