





JAEI

August 2019 Environmental Prayer Diary

(Women's month)

(The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you)

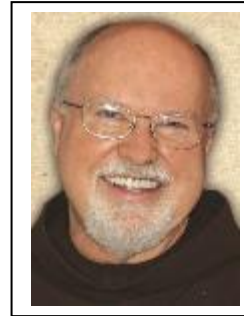
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>1</p>	 <p>fb.com/be.positive.enjoy.life</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Dear loving Father, we are sorry For destroying your world For the pollution of the sea and for pouring gallons of oil into it every year For the car fumes in the atmosphere, for acid rain and all the things it destroys For the destruction of animals and their homes, and for litter in the streets. Please help us to make our world a better place. Amen.</p> <p>Geraldine Murphy Aged 10</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>“For me, one of the major reasons to move beyond just the planting of trees was that I have tendency to look at the causes of a problem. We often preoccupy ourselves with the symptoms, whereas if we went to the root cause of the problems, we would be able to overcome the problems once and for all.”</p>  <p>Wangari Maathai</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>God of harvest, gardener supreme, you place us at the centre, feed us, equip us and having provided for us look to a different harvest, a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others. God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us, that our lives might bring glory to you.</p>

Monday

5

Mother God

Why does it matter whether our image of God is masculine or feminine or even a non-binary gender? One reason is that it makes it easier for us to recognize the divine in us, whatever our gender. When we over-emphasize masculine traits of the divine, many women, transgender, and intersex persons feel less-than, that their voices and bodies don't matter as much as men's, that God's image is not in them.



Marcus Borg points out many other good reasons to identify and honor the female (as well as non-gendered) images of God throughout the Bible:

- Male images for God are often associated with power, authority, and judgment. When used exclusively, they most often create an image of a punitive God. God must be appeased or else.
- Male images for God most often go with patriarchy—with male primacy and domination in society and the family.
- Male images of God most often go with domination over nature. Nature is often imaged as female (“mother earth”) and domination over women extends to a rapacious use of nature.

Female images of God suggest something different. God is the one who gave birth to us and all that is. God wills our well-being, as a mother wills the well-being of the children of her womb. God is attached to us with a love that is tender and that will not let us go. And like a mother who sees the children of her womb threatened and oppressed, God can become fierce.

It is also important to realize that male and female metaphors for God are not intrinsically incompatible. God as “father” can be compassionate. This is the point of the parable of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). So also in both Old and New Testaments, “the Lord” whom we are to love with all our heart, strength, and mind is also *compassionate*—a word whose semantic associations in Hebrew mean “womb-like.”

Moreover, just as God as Lord is demanding, so is God as Wisdom/Sophia. Both images of God combine imperative and compassionate. It's not that one issues an imperative and the other one doesn't. The difference between “the strict parent” and “the nurturing parent” is *not* that the latter doesn't care about what happens. The nurturing parent—“Wisdom/Sophia”—teaches a way, indeed the way.

“The way”—the way of wisdom—is also what “the father” at his best teaches. The issue is not that mothers are better than fathers, but that a particular way of imaging “father” can produce a distorted form of Christianity—as if Christianity is about meeting the requirements of an authority figure who will punish us if we don't get it right.

Christianity is not about avoiding punishment or gaining reward. It is about loving God and loving what God loves. And what God loves is the whole of creation.


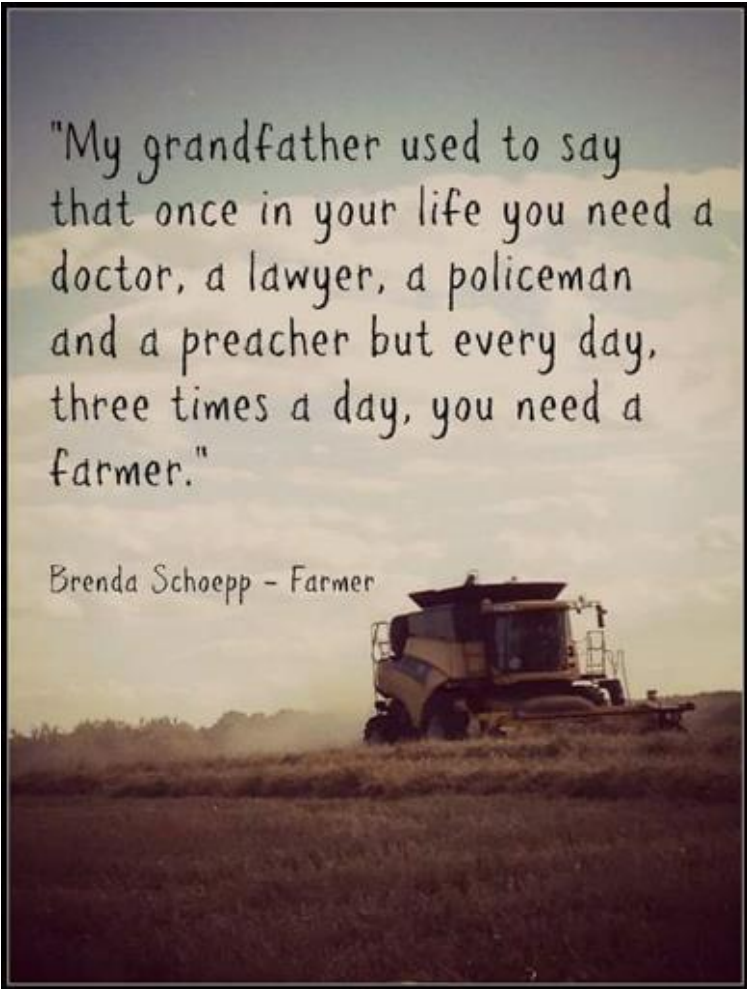
To love well, it seems to me (Richard), that one usually needs both feminine and masculine qualities.



Gateway to Silence:

I am created in God's image.

From Richard Rohr's daily meditations

www.cac.org

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere • Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation • Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation • Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate • Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life  <p><i>Pray that these goals may be achieved.</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>7</p>	 <p>"My grandfather used to say that once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman and a preacher but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer."</p> <p>Brenda Schoepp - Farmer</p>

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>“I know I can walk through the world, along the shore or under the trees, with my mind filled with things of little importance, in full self-attendance. A condition I can't really call being alive.”</p> <p><i>Mary Oliver</i></p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Women's Day</p> <p><i>From water stewardship, environmental programmes, sustainable seafood initiative, anti-poaching, environmental education, field ranger, to researcher and everything in between - many people are not aware of the many faceted roles that goal play in the conservation space.</i></p> <p><i>On Women's Day – we salute all women who do exceptional on-the-ground conservation work to save threatened and endangered species (often at a risk to their own lives) in South Africa for the benefit of all.</i></p> <p>God of all, who created the heavens and the earth Who separated the waters from the land Who brought forth vegetables and fruit trees of every kind Who spoke light into existence Who created creatures of the land, earth, and sea Who formed both men and women in your very own image Endowing both with gifts and wisdom, strength and beauty to be used for the perfecting of your kingdom</p> <p>Our God, we thank you We thank you for the gifts and skills that you have freely given to each of us While we pay particular attention to the varied and abundant gifts of women among us Whose work, talent, sacrifice, and wisdom especially in caring for your Creation Often goes unnoticed and taken advantage of</p> <p>On this day, we not only take notice But we affirm, lift up, and loudly proclaim the gifts of our women the strength of our teenaged daughters the inquisitiveness of our little girls the wisdom of our grandmothers and the necessity of each in order to live more fully into our humanity.</p>	

Saturday

10

World Lion Day

Mention the word “lion” and one immediately visualise a majestic lion with magnificent mane striding across the open plains, roaring loudly and stalking its hapless prey. A trip to Kruger Park hardly seems complete unless we have seen a lion!

Sadly, many people here and around the world are unaware that the global wild lion population is in worrying decline. Over the last 20 years the lion population in Africa has been decimated, and forecasts for the future are not too bright. A couple of decades ago there were around 200,000 wild lions in Africa. Today, the latest surveys estimate that there are fewer than 25,000.



But for many *Panthera Leo*, the reality is more devastating. It is estimated that more than two-thirds of South African lions are reared as captive animals, many for trophy hunting, a nefarious practice opposed around most of the world. While some lion cubs are bred ethically in legitimate conservation programmes, many others are severely mishandled. Many of these poor farmed lions are ultimately destined for paid hunting. On canned hunting farms, young lions are ripped from their mothers as cute young cubs, cooed over by paying public, and then mistreated and kept in tight enclosures until they are released into a larger compound, only to be cruelly gunned down or shot with an arrow while trapped in a baited cage. Their bones will make their way to the Far East where they will often be sold on the black market as tiger bones. Throughout their short lives they are often poorly fed and suffer high levels of stress – and they almost always end up pale and emaciated before meeting their unfortunate end.

This unethical and cruel treatment of these magnificent creatures as well as human encroachment, poaching, lion poisoning, illicit trade in lion bones and human/lion conflict have become a grave concern, prompting educational and awareness campaigns to save the king of the jungle.

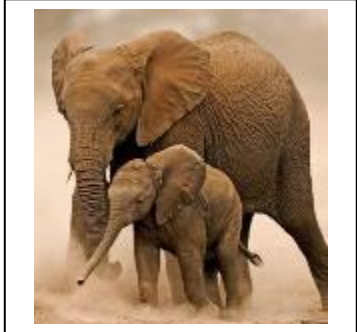
What can you do to help the conservation of Africa’s most famous animal?


- Do some research into canned lion hunting and become disgusted by this industry. Get motivated to do your bit.
- Resist the urge to pet those cute little cubs. No matter what you are told – lions cannot be released back into the wild. South Africa does not have enough sanctuaries to take them. Very few lions have been rehabilitated and released back into the wild. Some lions have been rehabilitated (Elsa, the lioness of “*Born Free*” being the most famous), but it is a very costly and time consuming process.
- Raise awareness of the plight of these magnificent creatures and to urge people to help in whatever way they can.
- Pray for all involved in lion conservation and awareness.

Just think, Africa just wouldn’t be the same without lions.

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise and our hands to share. May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread and our footsteps be worthy of following, for they lead to you.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>World Elephant Day</p> <p>This day asks you to help conserve and protect elephants from the numerous threats face.</p> <p>The elephant is loved, revered and respected by people and cultures around the world, yet we balance on the brink of seeing the last of this magnificent creature. Elephants are the world's largest land animals and one of our most iconic species and are one of the few animals on earth that can recognize themselves in a mirror - which means that they have a sense of self, distinct from others! They are capable of complex thoughts and deep feelings, including love, anger and sadness.</p> <p>Elephants are a keystone species, playing an important role in maintaining the biodiversity of the ecosystems in which they live. They flatten forests and dense grasslands, creating habitat for smaller species. African elephants also dig water holes, which are used by other species. Elephants travel long distances in search for food, dispersing seeds contained in their waste along the way, helping to generate new green growth. In some areas, species of plants and trees rely entirely upon elephants for seed dispersal for their survival.</p> <p><i>We admire elephants in part because they demonstrate what we consider the finest human traits: empathy, self-awareness, and social intelligence. But the way we treat them puts on display the very worst of human behaviour.” Graydon Carter, Editor of Vanity Fair</i></p> <p><i>“Elephants are simply one more natural resource that is being caught up in human greed on the one hand and human need on the other. We somehow need people to become reacquainted with nature or they can have no clue as to the interrelatedness of cause and effect.”- Dr. Stephen Blake, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology</i></p> <p>The goal of International Elephant Day is to create awareness of the urgent plight of elephants – both African and Asian, and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants. African elephants are listed as "Vulnerable" and Asian elephants as "Endangered"</p>


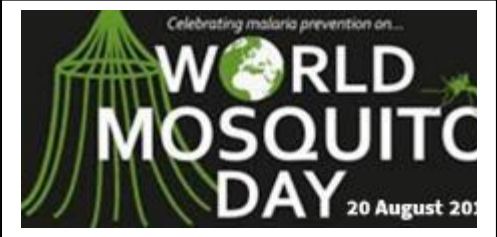


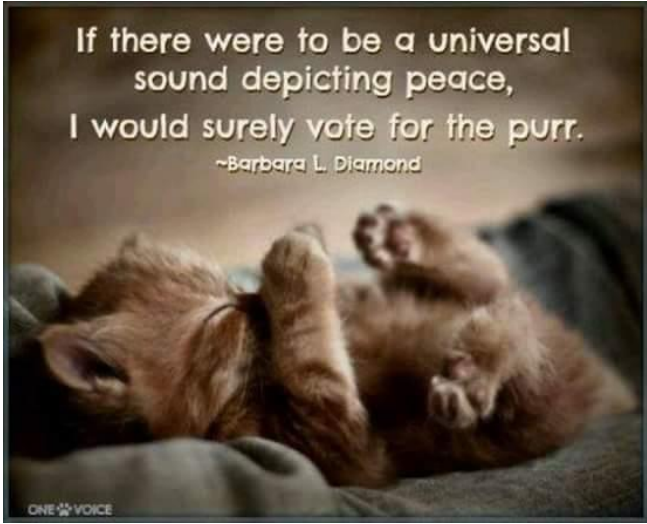

		<p>on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. Could it be that these iconic gentle giants face extinction within twelve years?</p> <p>The demand for ivory, which is highest in China, leads to the illegal poaching elephants. With the street value for ivory now exceeding that of gold, are elephants facing a poaching epidemic. Over 20,000 African elephants are poached every year.</p> <p>Habitat loss due to deforestation, increases in mining, and agricultural activities has become increasingly problematic. Human-elephant conflict is a significant concern, as human populations increase and forest cover decreases, forcing elephants into close proximity with human settlements. Incidents include crop damage and economic losses, as well as both elephant and human casualties. The fragmentation of habitat also creates isolation - this makes breeding more difficult and allows poachers to find them more easily.</p>  <p>As icons of the continent elephants are tourism magnets, attracting funding that helps protect wilderness areas. They are also keystone species, playing an important role in maintaining the biodiversity of the ecosystems in which they live. Elephants are already feeling the impacts of global warming and climate change. Droughts lead to food shortages and reduced habitat. Droughts also disrupt the mating season, which leads to fewer offspring.</p> <p>What can we do to help?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of elephant's plight any way you can. • Don't buy ivory and inform others why they shouldn't either. • Support conservation efforts. • <i>Pray continuously</i> for everyone involved in conserving these gentle giants!
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>“Believe that you can make a difference; in fact, you do with every single choice you make. Your money is your power and each time you spend it, it’s a vote for something, so make it count. I personally live and work by this African Proverb – If you think you’re too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a room with a mosquito.”</p> <p><i>Lisa Borden</i> <i>Founder Borden Communications</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Eternal God, the light of all who know you, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us speak when many keep silent, help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference. Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. <i>Amen.</i></p> <p><i>Anne Kelsey</i></p>



<p>Thursday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> “How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world?” - Anne Frank </p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad Let the distant shores rejoice By your word all things were created each in its allotted space and time. You breathed life through your Spirit and in the whisper of the wind we are reminded of your Spirit's continual presence.</p> <p>The Lord reigns let the earth be glad Let the distant shores rejoice The whole of creation declares your glory, Lord. A symphony of sound and colour surround us if we will for a moment stand with eyes and ears attuned.</p> <p>The Lord reigns let the earth be glad Let the distant shores rejoice The whole of humankind declares your glory, Lord. Each precious son or daughter a unit of love in the currency of your family.</p> <p>The Lord reigns let the earth be glad Let the distant shores rejoice Now in our worship we declare your glory, Lord. Proclaim your Kingdom to the ends of the earth your love to the highest mountain your forgiveness to the depths of the sea.</p> <p>The Lord reigns let the earth be glad Let the distant shores rejoice</p>

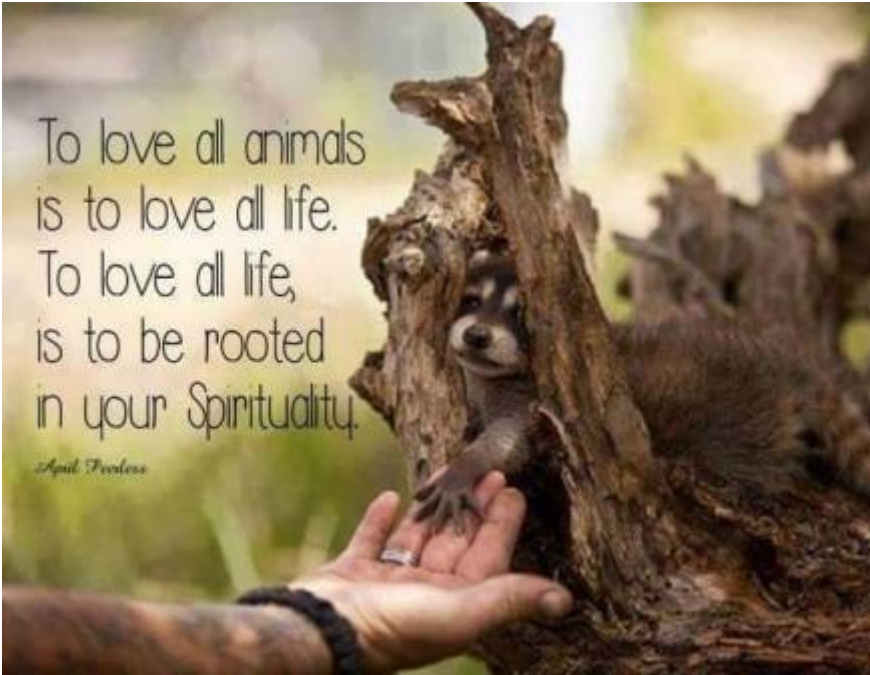
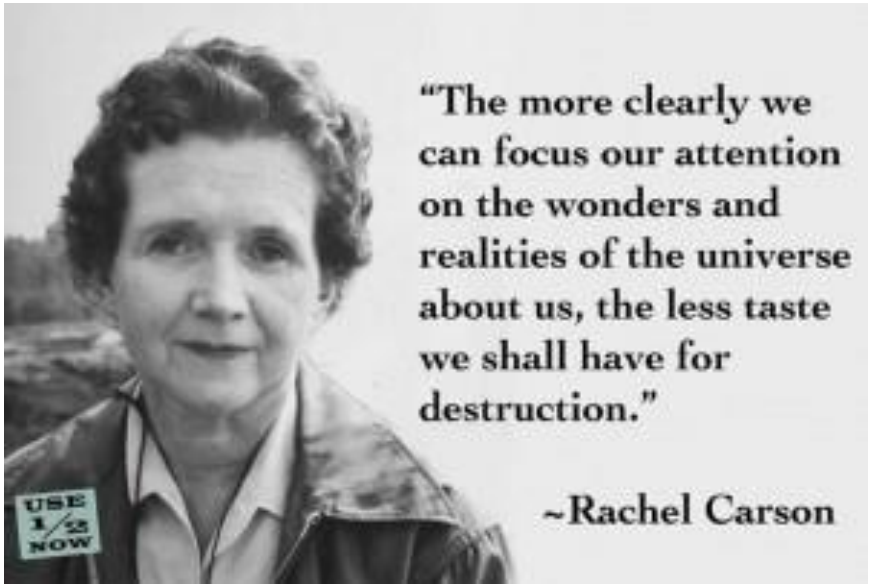
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>Morning Has Broken</p> <p><i>The hymn "Morning Has Broken" originally appeared in the second edition of Songs of Praise (published in 1931), to the tune "Bunessan", composed in the Scottish Islands. English poet and children's author Eleanor Farjeon was "asked to make a poem to fit the lovely Scottish tune." as there was need for a hymn to give thanks for each day,</i></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>Cool the grey clouds roll, peaking the mountains, Gull in her free flight, swooping the skies. Praise for the mystery, misting the morning, Behind the shadow, waiting to shine.</p> <p>I am the sunrise, warming the heavens, Spilling my warm glow over the earth. Praise for the brightness of this new morning, Filling my spirit with Your great love.</p> <p>Mine is a turning, mine is a new life, Mine is a journey closer to You. Praise for the sweet glimpse, caught in a moment, Joy breathing deeply, dancing in flight. (repeat)</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask Your forgiveness where we have failed to be just stewards. And we now ask for Your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God. Amen</p>



<p>Monday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>The earth is at the same time mother, she is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human. She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all. The earth of humankind contains all moisture, all verdancy, all germinating power. It is in so many ways fruitful. All creation comes from it. Yet it forms not only the basic raw materials for humankind, but also the substance of Incarnation.</p> <p><i>Hildegard of Bingen</i></p> 
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>World Mosquito Day</p> <p><i>“Whilst World Mosquito Day is an opportunity to appreciate the fascinating biology of these creatures, we can also reflect on the challenges that lie ahead in monitoring and controlling mosquitoes and the diseases they spread.” - Dr Frances Hawkes, Research Fellow and Entomologist</i></p>  <p>Way back in 1897, Sir Ronald Ross discovered the link between mosquitos and malaria transmission. World Mosquito Day is held to salute this ground-breaking work which paved the way for the many scientists following him to find ways to overcome this scourge. World Mosquito Day aims to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented, as well as fundraising for research into the cure of malaria.</p> <p>Mosquito-borne diseases have been recorded in human history for thousands of years as major causes of disability and death. The critical link of the malaria parasite to the <i>Anopheles</i> mosquito also showed that practical measures to prevent mosquito bites and control mosquito populations- - vector control - could be used to prevent malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya and West Nile fever.</p> <p>Rapid urbanisation, increases in international trade and travel, climate change and changing agricultural practices are all contributing to the increases in mosquito and other vector-borne diseases. History shows that vector control efforts need to be continuously supported by all countries to maintain expertise and capacity. This is essential to detect threats, prevent resurgence of deadly diseases and cope with new outbreaks of diseases.</p> <p>Pray for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continued breakthroughs in research involved with mosquito-borne diseases</i> • <i>For the many people affected by and infected with these diseases</i> • <i>For the necessary funding to be available for combating this problem</i>

<p>Wednesday 21</p>	
<p>Thursday 22</p>	<p>Daughters of Zelophehad</p> <p>The five daughters of Zelophehad – Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah – came to Moses with a concern over how the Promised Land was to be divided in relation to their family. Referenced in the Book of Numbers, these young women stood fearless and firm and as result reformed the culture of their day. Because they spoke up they reversed precedent and claimed possession of their father's inheritance. The case of Zelophehad's daughters expanded the legal rights of women. Due to the ruling regarding the daughters of Zelophehad, women were included in the list of eligible heirs of property.</p>  <p>Numbers 27</p> <p>27 The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah. They came forward ² and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said, ³“Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among Korah's followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his own sin and left no sons. ⁴Why should our father's name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father's relatives.”</p> <p>⁵ So Moses brought their case before the LORD, ⁶ and the LORD said to him, ⁷“What Zelophehad's daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father's relatives and give their father's inheritance to them.</p> <p>⁸“Say to the Israelites, ‘If a man dies and leaves no son, give his inheritance to his daughter. ⁹ If he has no daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers. ¹⁰ If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers. ¹¹ If his father had no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan, that he may possess it. This is to have the force of law for the Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses</p>

<p>Friday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Reflection: <i>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</i></p> <p>75. “A spirituality which forgets God as all-powerful and Creator is not acceptable. That is how we end up worshipping earthly powers, or ourselves usurping the place of God, even to the point of claiming an unlimited right to trample his creation underfoot. The best way to restore men and women to their rightful place, putting an end to their claim to absolute dominion over the earth, is to speak once more of the figure of a Father who creates and who alone owns the world. Otherwise, human beings will always try to impose their own laws and interests on reality.”</p> <p><i>Prayerfully</i> reflect on this</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>“We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls.</p> <p><i>Mother Teresa</i></p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences • Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws • Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women • Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels <p><i>Pray that these goals may be achieved.</i></p> 

<p>Monday</p>	<p>26</p>	 <p>To love all animals is to love all life. To love all life, is to be rooted in your Spirituality.</p> <p><i>April Foolness</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people’s lives and sustainable development. Major progress has been made towards increasing access to education at all levels and increasing enrolment rates in schools particularly for women and girls. Basic literacy skills have improved tremendously, yet bolder efforts are needed to make even greater strides for achieving universal education goals. For example, the world has achieved equality in primary education between girls and boys, but few countries have achieved that target at all levels of education.</p> <p>Reflect on this issue and pray that a solution will be found to this problem</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>28</p>	 <p>“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”</p> <p>~Rachel Carson</p> <p>USE 1/25 NOW</p>

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, have mercy on us in our perplexity as we confront the challenges of the many environmental crises we face. Help us to look at our consumer choices in the light of your biblical truths, to determine where we stand, and then to take whatever action seems necessary to protect your precious earth, for which your Son gave his life. Amen</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”</p> <p><i>Romans 1: 19-20</i></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>31</p>	