










**JAEI**



## October 2017 Environmental Prayer Diary

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| <p><b>Sunday</b></p> | <p>1</p> | <p><b>Reflection from CPLO and the Jesuit Institute</b></p> <p><i>“This is how the name came into my heart: Francis of Assisi. For me he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation; these days we do not have a very good relationship with creation do we?” – Pope Francis</i></p>  <p>“St Francis of Assisi shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them “to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason”. His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists.” – <b>Laudato Si #11</b></p> <p><i>Lord, we ask for the grace to desire to live simply, just as St Francis did.<br/>Help me to see all of your creation as the gift it is, to look at the people in your world with love, and to work for peace in the context in which I find myself.<br/>Amen</i></p> <p><b>Need help starting the prayer?</b><br/>Before you begin, it may be helpful to place yourself in a quiet place and turn off your phone.<br/>Close your eyes and sit quietly for about a half a minute, remembering that you are in the presence of God<br/>It may be helpful just to notice the rhythm of your breath for a few breaths.<br/>Image God inviting you into this time of prayer.</p> <p><b>Need help finishing the prayer?</b><br/>Reflect for a moment on how you are feeling at the end of this time of prayer<br/>Did anything in particular move me today?<br/>Was there anything that felt dry or difficult in the prayer?<br/>Just notice how the prayer affected you, don't judge your response, just be aware of it.</p> <p><b>Reflection prepared by Frances Correia.</b><br/><i>Submitted by Revd Martha Gordon</i></p> |
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| <p><b>Monday</b></p>  | <p><b>2</b></p> | <p><b>World Habitat Day</b></p> <p><b>2017 Theme: Housing Policies: Affordable Homes</b></p> <p>In Resolution 40/202 of 17 December 1985, the UN General Assembly designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day.</p> <p>Access to adequate housing is a global challenge growing fast with urbanization. Around one quarter of the world's urban population continues to live in slums and informal settlements.</p> <p>An increasing number of urban dwellers, especially the poor and vulnerable groups (women, migrants, persons with disabilities and HIV, elder, youth and LGBT) are living in precarious conditions, addressing their housing needs informally, lacking access to basic services and living space, isolated from livelihood opportunities and vulnerable to forced evictions or homelessness.</p> <p>Every day, as people are born in or move to urban centres in search of opportunities, the demand for housing grows. Globally, a billion new houses are needed by 2025 to accommodate 50 million new urban dwellers per year.</p>    |
| <p><b>Tuesday</b></p> | <p><b>3</b></p> | <p><b>Read Matthew 16:21-27</b></p> <p>Have you ever been riding high, thinking at last all is going well, then when the rug is pulled from under you, you fall and it hurts more than ever?</p> <p>Peter was riding high, he was travelling with the Messiah, the one he had been waiting for for so long. Now, here he was, ready to take on the world. Or so Peter thought. When Jesus shared how difficult and painful life would become for them all as he sought to do his father's will, Peter listened but didn't hear. He argued and tried to cling to his dream of a glorious king triumphing in a material world.</p> <p>Does this sound familiar? Things not going as planned and we cling to our ideas rather than embrace the possibilities God offers, to make a wonderful new shared reality. Our ways are not God's ways, God's ways are beyond our human imagining. Yet, we have the words of Jesus to help us understand, if only we can listen and hear.</p> <p>Jesus offers us the perfect model of living our lives for others. Today let us listen, hear and act.</p> <p><i>Lord, allow my ears to listen to the cry of the earth, the voices of my sisters and brothers, those who face the harsh reality of climate change. Lord, allow my voice to speak out for justice and ensure people living in poverty are heard. Amen.</i></p> <p><b><i>This reflection was written by Joy Wanless from Our Lady of Grace parish, Manchester. The prayer was written by Father Michael Fitzsimmons.</i></b></p> <p><a href="https://cafod.org.uk">https://cafod.org.uk</a></p> |


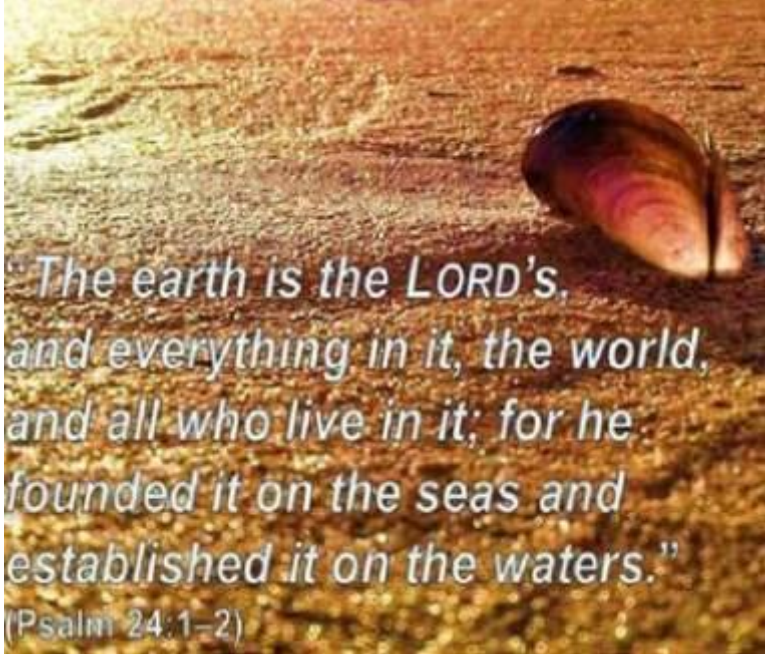
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| <p><b>Wednesday</b></p> | <p>4</p> | <p><b>World Animal Day</b></p> <p><b>Mission of World Animal Day</b></p> <p>To raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe. Building the celebration of World Animal Day unites the animal welfare movement, mobilising it into a global force to make the world a better place for all animals. It's celebrated in different ways in every country, irrespective of nationality, religion, faith or political ideology. Through increased awareness and education, we can create a world where animals are always recognised as sentient beings and full regard is always paid to their welfare.</p> <p><b>A Prayer for Animals</b><br/>(Attributed to Albert Schweitzer)</p> <p>Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering;<br/>for animals that are overworked, underfed and cruelly treated;<br/>for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat their wings against bars;<br/>for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry;<br/>for all that must be put death.</p> <p>We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity,<br/>and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words.<br/>Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals, and so to share the blessings of the merciful.</p>  |
| <p><b>Thursday</b></p>  | <p>5</p> | <p><b>SDG Goal #11: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</li> </ul> <p><b>Pray</b> that this Target may be achieved.</p>   |
| <p><b>Friday</b></p>    | <p>6</p> | <p>“Today the absence of limitations, of restraint, is a rampant malady all around us. It is a kind of madness. We see the madness in the normalised violence of factory farms, in the trashing and biodepletion of the seas, in the the drive to dam the world’s rivers, in the rendering of whole landscapes in pursuit of fossil fuels, and in the insane trading of rainforests for crop plantations and cattle ranches. We see the absurdity of human supremacy. Moreover, we have blindsided ourselves to the loss of so much of the natural world. Mass extinction remains publicly largely unknown, little understood and rarely talked about.” <b>(Eileen Crist)</b></p>  |

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| <p><b>Saturday</b></p> | <p>7</p> | <p>Eileen Crist asks what will emerge when we finally refuse the dogma of human supremacy. “Another way of life will emerge when we embrace another world view – namely, that Earth is a community of unique and exquisite beings, places and cultures; that this planet, inhabited with restraint and respect, is abundant for material sustenance and ravishing for our spirit; and that the more-than-human world, from singing whales to networking fungi, abounds in diverse forms of intelligence, awareness and mind.”</p>  |
| <p><b>Sunday</b></p>   | <p>8</p> | <p>Father, we thank you for the fruits of science and technology. We pray that human technology will never crush the human spirit. We praise you for your great gifts of freedom and inventiveness, and we pray for wisdom to use them aright in your service and for the benefit of all humankind.</p>  |
| <p><b>Monday</b></p>   | <p>9</p> | <p><b>National “Weed buster” week (9-14 October)</b></p> <p>The South African WeedBuster Week is aimed at the management and containment of invasive alien plants. The campaign is an initiative led by the Department of Environmental Affairs through the Environmental Programmes branch, and supported by various partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>Much remains to be done towards increasing public awareness on the issue of invasive alien plants, promoting voluntary pro-active responses and community ownership of initiatives aimed at the management and containment of invasive alien plants (IAPs). WeedBuster Week is aimed at supporting these objectives.</p> <p><b>Action!</b> Here are some really bad invaders aliens that need to be removed from your gardens and communities. They may look really pretty, but they are a huge problem in maintaining our biodiversity – our little part of God’s Creation!!! So take action &amp; take them out!!</p> <p>(For more information and full list of invasive species – visit <a href="http://www.invasives.org.za">http://www.invasives.org.za</a>)</p> <p><b>Yellow Flag Iris</b><br/> <i>Iris pseudacorus</i><br/>  Yellow flag iris forms dense growth along riverbanks and the fringes of ponds, competing with indigenous species and altering water flow. It is a perennial moisture-loving plant with yellow flowers and long, strap-like leaves.</p> <p><b>Bugweed</b><br/> <i>Solanum mauritianum</i><br/>  A shrub or small tree up to 4m high covered with whitish-felty hairs. Dull green leaves that are velvety above and white-felty beneath which emit a strong smell when bruised. Purple flowers in close terminal clusters on densely felty stalks. Round berries which start off green and turn yellow, in compact terminal clusters. Unripe fruits are poisonous</p> <p><b>Indian shot</b><br/> <i>Canna indica</i><br/>  A perennial shrub with erect, leafy shoot. Large green or purple-bronze leaves sheathing the stem. Narrow flowers are red or orange, usually yellow below and the plant produces green, spiny fruits</p> |

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| <p><b>Tuesday</b></p>   | <p><b>10</b></p> | <p><b>National Marine Week (9-14 October)</b></p> <p>National Marine Week is a campaign that aims to educate all South Africans about the role oceans play in their daily lives. It is celebrated every year during the second week of October.</p>  <p>Many aspects of our everyday lives have a negative effect on our seas so we are asking members to take action to help marine wildlife. Plastic has an especially negative impact on our oceans – ultimately impacting not only the environment, but our own lives.</p> <p>In a moment of quiet reflection - reflect on how you can reduce your plastic consumption and encourage others to do the same.</p> <p>To help you with your reflection, check out your current usage with this plastics calculator: <a href="https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/content/plastics-calculator">https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/content/plastics-calculator</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Wednesday</b></p> | <p><b>11</b></p> | <p><b>International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction</b></p> <p>The International Day for Disaster Reduction began in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.</p> <p>Hurricane Irma, the most powerful Atlantic hurricane in recorded history, is still fresh in our minds. The hurricane hit the islands of the northeast Caribbean on Sept. 6, 2017, before roaring along a path to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Florida.</p> <p>As with all natural disasters, no matter where they happen, the devastation and trauma linger long after the disaster itself – it's what happens <b>after</b> the disaster ....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injuries and maybe death of loved ones</li> <li>• Anxiety about safety of loved ones &amp; mourning loss of victims</li> <li>• Lack of food, potable water, electricity &amp; fuel as well as communication interruptions</li> <li>• Short tempers, store looting</li> <li>• Habitat destruction, as well as the neglect &amp; abandonment of animals (both wild &amp; pets)</li> <li>• Dramatic destruction of infrastructure – homes, clinics, schools</li> <li>• Tons of debris to be dealt with</li> <li>• Buildings &amp; structures to be repaired</li> <li>• Pressure on medical facilities</li> <li>• Water-borne diseases</li> <li>• Stench of rotting food and possibly carcasses</li> <li>• Post-traumatic stress</li> <li>• Financial stress &amp; anxiety</li> </ul>  <p>When we are not directly involved – it is so easy to dismiss the impact of natural disasters – let's be aware of what people and the environment go through ... lift them and their situations in <b>prayer</b> and where possible, offer practical assistance.</p> |

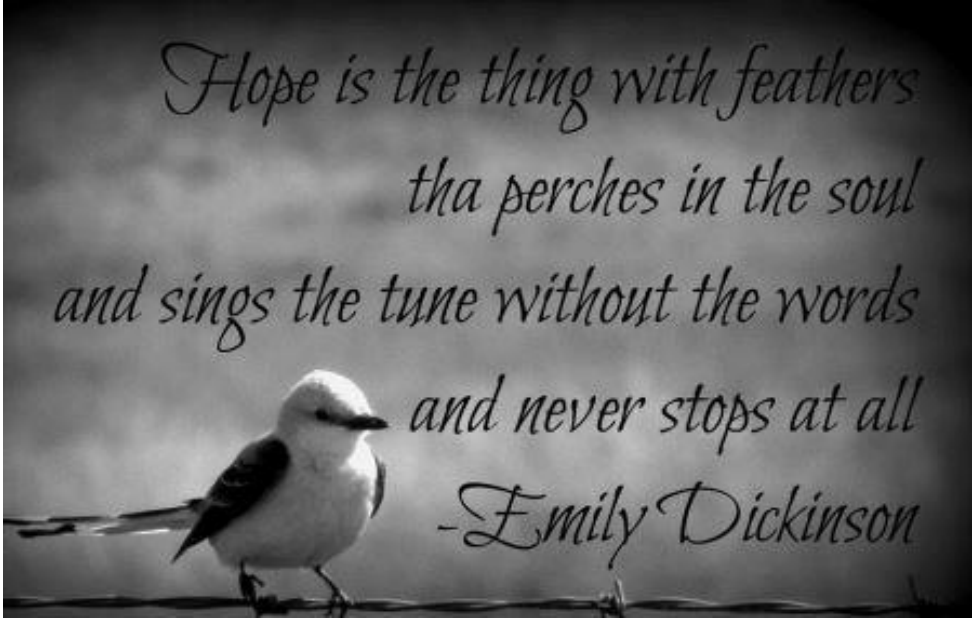

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| Friday   | 13 | <p>Give us, dear Father, a deeper understanding of your purposes, that we may be steadfast amid the turmoil of our times. May our faith never fail, nor our love grow cold, nor our hope become faint. So may we look up and lift our heads as we look for the coming of your Kingdom. This we ask in the name of your Son and our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.</p>  |
| Saturday | 14 | <p><b>SDG Goal #1: <i>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable</li> </ul> <p><i>Pray</i> that this Target may be achieved</p>  |
| Sunday   | 15 | <p><b>Ecclesiastes 3:18-21</b></p> <p>I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?</p>   |
| Monday   | 16 | <p><b>Reflection:</b><br/><i>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</i></p> <p>“25. Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and eco-systemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited. For example, changes in climate, to which animals and plants cannot adapt, lead them to migrate; this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children. There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world. Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded.”</p> <p><i>Prayerfully</i> reflect on this</p> |




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| <p><b>Tuesday</b></p>   | <p><b>17</b></p> | <p><b>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</b></p> <p>The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993, when the United Nations General Assembly, by resolution 47/196, designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries. Fighting poverty remains at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>  <p>The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to “<i>end poverty in all its forms everywhere</i>” explicitly recognizes that poverty results not from the lack of just one thing but from many different interrelated factors that affect the lives of people living in poverty.</p> <p>This means we must go beyond seeing poverty merely as the lack of income or what is necessary for material well-being — such as food, housing, land, and other assets – in order to fully understand poverty in its multiple dimensions.</p> <p><b>Prayerfully</b> reflect on this problem and possible solutions.</p> |
| <p><b>Wednesday</b></p> | <p><b>18</b></p> | <p>Father, we pray today for all who work closely with the natural world:<br/> For farmers and gardeners who grow our food,<br/> For scientists and technologists who probe the secrets of life,<br/> For foresters who plant and harvest trees,<br/> For photographers, artists and poets who capture beauty for others to see,<br/> For conservationists and all who guard the precious heritage of the earth.<br/> Amen.</p>   |
| <p><b>Thursday</b></p>  | <p><b>19</b></p> |  <p><i>The earth is the LORD's,<br/> and everything in it, the world,<br/> and all who live in it; for he<br/> founded it on the seas and<br/> established it on the waters.”</i><br/> (Psalm 24:1-2)</p>   |

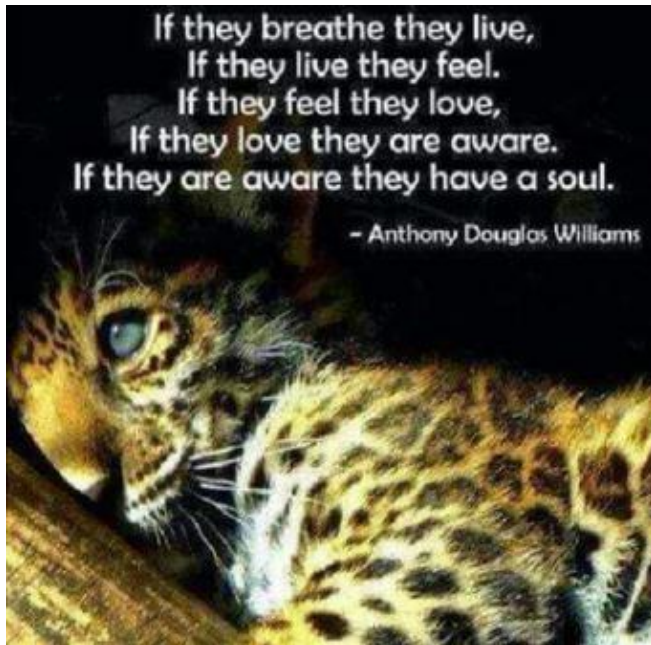
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| Friday   | 20 | <p>Lord, no one can tell what will happen at the next rise of the crest of the waves.<br/>         We wonder why there is turbulence here and there.<br/>         We look up at the sky and see thin clouds break and fly past, responding to an<br/>         uprising storm in the far horizons.<br/>         No one knows why and how they all happen and what they mean<br/>         In trepidation and terror we watch our shores,<br/>         Lest the high waters drown our beaches.<br/>         (A prayer from Tonga)</p>   |
| Saturday | 21 | <div data-bbox="378 426 743 653" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="768 426 1511 653" data-label="Text"> <p><b>JAEI Eco-breakfast</b><br/> <b>(at St Francis Parkview from 08:30)</b><br/> <b>“Bird Conservation in South Africa: successes and challenges”</b><br/> <b>Speaker: Mark Anderson, CEO of BirdLifeSA</b></p> </div> <p><i>Pray for a special blessing on the important work that BirdLife South Africa do for the beautiful birds of our Country.</i></p>   |
| Sunday   | 22 | <p>“Our common home is being pillaged, laid waste and harmed with impunity. Cowardice in defending it is a grave sin.”</p> <p><b>Pope Francis</b></p>  |
| Monday   | 23 | <p><b>Greenpeace’s</b> top tips for reducing the use of plastic are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry only reusable drinks bottles</li> <li>• Say no to plastic straws</li> <li>• Carry your own reusable coffee cup</li> <li>• Choose loose fruit and veg rather than plastic-wrapped</li> <li>• Use the increasing number of reusable plastic containers<br/> <a href="https://zerowastehome.com/app/">https://zerowastehome.com/app/</a></li> <li>• Say no to disposable cutlery</li> <li>• Avoid microbeads</li> <li>• Carry your own reusable shopping bag</li> </ul> |
| Tuesday  | 24 | <div data-bbox="620 1350 1271 1871" data-label="Image"> </div>   |



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| <p>Wednesday</p> | <p>25</p> |   |
| <p>Thursday</p>  | <p>26</p> | <p>Our little Spaceship Earth is only eight thousand miles in diameter, which is almost a negligible dimension in the great vastness of space.</p> <p><b>R. Buckminster Fuller</b></p>                                      |
| <p>Friday</p>    | <p>27</p> | <p>If we are to use our tools in the service of fitting in on Earth, our basic relationship to nature--even the story we tell ourselves about who we are in the universe--has to change.</p> <p><b>Janine M. Benyus</b></p> |
| <p>Saturday</p>  | <p>28</p> |   |

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| <p><b>Sunday</b></p> | <p><b>29</b></p> | <p>“It takes a universe to bring humans into being, a universe to educate humans, a universe to fulfil the human mode of being. More immediately, it takes a solar system and a planet Earth to shape, educate, and fulfil the human.”</p> <p><b>Thomas Berry</b>, “Alienation,” in The Sacred Universe.</p>   |
| <p><b>Monday</b></p> | <p><b>30</b></p> | <p>The rise in attacks on people and groups working to protect environmental and indigenous human rights has been attributed to the heightened demand for natural resources around the world.</p> <p>Globally, it has never been more dangerous to take a stand against companies that grab natural resources and damage the environment. Murder is just one of a range of tactics used to silence defenders—many more who take a stand in defence of their land, livelihoods, environment and rights are violently attacked, sexually assaulted, intimidated, harassed, subjected to aggressive legal tactics and criminalized for it. Extractives, including mining and oil projects, remain the most dangerous sector but murders associated with logging and hydroelectric dams are also on the rise.</p> <p>The rise in attacks on people and groups working to protect environmental and indigenous human rights has been attributed to the heightened demand for natural resources around the world. As the global need has grown for energy, food and consumer goods, businesses have sought new territories to expand their production.</p> <p>Predatory and corrupt business practices that lead to human rights abuses and environmental damage are not exclusive to transnationals; they are replicated by national and local private companies, and even by state-owned enterprises. Public officials often profit personally by facilitating business demands. Local populations are rarely consulted in any meaningful way, even though the expression of free, prior and informed consent is mandated in some newly adopted constitutions as well as by international law.</p> <p>Despite legislation like ILO 169, indigenous rights over land, air and water have typically been ignored or, at most, dealt with as annoying side issues.</p> <p>All over the world, communities reacting in defence of their life sources have faced widespread violations of their human rights. Instead of receiving the government protection they’re entitled to, they have frequently seen state and non-state actors join forces to repress them. The growth in demand for natural resources has made the environment a new frontline for human rights and our common future.</p> <p><b>Please read the full article - <a href="http://www.ngopulse.org/article/2017/09/21/rising-attacks-environmental-defenders-threaten-human-rights-goals-globally">http://www.ngopulse.org/article/2017/09/21/rising-attacks-environmental-defenders-threaten-human-rights-goals-globally</a></b></p> <p><b>Prayerfully reflect on this very serious matter.</b> These atrocities against the defenders of the environment as well as the environment itself, needs to be covered in deep and reflective prayer!</p> |

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| <p><b>Tuesday</b></p> | <p><b>31</b></p> | <p><b>A Summer Blessing</b></p> <p>May you walk with God this summer –<br/> in whatever you do;<br/> wherever you go.<br/> Walking with God means...<br/> walking with honesty and with courage.<br/> Walking with love and respect and<br/> concern for the feelings of others.</p> <p>May you talk to God this summer<br/> on every day and in every situation.<br/> Talking with God means...<br/> praying words of praise<br/> for the beauty of creation.<br/> Saying prayers of thanks for friends<br/> and good<br/> times.<br/> Asking God's help in all your<br/> decisions.<br/> Expressing sorrow<br/> when you have failed.<br/> May you talk with God every day.</p> <p><b>Amen.</b></p> |
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