

Reflection on Sustainability and the Mission (2024-2025)  
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A Prayer for Sustainability: Inspired by *Laudato Si'*<sup>1</sup>

God of all Creation, Lord of all space and time:  
I praise you for your works.<sup>2</sup>  
For the infinitely intricate forms of the world;  
For the breath of life<sup>3</sup> that animates your creatures;  
For the miraculous gift of love among those made in your image<sup>4</sup>;  
For your grace in pursuing me<sup>5</sup>;  
And for my capacity to find the beauty in these things and to respond to your invitation.<sup>6</sup>

I confess to you that I have blinded myself to the beauty of your world,  
And that I have shut my ears to your calling.<sup>7</sup>  
When I see your creations as instruments of my own satisfaction  
Rather than myself as an instrument of your peace<sup>8</sup>;  
When I seek to be mindlessly stimulated  
Rather than to be transformed by the renewal of my mind<sup>9</sup>;  
When I make an idol of haste  
And hasten to grow wealthy<sup>10</sup>;  
When I view myself as an independent deity  
Rather than as an interconnected part of your body.<sup>11</sup>

I grow weary at the thought of my failures,<sup>12</sup>  
And how I magnify the failures of a culture that despises what you love.<sup>13</sup>  
I harbor cynicism that individual or collective change is possible.  
I lack faith in justice, and in my ability to act justly.<sup>14</sup>  
Forgive me, I pray!

Help me, oh God, to trust in you, and not to rely on my limited understanding<sup>15</sup>  
Of what is possible.  
Guide my mind to take notice of how you dwell in all people, creatures, and things,<sup>16</sup>  
Especially in those that are overlooked and considered least important.<sup>17</sup>  
Guide my hands to act with care for your Creation.  
Guide my feet to lead me out of comfort<sup>18</sup> and into faithful dependence on you.<sup>19</sup>  
Thank you, Lord, for loving me and for loving the world you have made.<sup>20</sup>

In your precious name I pray,  
Amen.

*References*

- <sup>1</sup>Pope Francis. (2015). *Laudato Si'* [On Care for Our Common Home] [Encyclical Letter].  
<sup>2</sup>Ps 104                      <sup>3</sup>Gen 2:7                      <sup>4</sup>Gen 1:27                      <sup>5</sup>Ps 139                      <sup>6</sup>Matt 11:28  
<sup>7</sup>Isa 6:10; Jer 5:21; Matt 13:15                      <sup>8</sup>Unknown. [Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi]. *Prayer for Peace*.  
<sup>9</sup>Rom 12:2                      <sup>10</sup>Prov 28:20                      <sup>11</sup>Rom 12:5                      <sup>12</sup>Ps 38:4                      <sup>13</sup>1 Cor 1:26-29  
<sup>14</sup>Mic 6:8                      <sup>15</sup>Prov 3:5                      <sup>16</sup>St. Ignatius of Loyola. (1548). *Spiritual Exercises*, 235.  
<sup>17</sup>Matt 25:40                      <sup>18</sup>Matt 7:13                      <sup>19</sup>John 15:5                      <sup>20</sup>John 3:16