

## FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

October 4, 2019

**OPENING PRAYER** (adapted from a prayer written by Art Laffin on December 4, 2012 at Santa Maria degli Angeli, where the church St. Francis built is located.)



On this day when we celebrate the life of St. Francis of Assisi, let us pray for each other and for our church, that we can be inspired by his faithfulness and witness to the Gospel.

Help us build a church today that has as its foundation the Gospel mandate of unconditional love, mercy, compassion, and reconciliation.

Help us to make the church truly be a peace church, a church that renounces all injustice, violence, killing, and always advocates for the poor and the victims.

Help all people to protect and safeguard all life and our sacred earth and environment.

Help all people who comprise the church to always stand for love, life and creation.

**THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S** (Catholic Climate Covenant)

L: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Creation reminds us, O God, of your love.

All: By grace we are learning, as year leads to year, we're called to be stewards, your caretakers here.

L: Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth. We fail to remember its beauty and worth.

All: We take from creation much more than we need, we threaten your world through indifference and greed.

L: May we be good stewards of all that you give, Protecting creation wherever we live.

All: May we be a church that renews and restores and lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.



**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*adapted from Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development*)

That God may open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, we pray .... (Lord, hear our prayer)

For a deep reverence toward creation, that we might experience everything - soil, water, mountains - as a caress of God, we pray...(Lord, hear our prayer)

That the Spirit of God may deepen our recognition of the nobility in the duty to care for our common home through little daily acts, we pray...(Lord, hear our prayer)

For world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable, we pray...(Lord, hear our prayer)

For people who are struggling to grow their crops, who are hungry or thirsty, who cannot meet their needs because of droughts, floods or other extreme weather: that God may strengthen and support them and that they may have reason to look with hope to the future, we pray...(Lord, hear our prayer)

**CLOSING – A PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."  
Amen.

