

## CLOSING PRAYER:

You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose, I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you  
Only when it is convenient for me to do so,  
Only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
And only in those who make it easy to do so.

Lord, forgive me, renew me,  
heal me, nurture me,  
Empower me, send me out as an instrument of your peace and justice  
That I might take seriously the meaning of servant-leadership.  
Amen.

*(Joe Seramane, Christian Aid Lifelines, South Africa)*

## CLOSING HYMN:

### Prayer of St. Francis

1. Make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there is hatred,  
let me bring love.  
Where there is injury, your  
pardon, Lord.  
And where there's doubt,  
true faith in you.

#### **Chorus:**

***Oh Master,  
grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled  
as to console;  
To be understood  
as to understand,  
To be loved, as to love,  
with all my soul.***

2. Make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there's despair in life,  
let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness  
only light,  
And where there's sadness,  
ever joy.

# B&C Reflection

SENT WITH JOY TO HEAL October 2020

## Healed to RESTORE CREATION

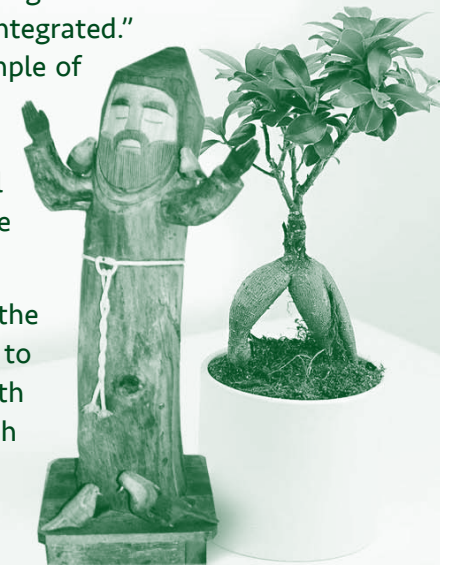
**FOCUS:** Stewardship of God's Creation **EVENT:** Saint Francis of Assisi

**INTRODUCTION:** On 29 November 1979, Saint John Paul II declared Saint Francis the Patron Saint of Ecology. Saint Francis preached that the world was perfectly and beautifully created by God, and therefore, all creatures should praise God and people have a duty to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves.

Saint John Paul II said, "Saint Francis' love and care for creation was a reminder to not behave like dissident predators where nature is concerned, but to assume responsibility for it, taking all care so that everything stays healthy and integrated."

Saint Francis "offers Christians an example of genuine and deep respect for the integrity of creation and to devote ourselves to building up peace with all creation which is inseparable from peace among all peoples."

Saint John Paul's hope was, "that the inspiration of Saint Francis will help us to keep ever alive a sense of 'fraternity' with all those good and beautiful things which Almighty God has created."



## OPENING PRAYER:

Invite a BEC Member to lead in prayer.

## OPENING HYMN:

### Canticle of the Sun

1. Be praised, Most High,  
Almighty Lord,  
Yours the blessings and glory be  
Only honour belongs to You,  
For all eternity.  
Be praised,  
Lord of the creature world,  
And first Sir Brother Sun,  
Who through the day and night  
You give,  
Reflects You, O Holy One.
2. Be praised through  
Sister Mother Earth,  
For she sustains and  
guides our way,  
And yields so many fruits and  
grass  
And flowers to brighten our way.  
Be praised through all who pardon  
give,  
For love of You bearing their pain,  
Blessed men suffering peacefully,  
They shall not cry in vain.

## DIALOGUE:

*Laudato Si* is Pope Francis' encyclical (papal letter) on the environment – on care for our common home. Pope Francis states the goal of the encyclical is, “to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home.” A meaningful dialogue on “how we are shaping the future of our planet” as “the environment challenges we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.” Therefore, Pope Francis calls for an ‘ecological conversion.’ As “living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue.”

*Laudato Si* clarifies that “our ‘dominion’ over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship.” We are ‘responsible for taking care of all of Creation because God created everything.’ To ‘use and manage all the resources God has given for the glory of God and the betterment of His Creation. In ways that ‘honour God and impacts eternity.’ As Christians, we are responsible ‘in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God has bestowed.’

Our Almighty Father ‘owns’ everything. We are mere ‘administrators acting on His behalf.’ Therefore, we are ‘responsible for how we treat God’s Creation and what we do with it.’ To manage His Creation in accordance ‘to His plan and purpose.’ The Parable of The Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) teaches us that stewards of God’s Creation ‘will one day be called to give an account of how they have managed what God has given them.’

Rt. Rev. Bishop Bernard Paul DD (Malacca-Johore Diocese) stresses how “nothing in this world is indifferent to us.” Bishop Bernard Paul goes on to caution against such indifference, “We read in the daily newspapers... rising sea levels that is already affecting our fishing and rural communities, criminal acts of pollution, wanton disregard for creation and rights of indigenous peoples, forced extinction of species, and the list goes on.” Msgr. Michael Mannayagam (Head, Office for Human Development, Malacca-Johore Diocese) reiterates the urgency to “undo some of the false beliefs we have that natural resources are infinite, that we are entitled to anything we want...”

*(Excerpts from MJD Lenten Animator's Guidebook, 2020-2022)*

### **Buzz with the person next to you or with the group.**

- In a conversation with God; share with the Father your thoughts, concerns and any questions you may have on the current state of His Creation.
- As a steward of God’s Creation, what you doing - or failing to do with your family, at the workplace and in your community to bring to the forefront current environmental issues?

## DISCERNMENT:

### Genesis 1:31

*Source: Jerusalem Bible*

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### *Reflection:*

- READ the text aloud and LISTEN with openness.
- READ it silently by yourself until a word or phrase touches or strikes you.
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through the word or phrase?
- What do you say to the Lord in response to his Word?
- Share in small groups (3-4 persons) the verse that has touched you.

### *Deeds:*

- As a steward of God’s creation; what changes can I commit to daily that are in line with the six Rs (Refuse, Reuse, Regenerate, Repurpose, Repair and Recycle)?
- What environmentally friendly practices are you committing to?
- Share them with your BEC.