



Sisters of Nazareth

Novena for use during

Season of Creation 2021



DAY 1 Praying for the Care of Creation

Scripture: *The heartfelt prayer of a someone upright is very powerful (James 5:16)*

Reflect: *Creator God, help us "find a mystical meaning ... in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face and discover the face of God in the soul and also in all things" (LS 233)*

Pray: Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Lord, hear us!

Act: REPEAT PRAYERFULLY: LORD, YOU ARE IN ALL THINGS

DAY 2 Turning to God our Creator

Scripture: *How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord God of hosts. (Psalm 84:1)*

Reflect: *The creation accounts in the book of Genesis contain, in their own symbolic and narrative language, profound teachings about human existence and its historical reality. They suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself (LS 66)*

Pray: Help us, Lord, to look at your heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars which you have established: what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him. Lord, hear us.

Act: LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT A FLOWER OR A LEAF

DAY3 Using the Goods of the Earth Responsibly

Scripture: *The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor (Proverbs 22:9)*

Reflect: *People may well have a growing ecological sensitivity, but it has not succeeded in changing their harmful habits of consumption (LS 55)*

Pray: Humanity depends on a healthy earth in order to survive. The first to suffer are always the poor and most vulnerable, and so help us, God, to take stock, reduce our demands, and live a simple life. Lord, hear us!

Act: CONSIDER WAYS OF LIVING MORE SIMPLY

DAY4 Protecting Earth, our Common Home

Scripture: *So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And so it was. (Genesis 1:7)*

Reflect: *Access to safe drinking water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinkable water (LS 30)*

Pray: Lord, you created a new world where you made all things good. In this new world, the dry land is to produce plenty of water. Help us to thirst for what is good for our world. Lord, hear us.

Act: CONSERVE ENERGY AND WATER

DAY5 Healing our Earth

Scripture: *You must be made new in mind and spirit and put on the new nature of God's creating (Eph 4:23,24)*

Reflect: *Climate change represents one of the main challenges facing our world today. Our lack of response points to a loss of that sense of responsibility for the needs of our brothers and sisters (LS 25)*

Pray: Have mercy on us God in your kindness, in your compassion blot out our guilt: grant us your forgiveness for our many sins against your creation. Lord, hear us!

Act: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

DAY6 Taking Better Care of Nature

Scripture: *Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, since you are so well informed (Job 38:4)*

Reflect: *Let us remind ourselves that we are made of the dust of the earth (Gen 2:7); our bodies are made up of her elements; we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters (LS 221)*

Pray: Lord keep us so mindful of the needs of our Mother earth and those of all with whom we share, that open to your Spirit we may discern and practice all that makes for her wellbeing. Lord, hear us!

Act: LISTEN TO WHAT AIR CARRIES TO YOUR EARS

DAY 7 Guarding our Creation

Scripture: *But what the land produces in its Sabbath will serve to feed you, your slave, male or female, your employee and your guest residing with you (Leviticus 25:,6)*

Reflect: *The entire material universe speaks of God's love, of God's endless care for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a touch of God (LS 84)*

Pray: Lord, call us towards an ecological generosity of heart which involves gratitude and moderation, the ability to be happy with little, in order not to succumb to unhappiness, thinking only of what we're missing. Lord, hear us!

Act: PICK UP LITTER

DAY 8 Taking Care of all of God's Creation

Scripture: *Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:78,79)*

Reflect: *A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human being (LS 91)*

Pray: O Mother Earth! We behold in you the unfathomable mystery of the Creator. Unfolding in your love, beauty diversity, creativity and generativity, you invite us to be co-creators awakening us to the mystery of oneness, especially in each other. We need your help. Lord, hear us.

Act: DO SOMETHING KIND FOR ANOTHER PERSON

DAY 9 Becoming Advocates for Change

Scripture: *Creation is waiting with eagerness for the children of God to be revealed (Romans 8:19)*

Reflect: *Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day (LS 25)*

Pray: You, Lord, are our stronghold in the midst of the uncertainty which change brings. We need your counsel and guidance to show us the way to live in harmony with your creation. Lord, hear us.

Act: TURN DOWN HEATING BY A DEGREE OR TWO

Final prayer JMJ

Praise be to you my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs (LS 1).

May Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom (LS 241).

May St. Joseph inspire us to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us (LS 242).

Laudato Si', mi' Signore