

CARMELITES reflect on SEASONS OF CREATION
Week 4 - 27th September 2020



*Be praised my Lord, for Sister
Water, who is very useful to us,
and humble and
precious and pure.
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother
Fire, through whom you give us
light in the darkness: he is bright
and lively and strong.
Saint Francis of Assisi*



CONTEMPLATING SCRIPTURE ECOLOGICALLY

(Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32)

In Matthew's parable of the two sons, Jesus calls attention to the all too familiar reality that we may learn the right things to say, but our actions, what we actually do, is far more important. He challenges the chief priests and the elders to change and act in the way of righteousness and justice that John preached.

The texts in the fourth Sunday of Seasons of Creation put the focus squarely on personal responsibility for embracing the integral ecological conversion essential to healing Earth, caring for the Web of Life

In this Season of Creation, what actions are we taking to respond to God's call to integral ecological conversion? If we humbly recognise areas where we need to change, and desire that change to happen, we can be sure that the grace of God will never be lacking.

An integral ecological conversion can be embraced in three main areas:

The environmental dimensions

- How can we grow in a spirituality that will help us better to acknowledge, reverence, care for, and share the gifts of creation within which we live, upon which we and all others rely for life itself; eliminating pollution of air, water and land?

The economic dimensions

- How can we grow in a spirituality that nurtures simplicity in lifestyles, resisting the idolatry of wealth and possessions; do we need to re-evaluate our habits of accumulation?
- How can we act to address the terrible inequalities in our society? In the global human community where billions of people live in devastating poverty?

The social dimensions

- How can we develop a more socially conscious spirituality, one that is attentive to the injustice in our institutions and culture, one that works to resolve conflict non-violently, one that works to raise up the New Creation?
- How can we work together to overcome poverty and marginalization? Racism, discrimination in our communities, our societies?

"In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change." *Laudato Si* # 218

PRAYERFUL MEDITATION THROUGH MUSIC

“Canticle of the Sun”
by Marty Haugen

“What a Wonderful World”
David Attenborough

Beginners... a poem by Denise Levertov

*‘From too much love of living,
Hope and desire set free,
Even the weariest river
Winds somewhere to the sea—‘*

But we have only begun
to love the earth.
We have only begun
to imagine the fullness of life.

How could we tire of hope?
—so much is in bud.
How can desire fail?
—we have only begun
to imagine justice and mercy,
only begun to envision

how it might be
to live as siblings with beast and flower,
not as oppressors.

Surely our river
cannot already be hastening
into the sea of nonbeing?
Surely it cannot
drag, in the silt,
all that is innocent?

Not yet, not yet—
there is too much broken
that must be mended,
too much hurt we have done to each other
that cannot yet be forgiven.
We have only begun to know the power that is in us
if we would join
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.

So much is unfolding
that must complete its gesture,
so much is in bud.

*“Many people today sense a profound imbalance which drives them to frenetic activity and makes them feel busy, in a constant hurry which in turn leads them to ride rough-shod over everything around them. This too affects how they treat the environment. An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence “must not be contrived but found, uncovered”. **Laudato Si # 225***

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER

We give thanks to God and commit ourselves once more in seeking to live out the Divine love in our lives, as we pray:

- 1) The sun, the wind and the waves are your gifts for the flourishing of the whole community of life on earth. Help us to use them creatively to produce sustainable energy for all. Lord hear us ...
- 2) We pray for environmentalists, recyclers, farmers, gardeners and fishermen. May they be supported in their sustainable efforts to preserve the earth for future generations. Lord hear us ...
- 3) We pray for visionaries, artists, musicians and writers that through their work we may see creation afresh. Lord hear us ...
- 4) The earth you have created O God, has evolved to produce enough food for all humanity; yet many of your children are hungry or even starving. Help us to appreciate simple, locally-produced food once more, so that people in other countries are not denied land to grow food



and flowers for us. Lord hear us ...