WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

SEPTEMBER 1st, 2016

Introduction

The Franciscan Mission Office invites you to take part in the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* with this celebration that we suggest to you. It is a source of inspiration to celebrate this day. Therefore, you can adapt it to your needs. The document will be available for download and you can easily print it.

We will appreciate if you can send us a feedback on this event:

. How useful was this document to you?
. Can you explain the context in which this celebration took place?
. Do you have any suggestions or comments?

Thank you and have a great celebration of *Prayer for the Care of Creation!*

Words of welcome:
Words of welcome: "The annual World Day of prayer for the care of Creation offers to individual believers and to community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvellous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live." (Pope Francis, extract of the official announcement of that Day of Prayer, August 6, 2015)

Opening hymn: *All creatures of our God and King, in Lift up your hearts: psalms, hymns and spiritual songs 551*

1st Reading: A letter of Paul to the Romans, 8, 18-25

18 - I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.
19 - For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
20 - for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it , in hope
21 - that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
22 - We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
23 - and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
24 - For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
25 - But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Psalm of thanks: 8 or 144(145); 146(147A); 148; 150…

Pope Francis Meditation: (Extracts of the Homily given at San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, Monday February 15, 2016)
…In many ways there have been attempts to silence and dull this yearning, and in many ways there have been efforts to anaesthetize our soul, and in many ways there have been endeavours to subdue and lull our children and young people into a kind of lassitude by suggesting that nothing can change, that their dreams can never come true. Faced with these attempts, creation itself also raises an objection. "This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she' groans in travail' *(Rom 8:22)*" *(Laudato si' 2)*.

The environmental challenge that we are experiencing and its human causes, affects us all *(Laudato si' 14)* and demands our response. We can no longer remain silent before the greatest environmental crises in world history……

Today's world, overcome by convenience, needs to learn anew the value of gratitude!

We rejoice in the certainty that "The creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us" *(Laudato si' 13)*. We rejoice that Jesus continues to die and rise again in each gesture that we offer to the least of our brothers and sisters…

Time of sharing or silence and meditation

Spontaneous Prayers of Petition

Our Father…

Conclusive prayer: With Pope Francis we pray our Lord 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. (Laudato si' 246)

Blessing
The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen**.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. **Amen**.
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen**.
May the Lord bless you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

St Francis's Canticle of the Sun

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