

ECOLOGICAL ROSARY

(Adapted from the original by Sr Teresa de la Cruz OSC)





THE FIRST MYSTERY

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

As we contemplate Jesus facing his death and praying in agony in the Garden of Olives, did he perhaps take comfort from being close to the rest of creation and the olive trees?

Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si* that our Sister Mother Earth is in agony too and “now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her” (LS 2)

“The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life.

This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22)” (LS 2).

Jesus carries all our sins, our wounds he suffers because of us, loving us even to the point of sweating blood in Gethsemane: he embraces our sorrow, he saves us and gives His life.

Mary, Mother of the Church, Help of Christians, stood by her Son in silence. Accepting her offering helps us to live in this world reconciled with God and being brothers and sisters of everyone.

THE SECOND MYSTERY

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

As we contemplate the whipped, battered body of Jesus we also contemplate the whipped battered body of our sister mother earth and some of her open wounds:

- the forests that have been cut down, leaving the ground open to floods when the top soil, the life blood of the earth, runs away...
- the suffering of sister water in the rivers that have been poisoned by mining companies or unsustainable agriculture, and the overheating of the oceans causing coral to bleach and polar ice to melt



Before the battered body of Jesus, the innocent Messiah, who gives himself up for love of us, we want to meditate how much it has cost him, what price he has wanted to pay in his flesh, and what value we will not have for him ... Let's consider that every creature is precious, all life a gift that can not be mistreated.

Let us ask Mary, Mother and Queen of all creation, who took him into her virginal womb, to help us to be defenders of life, of human dignity, of respect for every creature, because it is a reflection of the Creator.

THE THIRD MYSTERY

*THE CROWNING WITH THORNS*⁶

As we contemplate Jesus who was crowned with thorns, and cruelly mocked as a king we consider how humanity has cruelly treated creation, as Pope Francis says in *Laudato Si* "We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will ... We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gn 2,7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshments from her waters." (LS 2)

In Pope Francis's most recent letter about care of mother earth our Common Home he says "Praise God" is the title of this letter. For when human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies" (LD 73)

Contemplating Jesus crowned with thorns, letting his head be shackled, full of humiliation and ignominy, we recognize ourselves in so many moments when we have misused our freedom, damaging with our attitudes the creation, the relationships, the environment. He has allowed himself to be humiliated like this, even though he is truly a King, so that by looking at him, we do not forget that we have a Father, that we are his Creatures, not self-referential, but dependent on this love that has created us for our good.

With the help of Mary, Help of Christians, we want to learn every day from His Hand, to better use our freedom to build a more human, ecological world, where we can live in peace, helping create together, our common home where we can truly sing like her: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord ..."



THE FOURTH MYSTERY

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

As we contemplate Jesus carrying his Cross we remember that those living in the global south are carrying the heaviest burdens of the climate crisis, that the richest 1% of humanity is responsible for more carbon emissions than the poorest 66%.*

Jesus fell several times as he carried his cross and Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudate Deum* that “the world in which we live is collapsing and may be near breaking point”

Jesus before his death, carries his own cross and ours. He carries everything that we have neglected, left on the road, and with infinite love, faces Calvary, where he knows that his work will come to an end.



Jesus does not abandon us, he carries out his work. And he invites us to walk together, to be able to prolong it in our day, to be able to continue building a world where there is love instead of hatred, forgiveness instead of offense, peace and solidarity in the face of destruction and selfishness.

Mary, Mother and Queen of Creation, is a sister to us to be able to carry out with her and like her, this common project of love that her Son began and carried out without losing heart.

THE FIFTH MYSTERY

THE CRUCIFIXION

As we contemplate Jesus dying on the cross and listen to his last words from the cross, we open our hearts too to the suffering Body of Christ today hearing the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

We mourn the loss of all who have lost their lives in climate disasters and those who have died defending the earth. And the 68% of wildlife that has become extinct since 1970. **

“These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course.

Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. Yet we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness”. (LS 53)

How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles!... We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason, « each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary »”. (LS 65)



The death of Christ on the Cross, supreme act of love for us, to save us, makes sense. In Him and through Him, all of creation is reborn to new life, and we together with Him.

Let us ask Mary, Help of Christians, who stood firm at the foot of the cross, who was faithful to her Son always, to help us to understand so much love and to correspond with our life, to be of service of our brothers and sisters, and of our mother earth, for love of Him.

*Oxfam 2023

**WWF

"In the second chapter of the Gospel of John, there is a verse that the disciples attribute to Jesus as he drives out money lenders and sellers of sheep and cattle from the temple of Jerusalem: "Zeal for your house will consume me" (John 2:17).

Prior to that verse Jesus tells those who are despoiling the holy place: "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" (John 2:16)... Today, we could, and probably we should, understand this 'house' as our common planetary home."

(Fr Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam of the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development, quoted by Richard Rohr OFM)



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