

BLESSING OF THE STATUE OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. John Neumann, Reston, VA

October 4 2018

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Celebrant: Peace be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: In placing this statue of Saint Francis of Assisi on the grounds of St. John Neumann parish, we hope his familiar figure will prompt us to contemplate the way in which he lived his life. He inspired so many, including St. Francis de Sales who chose St. Francis of Assisi to be his patron saint. Francis of Assisi demonstrated by his works and deeds a profound humility, a deep respect and love for all creation, and a dedication to serving all in need. We trust that his image will not only awaken admiration, but also inspire us to make his life a model for our own way of living.

Loving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we ask you to bless this statue [*sprinkles holy water*], that all who look upon it will be reminded to give you praise by contemplating your abiding presence in all of creation. Amen.

Celebrant: My friends, we come before the God of all creation, the God who knows every creature and all of our needs. With great trust we offer our petitions in the name of all creation.

Reader 1: We pray for faith communities that they may respond to the crises of our modern era: to the cries of the poor and the despairing, and to the cries of the natural world imperiled by our indifference. May we learn to respect God's creation and care for all life as a gift of God. God of compassion, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that young people may be inspired by the example of Saint Francis to make lifestyle choices that are selfless and sustainable and that promote the care of creation, and encourage practices that respect the rights of the human person. God of compassion, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that this St Francis Statue given by earth and made by human hands will inspire those who encounter it to take courage from a life that embodied humility, deep respect, and dedication to peace. God of compassion, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: O gracious God, giver of all that is good, we bless you for having given us life to share with so many other creatures. We praise you and ask that you continue to pour out your Spirit upon the universe, and in it to show forth your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Statue presented by Care for our Common Home



Blessing based on text from www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Please join us after the blessing for a bird watching walk.