

CLIMATE ACTION DAY

MORNING PRAYER

Friday, September 20, 2019

Some high schools may have called a team together to plan an assembly about climate change. This prayer can be the opening prayer for that assembly or standalone if there is no assembly planned. An action component is included, enabling students to participate in this day of action which Pope Francis has endorsed.

Call to Prayer

Leader: O Compassionate God, you weep at the plight of your creation!

Response: Come to our assistance, O God. Make haste to help us.

Reading

Matt. 23:37-39

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate.



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YouTube

Man vs. Earth (4:06)
youtu.be/FR_gnk8sVr4

Patriarch Bartholomew

“If human beings were to treat one another’s personal property the way they treat the natural environment, we would view that behavior as anti-social and illegal. We would expect legal sanctions and even compensation. When will we learn that to commit a crime against the natural world is also a sin?”

YouTube

Greta Thunberg Speaks to the U.N. (3:30)
youtu.be/VFkQSGyeCWg

Silence

Response: (What action are you being called to take on behalf of our common home?)

Litany of Commitment

Response: I Do.

1. Jane Goodall says, "The greatest danger to the future is apathy." Do you refuse to be apathetic regarding your care of creation?
2. Pope Benedict says, "If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation." Do you want a world of peace?
3. Scientists tell us that between 200- 2,000 species, each of which is vitally important to the web of life and uniquely reflects our Creator, will become extinct this year due to climate change. Do you realize that every creature has an important function in the web of life and that each extinction of a creature threatens human life on Earth?
4. Pope Francis reminds us that, "Our bodies are made up of Earth's elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters." Do you realize that what happens to Earth, to air, and to waters will happen to us?
5. Each of the Great Religions of the world holds care of creation as a moral responsibility. Do you recognize your responsibility to do all you can to care for creation including to use your talents to let your voice be heard in the public arena?
6. Do you know that everything we do to hurt or heal any part of creation (whether little or big) has an effect on everything that is or will ever be, because the universe is interconnected?
7. Do you promise to work to protect our common home?

Prayer

All: O God, give us the courage to transform our commitments into action.

Action

Grades 1-5

1. Write a letter telling your pastor about your concern and care for creation. Tell your pastor what you are promising to do to express your concern and care for creation.
2. Sign the St. Francis Pledge to pray, live, and advocate for Laudato Si', which is Pope Francis's encyclical regarding Care for Our Common Home. (tfaforms.com/4756353)
"I pledge to pray, live and advocate Laudato Si'."
Signature:

Action

Grades 6-12

1. Sign the St. Francis Pledge: (tfaforms.com/4756353)
"I pledge to pray, live and advocate Laudato Si'."
Signature:
2. Write the promise you will make to change one thing in your daily lifestyle (beyond recycling) that will help heal creation.

3. To be Christian is to be a leaven in society in the name of Christ Jesus and the Gospel. Christians have a responsibility to be active citizens to carry out this responsibility. To be a citizen is to be an active participant in the government of city, state, and nation. One does this through both prayer and action through voice, advocacy, and vote.
4. Write a letter to your Senators in Congress in support of the International Climate Accountability Act, a bipartisan bill that has also been endorsed by the U.S. Catholic Bishops.
The link below provides a sample letter that can be personalized.
(catholicclimatecovenant.salsalabs.org/ShahenBillSupport)

Blessing

May our action participate with Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit in renewing the common home of all species.

All: Amen.

Further Resources for
Classes and Assemblies

Archdiocese of Chicago Season of Creation Page
pvm.archchicago.org/season-of-creation

Catholic Climate Covenant
catholicclimatecovenant.org

Catholic Relief Services – Caring for Creation Resources
crs.org/resource-center/pope-francis-encyclical-environment

Catholic Creation Care – Earthkeepers Vacation Bible School
catholiccreationcare.com/earthkeepers-vbs.html

Global Catholic Climate Movement
catholicclimatemovement.global

Season of Creation
seasonofcreation.org