




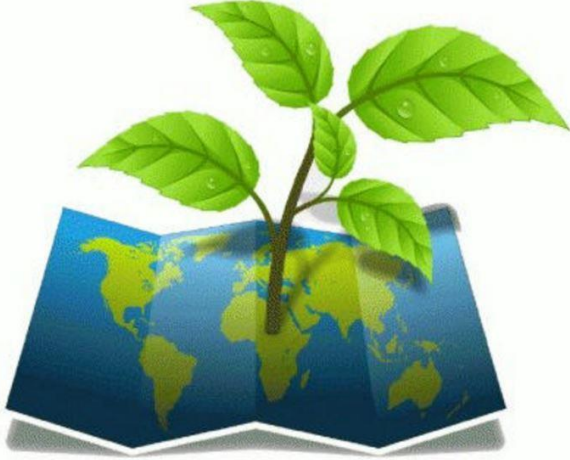
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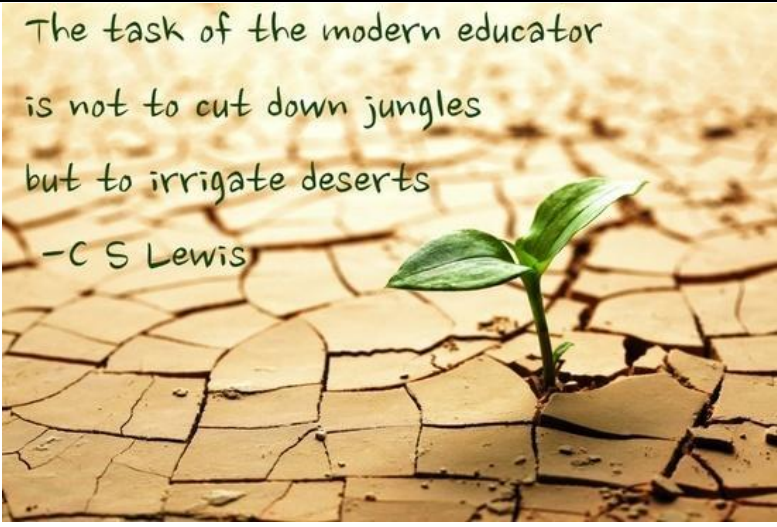

June 2017 Environmental Prayer Diary

- *World Environment Month*

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Energy</p> <p>In a David and Goliath court case, the Southern African Faith Communities Institute founded by Bishop Geoff Davies had a one trillion-rand nuclear deal with Russia overturned in court! http://safcei.org/nuclear-deal-blocked/</p> <p>Give grateful thanks and praise to the Lord for this victory</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><i>Friday – Day of Public Action and Day of Fasting and Prayer</i></p> <p>SDG Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p> <p><i>Ponder and pray</i> about this this:</p> <p>Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow.</p> <p>People are experiencing the significant impacts of climate change, which include changing weather patterns, rising sea level, and more extreme weather events. The greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are driving climate change and continue to rise. They are now at their highest levels in history. Without action, the world’s average surface temperature is projected to rise over the 21st century and is likely to surpass 3 degrees Celsius this century—with some areas of the world expected to warm even more. The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most.</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.</p> <p>- Mark 4:18-19</p>	


<p>Sunday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Pentecost - Our Journey's End Theme for the Week: The Morality of the Holy Spirit Reflection:</p> <p><i>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</i></p> <p>80. "Yet God, who wishes to work with us and who counts on our cooperation, can also bring good out of the evil we have done. "The Holy Spirit can be said to possess an infinite creativity, proper to the divine mind, which knows how to loosen the knots of human affairs, including the most complex and inscrutable". Creating a world in need of development, God in some way sought to limit himself in such a way that many of the things we think of as evils, dangers or sources of suffering, are in reality part of the pains of childbirth which he uses to draw us into the act of cooperation with the Creator. God is intimately present to each being, without impinging on the autonomy of his creature, and this gives rise to the rightful autonomy of earthly affairs. His divine presence, which ensures the subsistence and growth of each being, "continues the work of creation". The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge: "Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God's art, impressed upon things, whereby those things are moved to a determinate end. It is as if a shipbuilder were able to give timbers the wherewithal to move themselves to take the form of a ship."</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>World Environment Day</p> <p>2017 Theme - 'Connecting People to Nature'</p> <p>A new relationship with nature</p> <p>Humankind has a poor record in its relationship with nature. While we admire and appreciate the beauty and variety of nature, it's generally on our terms: natural resources - whether water, land, forests, rocks or minerals - are seen as 'ours' to provide a means of livelihood.</p> <p>For many indigenous people, respecting and honouring elements of their environment was and is often a way of life. A recognition of creation's intrinsic worth and the potential for more positive relationships is also part of Christian tradition. St Francis, valued creation in itself as a revelation of God and often referred to parts of creation as 'Brother' or 'Sister.</p> <p>For all of us today, may we reflect more on how we should regard the integrity of God's creation. How should we be honouring the ecosystems of rivers, bushveld and coastlines as integrated elements of the natural world, rather than heedlessly polluting them or treating them as simple means to our own ends?</p> <p>Pray that Christians worldwide will think through and pray about our effect on ecosystem - and that our thoughts and prayers will encourage us to develop a deeper and more ethical relationship in terms of how we relate to nature, and how we might put right past wrongs.</p> 



		<p>Prayer</p> <p>God of all creation, as we look at the environment, your divine power and immense love are ever present. We thank you for the beautiful creation and abundant resources you have provided your children. We ask for your help in revealing how we can be better stewards of your creation. Help us to use only the resources we need, never being selfish by taking more than necessary. Please give us the opportunity to appropriately share our wealth with those who are less fortunate instead of disposing of our surplus. Help us to remember that the environment is home to all life and that we must take up the responsibility to ensure all life is respected. We thank you for this day and ask for your blessing on this journey. Amen.</p>
Tuesday	6	<p>“The soul needs meaning as much as the body needs food - Richard Rohr</p>
Wednesday	7	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. ~Native American Proverb</p> </div>
Thursday	8	<p>Lord, help us to maintain a reverent attitude towards nature, threatened from all sides today, in such a way that we may restore it completely to the condition of brother/sister and to its role of usefulness to all humankind for the glory of God the Creator.</p>


<p>Friday</p>	<p>9</p>	 <p>The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles but to irrigate deserts -C S Lewis</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>A study from Pretoria University estimates the number of elephants that should be present in 73 protected areas spanning 21 African countries. Three-quarters of those elephants (around 730,000 animals) are missing from these protected areas. One-third of them contain fewer than 5% of the elephants that should be there. However, China has pledged to end its domestic trade in ivory by next year, the US has introduced a near-total ban on ivory and Singapore has announced its intention to ban the ivory trade.</p> <p>Pray that solutions will be found to the ivory trade problem</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>The Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit APU was founded in 2013 by Transfrontier Africa and created to protect the Olifants West Region of Balule Nature Reserve and has since expanded to cover the entire Balule area, 400km². This unit is the first of its kind, being that the majority of the teams are women. 26 Black Mambas and a further 23 armed guards that operate within Balule and along its boundaries are currently deployed. Anti-poaching is a major need in the area and is constantly plagued by rhino and bush-meat poachers</p> <p>The team have in the past year removed 231 snares, tracked down and destroyed 3 poachers' camps and bush kitchens, stopped 14 attempted poaching raids and arrested 6 poachers as well as carrying out over 20 operations for the rescue, treatment and recovery of 5 rhinoceroses, 4 elephants, 16 buffalo, 1 cheetah, 8 lions and numerous antelopes.</p> <p>Give thanks for these courageous women's work and pray for their protection as they carry it out.</p> 

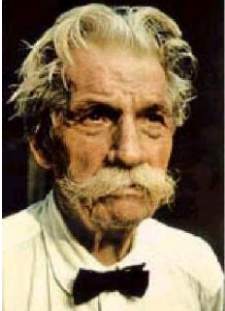
<p>Monday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p><i>“Look, Lorax,” I said, “. There’s no cause for alarm I chopped just one tree, I am doing no harm. I’m being quite useful. This thing is a Thneed. A Thneed’s a Fine-Something-That-All-People Need. It’s a shirt. it’s a sock. It’s a glove. It’s a hat. But it has other uses, Yes, far beyond that. You can use it for carpets! For pillows! For Sheets! Or curtains! Or covers for bicycle seats.</i></p> <p><i>I meant no harm, I most truly did not. But I had to grow bigger, so bigger I got. I biggered my factory, I biggered my roads I biggered my wagons! I biggered the loads Of the Thneeds I shipped out. I was shipping them forth To the South! To the East! To the West! To the North! I went right on biggering Selling more Thneeds. And I biggered my money which everyone needs</i></p> <p>“The Lorax” – Dr Seuss</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does your relationship with the natural world enrich your life? - How do you react to the idea that the environment is not just here to serve our needs? - How does the pursuit of financial wealth and the enjoyment of material possessions impact on the environment? - Is this the main cause of environmental degradation? - What changes might you make to reduce your impact on the ecosystem <p>Taken from “God’s Earth – Our Home” by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>O God, through your Word you have called all things into being and fashioned us in your own image. Help us to raise our voices in defence of this world and make our daily decisions and actions a witness to what we say, that we may not make burdens for others to lift but shoulder the yoke of our responsibility; through Christ, who gave himself for us all Amen</p>

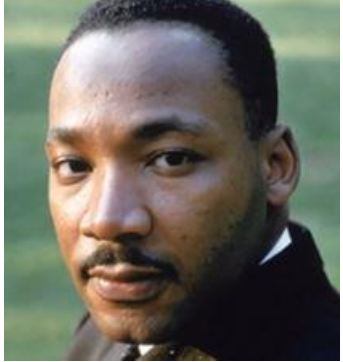




<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>14</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>A Christian prayer in union with creation - Pope Francis</p> <p>Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you! Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.</p> <p><i>Praise be to you!</i></p> <p>Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good.</p> <p><i>Praise be to you!</i></p> <p>Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.</p> <p><i>Praise be to you!</i></p> <p>Amen.</p>

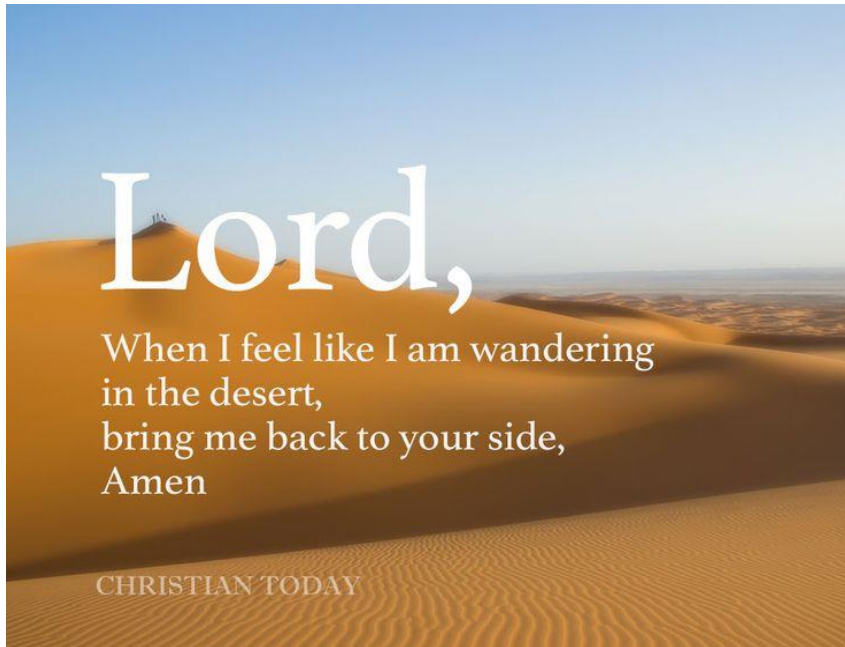
<p>Friday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Faith Must Be Lived</p> <p>A rabbi and a soap maker went for a walk together. The soap maker said, “What good is religion? Look at all the trouble and misery of the world after thousands of years of teaching about goodness, truth and peace – after all the prayers, sermons and teachings. If religion is good and true, why should this be?”</p> <p>The rabbi said nothing. They continued walking until he noticed a child playing in the gutter. Then the rabbi said, “Look at that child. You say that soap makes people clean, but see the dirt on that youngster. Of what good is soap? With all the soap in the world, the child is still filthy. I wonder how effective soap is after all.”</p> <p>The soap maker protested and said, “But rabbi, soap can’t do any good unless it is used.”</p> <p>“Exactly,” replied the rabbi. “So it is with Judaism or any other religion. It is ineffective unless it is applied and used.”</p> <p>Taken from ‘Stories’ Vinnies Reflection Resource 2008 St Vincent de Paul Society</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought:</p> <p>On a continent where drought is a common problem, let us be mindful of every litre of water we use and see where we can save in our homes and community.</p> <p><i>For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your descendants and My blessing on your offspring.</i></p> <p>Isaiah 44:3</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>SDG Goal15: <i>Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world <p>Prayerfully consider how you can contribute to the achievement of this Goal.</p>	

<p>Monday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>We pray that we may all seek to live in harmony and peace with one another and with the natural world. May we recognise the wonder and strength of diversity both in the natural world and among all people. May we live in peace with people of all faiths, of all nations, races, cultures and languages. We pray we may rejoice in the variety of people and cultures and languages May we rejoice in the diversity of the natural world that is of such beauty and wonder.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>John 10:1-10 “In this gospel, Jesus offers two metaphors to help show his disciples who he is. He is the shepherd whose sheep follow him because they know his voice, and he is the gate which keeps them safe. To people living in the time and place of Jesus, the words sheepfold, gate, shepherd and flock were common everyday terms</p>  <p>In my life, I have become familiar with such words, having spent several holidays in the Lake District. There I saw something of the reality of sheep farming, the meaning of hard physical work and the beauty of the landscape that resulted. Jesus also speaks of thieves and brigands. Who are the thieves and brigands of today? Who are the ones greedily exploiting God’s earth, taking but not replacing, despoiling but not replenishing? Who are the ones who think only of themselves, forgetting their children, grandchildren, and people living in poverty? Let us all examine our conscience.” Lord, Help us to bring about the Kingdom of God in our world, by living in harmony with nature, and cherishing the earth’s resources. Then we will walk through the gate and meet our Good Shepherd. Amen.</p> <p><i>(This reflection and prayer were written by Kathy McVay, a CAFOD supporter from the Sacred Heart parish, Bristol.)</i></p>

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Light and Darkness, night and day. <i>We marvel at the mystery of the stars.</i> Moon and sky, sand and sea. <i>We marvel at the mystery of the sun.</i> Twilight, high noon, dusk and dawn. <i>Though we are mortal, we are Creation's crown.</i> Flesh and bone, steel and stone. <i>We dwell in fragile, temporary shelters.</i> Grant steadfast love, compassion, grace. <i>Sustain us, Lord; our origin is dust.</i> Splendour, mercy, majesty, love endure. <i>We are but little lower than the angels.</i> Resplendent skies, sunset, sunrise. <i>The grandeur of Creation lifts our lives.</i> Evening darkness, morning dawn. <i>Renew our lives as You renew all time.</i></p> <p><i>The Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue of America</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.</p> <p><i>Isaiah 40:6-8</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Prayer for Animals* O Heavenly Father, protect and bless all things that have breath Guard them from all evil, and let them sleep in peace.</p> <p><i>Albert Schweitzer.</i></p> 
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>In reality, we haven't escaped the gravity of life at all. We are still beholden to ecological laws, the same as any other life-form.</p> <p><i>Janine M. Benyus</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>The marvels of God are not brought forth from one's self. Rather, it is more like a chord, a sound that is played. The tone does not come out of the chord itself, but rather, through the touch of the Musician. I am, of course, the lyre and harp of God's kindness.</p> <p><i>Hildegard of Bingen, attributed, Soul Weavings</i></p>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Restoring the Earth The very process of the restoring the land to health is the process through which we become attuned to Nature and, through Nature, with ourselves.</p> <p><i>Chris Maser, Forest Primeval</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Unlike plagues of the dark ages or contemporary diseases we do not yet understand, the modern plague of overpopulation is soluble by means we have discovered and with resources we possess. What is lacking is not sufficient knowledge of the solution but universal consciousness of the gravity of the problem and education of the billions who are its victims.”</p> <p><i>Martin Luther King</i></p> 
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>28</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Pray for solutions to be found for the protection of our wildlife</p> <p>God our Father, who rules the destinies of men and nations, we thank you for every happening which draws the people of the world nearer together in fellowship and purpose. Grant to all representatives of the nations, on whose word and attitude so much depends, the guidance of your Holy Spirit and the grace of humility, that they may be ready to see a point of view which differs from their own, and keep before them not merely the welfare of their own nation as they see it, but your will for the whole world. This we pray in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ.</p> <p><i>Prayer by Leslie Weatherhead</i></p>

<p>Friday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>"Morning Has Broken"</p> <p>Morning has broken, like the first morning Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird Praise for the singing, praise for the morning Praise for them springing fresh from the word</p> <p>Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven Like the first dew fall, on the first grass Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden Sprung in completeness where his feet pass</p> <p>Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning Born of the one light, Eden saw play Praise with elation, praise every morning God's re-creation of the new day</p> <p>Morning has broken, like the first morning Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird Praise for the singing, praise for the morning Praise for them springing fresh from the word</p> <p>Lyrics – Cat Stevens</p>	
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