



JAEI

October 2026 Environmental Prayer Diary

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

Thursday	1	October is Bat Appreciation Month Bat Appreciation Month takes place every year during October to coincide with the weird beliefs of Halloween – the so-called spooky season - making it an ideal time to replace bat myths with real facts. Bats are essential for a healthy planet because they control insect populations, pollinate key plants, and help regrow damaged forests. Bats eat massive amounts of insects consuming up to their own body weight in insects every single night. Bats are very partial eating mosquitoes and other pests that annoy people and spread disease and will also devour crop-damaging pests, which in turn, reduces the need for harmful chemical pesticides. In their nightly feeding, fruit bats help in the pollination of night-blooming flowers. They are particularly partial to the flowers of the African Sausage Tree (<i>Kigelia Africana</i>) and Wild figs (<i>Ficus</i> species). Bat droppings, (guano) is a rich, natural fertilizer that helps plants and soil thrive. We can all appreciate and protect bats in South Africa by learning about their vital role in natural pest control and supporting local conservation efforts. We can also ban pesticides from our gardens and let these amazing little creatures do the heavy lifting of pest control! <i>Give thanks for these special little creatures!</i>
Friday	2	National Marine Month National Marine Month, celebrated throughout October in South Africa, focuses broadly on raising awareness about coastal and marine environments, with related 2026 initiatives like World Ocean Day emphasizing the global action theme "Strong Marine Protected Areas for Our Blue Planet". South Africa's different climatic zones and biodiversities, agricultural and economic activities, are shaped by the availability of one of our scarcest resources, namely fresh water. Our oceans face significant threats such as climate change, rising temperatures, sea level rise and ocean acidification, overfishing and poaching.



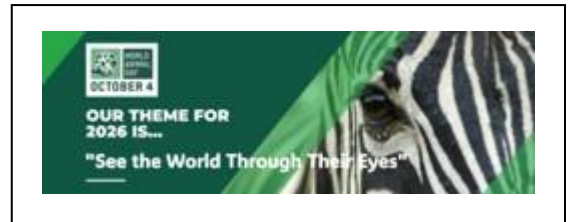
The tiny Cape Serotine Bat weighing-in at roughly a whopping 4 grams can munch about 2000 mosquitoes in a night!



Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat can be found in a Gauteng garden



		Pollution in the form of plastic and waste and industrial hazards threatens the whole ocean eco-system, as does coastal development. During this Marine Month (and indeed every month ...) we need to appreciate the vital link between healthy oceans and climate/rainfall patterns which in turn are so important to our very well-being. <i>Prayerfully consider the many ways the oceans impact our lives.</i>
Saturday	3	World Animal Day (St Francis Day) (4 October) <i>2026 theme "See the World Through Their Eyes."</i> The purpose of World Animal Day is to raise the status of animals, improve global welfare standards, and encourage people to consider how animals experience our changing planet. In a planet continually affected by a changing climate and the consequences of human activity, it is important to remember that it is not just us that are impacted – it's animals too. We often make decisions and think to the future from a human-centric stance. But what about viewing things from a different pair of eyes? Environmental crises like climate change, habitat destruction, and pollution severely harm wildlife by destroying homes, disrupting food and water supplies, and driving steep population declines. Global wildlife populations have plummeted by an average of 73% over the past 50 years. This striking statistic comes from the landmark WWF Living Planet Report of 2024, which monitors thousands of vertebrate species worldwide. South Africa has fared somewhat better, but recent assessments indicate that about 20% of mammal species in South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini face extinction risks due to human induced pressures such as habitat loss, climate stress, illegal trade and introduced alien invasives. Animals experience environmental crises not as global political issues, but as direct, painful, and confusing disruptions to their daily survival. We need to respond to environmental crises affecting animals by cutting emissions, protecting natural habitats, and ensuring our own sustainable daily habits. <i>Prayerfully consider how we need to change our lifestyles to be in harmony with nature.</i>
Sunday	4	All creatures of our God and King All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and let us sing; Alleluia! Alleluia! Bright burning sun with golden beam, Pale silver moon with softer gleam,



O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Great rushing winds that are so strong,
White clouds above that sail along,
O praise him! Alleluia!
Fair rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O stars of evening, find a voice!
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Swift flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Fierce fire so masterful and bright,
Providing us both warmth and light,
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfolds rich blessings on our way,
O praise him! Alleluia!
The flow'rs and fruits that in you grow,
Let them his glory also show!
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All you that are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part.
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
All you that pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God, and on him cast your care!
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And you, most kind and gentle death,
Waiting to hush our final breath,
O praise him! Alleluia!
You lead back home the child of God,
Where Christ our Lord the way has trod:
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship him in humbleness!
O praise him! Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

History. The hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" is based on "Canticle of the Sun," a poem written by St. Francis of Assisi in 1225. This poem, also known as "*Laudes Creaturarum*" or "Canticle of the Creatures," is a hymn of praise to God for all of creation. The hymn's lyrics, as we know them today, were adapted from St. Francis's poem by William Henry Draper (who at the time was rector of a Church of England parish church at Adel near Leeds) in the early 1900s, and the tune was arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1909 based on the German hymn from 1623 - "*Lasst Uns Erfreuen*,"

[Listen](#)



Monday	5	World Teacher Day Dear God, Grant our teachers an abundance of Your wisdom. Prepare their hearts to welcome and love our students, and give them grace when facing challenges. Give them courage to speak truth, strength when they feel weak, and patience for every diverse learning style in their classroom. When they feel unseen or tired, remind them that their work leaves a lasting impact on generations to come. Bless their minds, protect their families, and fill their classrooms with peace, joy, and mutual respect. In Jesus' name, Amen. 
Tuesday	6	Reflection from CPLO and the Jesuit Institute <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> “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.” – Laudato Si #11 <i>Lord, we ask for the grace to desire to live simply, just as St Francis did. 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. Amen</i> Need help starting the prayer? Before you begin, it may be helpful to place yourself in a quiet place and turn off your phone. Close your eyes and sit quietly for about a half a minute, remembering that you are in the presence of God It may be helpful just to notice the rhythm of your breath for a few breaths. Imagine God inviting you into this time of prayer. Need help finishing the prayer? Reflect for a moment on how you are feeling at the end of this time of prayer Did anything in particular move me today? Was there anything that felt dry or difficult in the prayer? Just notice how the prayer affected you, don't judge your response, just be aware of it. Reflection prepared by Frances Correia. 

Wednesday	7	May we be alert to the thirst for power, which destroys... Help us to challenge short-sighted greed. Help us to address unjust structures and practices and change our relationship with Creation to one of care. We have a vision. We have courage. We have the presence of the Risen One whose power to love is greater than all the powers of destruction. May we together bring peace to planet earth, its many creatures and many peoples. <i>Archbishop Winston Halapua</i> <i>Bishop of Polynesia</i>
Thursday	8	
Friday	9	Father, we pray today for all who work closely with the natural world: For farmers and gardeners who grow our food, For scientists and technologists who probe the secrets of life, For foresters who plant and harvest trees, For photographers, artists and poets who capture beauty for others to see, For conservationists and all who guard the precious heritage of the earth. Amen.

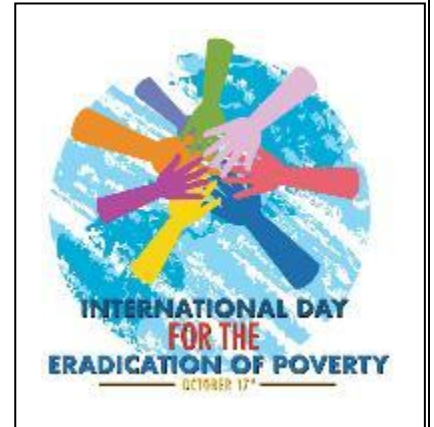
Saturday	10	World Migratory Bird Day (2nd of 2) (11 October) 2026 Theme: “Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter!” In early May, the first of the World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated to bid “safe travels” to so many of our migratory birds. Now we have the exciting opportunity to give them a warm welcome back! We can enjoy our cuckoos, paradise flycatchers and other wonderful birds announcing their presence in our gardens. Again, you can be involved in conservation-focused projects that contribute to long-term monitoring and research, such as community science programs, coordinated bird counts, or public events that build awareness of how sustained data collection supports migratory birds. Even small, regular observations can add value when they are part of a larger, ongoing effort to track populations over time. In South Africa, the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2) co-ordinates this large-scale citizen science project launched in 2007, managed by the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology to map bird distributions across South Africa, Lesotho, and Namibia. Volunteers (citizen scientists) use the <i>BirdLasser app</i> to record sightings within 5-minute "pentad" grid cells. Every bird counts! Make a difference by counting birds for conservation!  <i>Diederik Cuckoo</i>
Sunday	11	Creator God, we thank you that out of the earth and sea we receive provision for all our needs. We thank you for the skills in harvesting the earth's resources that people have passed on from generation to generation. We thank you for those through whose vision and work the products of the earth are channelled into areas of need. Help us to use your gifts for the extension of your kingdom here on earth and for the benefit of our fellow-humans.
Monday	12	

Tuesday	13	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction 2026 Theme: “Resilience Starts at Home.” The rising cost of disasters reflects the growing impact of climate change and poor development choices. Globally, countries face increasingly severe natural events, driven by extreme weather and risk-blind planning. Of all physical assets impacted by disasters, nothing is more personal than one’s home. It is where we sleep, care for families, and build our daily lives. At the same time, households are the smallest unit of society, where everyday decisions influence how well people can anticipate, withstand and recover from disaster risks. Rooted in the people-centred focus of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the theme underscores that home is both where disasters are most acutely felt and where resilience must begin. Globally, disasters damage or destroy millions of homes each year, displacing families and deepening poverty. Yet resilient housing is achievable, and the choices that determine whether homes are safe involve every level of society. Governments play a central role in setting risk-informed land-use plans, enforcing building standards, and ensuring that risk information reaches all communities. The private sector shapes where and how homes are built, financed and insured, while households themselves are key agents of their resilience when equipped with the knowledge and resources to act, from understanding local hazards to knowing what to do when a warning is issued. <i>Take some time to consider your own risk assessment. Prayer for people who have been negatively affected by the many natural disasters that have befallen so many across the globe.</i>
Wednesday	14	“Odd as I am sure it will appear to some, I can think of no better form of personal involvement in the cure of the environment than that of gardening. A person who is growing a garden, if he is growing it organically, is improving a piece of the world. He is producing something to eat, which makes him somewhat independent of the grocery business, but he is also enlarging, for himself, the meaning of food and the pleasure of eating.” Wendell Berry <i>The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays</i>
Thursday	15	



Friday	16 World Food Day 2026 theme: "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow." World Food Day 2026 is calling for innovation to transform agrifood systems and end hunger. Despite enough food being produced, millions still lack access to healthy diets. By combining science, technology and local knowledge, and investing in partnerships, we can build resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems for all. Combining modern science, technology, and traditional knowledge to improve agrifood systems and ensuring equitable access to safe, diverse, and nutritious foods while protecting the planet. Food security is an undeniable threat that we face. To this end, South Africa is transforming its food systems through climate-smart agriculture, community-led production, and digital innovations to ensure long-term food security. Farmers across South Africa are adopting AI-guided weeding, drone scouting, and data-driven nutrient plans to increase yields while protecting soil and water under changing weather patterns. The CSIR have developed advanced technologies, tools and processing techniques to improve the performance of the agriculture sector – both in primary production and the secondary processing of agricultural produce. Grassroots initiatives—such as school aquaponics programs and local poultry and vegetable cooperatives in provinces like Limpopo and the Eastern Cape—are empowering youth and supplying affordable produce directly to vulnerable households. Stakeholders are scaling up food recovery networks like FoodForward SA to redistribute edible surplus food, alongside research into traditional food preservation and processing of indigenous crops   Civil society and government bodies are actively collaborating through framework updates, such as workshops for the upcoming national food strategies, to tackle systemic poverty and nutritional gaps We are not large-scale farmers, but we can ensure our fresh produce is sustainably sourced. Where possible, shop directly at local eco-conscious markets and choose suppliers that use verified sustainable farming methods. We need to ask those tough, uncomfortable questions of our local stores. "<i>Farming</i>" in our own backyards also ensures that our produce is sustainable and fresh. <i>Pray for all those who don't have sufficient food to satisfy their hunger and consider ways in which you can help.</i>
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Saturday	17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty In 2026, the theme will continue to emphasize global solidarity and the need for inclusive policies that uplift marginalized communities and ensure equal opportunities for all. This calls for urgent global as well as local action to address the economic, social, and political systems that perpetuate inequality. By fostering an environment where the voices of the impoverished are heard and respected, the global community can work towards solutions that eradicate poverty and promote human dignity. The seven most common causes of poverty globally are lack of education, conflict, hunger and malnutrition, lack of access to clean water and healthcare, economic inequality, and natural disasters Families in poverty often face stigma and punitive practices in places meant to help such as schools, clinics, welfare offices, and child protection systems. Single mothers and historically discriminated groups report judgment and control that erode trust, sometimes culminating in poverty-driven family separation with lasting emotional and social harm to children and parents. Supporting families advances multiple SDGs through coherent, jointly delivered policies across social protection, education, health, housing, and employment. As individuals, supporting grassroots organisations by donating financially or with time can be hugely beneficial. Listening to the voices of marginalized people - amplifying their stories instead of speaking for them - is also valuable. Learn about systemic inequality, discrimination, and global issues. Talk about these topics with friends and family. <i>Prayerfully consider what action you are called to take.</i>
Sunday	18	National Garden Day Garden Day is a chance for people across the country to down tools and celebrate their gardens. Everyone can take part, regardless of the size of their gardens – rolling lawns, potted windowsills, urban rooftops and patio planters – all are welcome. Thank you, Creator God, for this garden Earth. Working God, thank you for our hands and the tools we use to till the soil, to plant the seeds and bulbs, to weed our gardens and allotments. Strengthen us to tend this garden, your earth, with loving care. Amen.



Monday	19	Week/Invasive Species week Invasive species are causing billions of Rands worth of damage to South Africa's economy each year. Invasive alien plants (IAPs) pose a direct threat not only to biodiversity, but also to water security, the ecological functioning of natural systems and the productive use of land. They intensify the impact of fires and floods and increase soil erosion. IAPs can divert enormous amounts of water from more productive uses and invasive aquatic plants, such as water hyacinth affect agriculture, fisheries, transport, recreation and water supply. It is estimated that invasive plants cover about 10% of the country. National Invasive Species Week aims to raise awareness and increase public understanding around invasive plants and animals. Everyone can participate by removing invasive plants from their garden or by joining a local community hack group to remove invasives from their neighbourhood. <i>Do your bit for God's Garden this week!</i>  
Tuesday	20	<i>"The actions we take today will directly impact the future. We must produce more with less. Let's work towards a future that is more inclusive and more equitable."</i> FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu, <i>World Food Forum</i> 
Wednesday	21	National Reptile Day Whilst not necessarily an internationally observed day, this day can be dedicated to raising awareness about reptiles and their importance in ecosystems. It's a chance to learn about the challenges they face, like habitat loss and poaching, and to celebrate their unique adaptations. Traditional myths sometimes associate reptiles with witchcraft or bad omens, contributing to intentional persecution. Reptiles are much maligned in South Africa - especially snakes and lizards – and frequently suffer from deep-seated cultural myths, fear, and unjustified killing despite playing vital ecological roles. Public perception often assumes that every snake is a venomous danger to their very existence, where in fact the exact opposite is true. Reptiles, especially snakes, are crucial to a healthy eco-system. South Africa is home to over 170 snake species of which only a small percentage possess venom that poses a serious threat and the chances of one of these appearing in your garden is very small. Projects like the Southern African Reptile Conservation Assessment actively work to improve public understanding of these species for better conservation outcomes. 

		An important facet of this project is public participation. Reptiles in particular are in dire need of a public facelift. An improved understanding and appreciation for this much maligned group is essential for effective conservation. The SARCA not only work at educating members of the public about reptiles but also actively encourage the public to help collect distributional data. Anyone with email and a camera can take part, by sending in photos of animals and accompanying locality data to the project at sarca@adu.org.za . Detailed instructions on how to participate are on the project websites. The African Snakebite Institute has a very handy snake identification guide which is available as a free download from Google or Apple PlayStore or from their website. <i>Learn to respect and appreciate our reptile friends!</i>
Thursday	22	A Summer Blessing May you walk with God this summer – in whatever you do; wherever you go. Walking with God means... walking with honesty and with courage. Walking with love and respect and concern for the feelings of others. May you talk to God this summer on every day and in every situation. Talking with God means... praying words of praise for the beauty of creation. Saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times. Asking God's help in all your decisions. Expressing sorrow when you have failed. May you talk with God every day. <i>Amen.</i> 
Friday	23	Mystics and Non-Dual Thinkers <i>“There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.” -Thomas Merton</i> The inner life of quiet, solitude, and contemplation is the only way to find your ground and purpose now. Read this passage by Thomas Merton, from his book <i>New Seeds of Contemplation</i>, slowly, imaginatively. Picture the scenes he describes using all your senses. Recall times when you have witnessed God at play, moments when you have joined in the “general dance.” Make space in your day or in the coming week to intentionally forget your small self and participate in the universal joy of simply being alive. “What is serious to men is often very trivial in the sight of God. What in God might appear to us as “play” is perhaps what he Himself takes most seriously. At any rate, the Lord plays and diverts Himself in the garden of His creation, and if we could let go of our own obsession with what we think is the meaning of it all, we might be able to hear His call and follow Him in His mysterious, cosmic dance. We do not have to go very far to catch echoes of that game, and of that dancing. When 

		we are alone on a starlit night; when by chance we see the migrating birds in autumn descending on a grove of junipers to rest and eat; when we see children in a moment when they are really children; when we know love in our own hearts; or when, like the Japanese poet Bashō we hear an old frog land in a quiet pond with a solitary splash—at such times the awakening, the turning inside out of all values, the “newness,” the emptiness and the purity of vision that make themselves evident, provide a glimpse of the cosmic dance.” For the world and time are the dance of the Lord in emptiness. The silence of the spheres is the music of a wedding feast. The more we persist in misunderstanding the phenomena of life, the more we analyze them out into strange finalities and complex purposes of our own, the more we involve ourselves in sadness, absurdity and despair. But it does not matter much, because no despair of ours can alter the reality of things; or stain the joy of the cosmic dance which is always there. Indeed, we are in the midst of it, and it is in the midst of us, for it beats in our very blood, whether we want it to or not. Yet the fact remains that we are invited to forget ourselves on purpose, cast our awful solemnity to the winds and join in the general dance. Gateway to Silence: “We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent and the divine is shining through it all the time.” —Thomas Merton Richard Rohr <i>Centre for Action and Contemplation</i> (cac.org)	
Saturday	24	“When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook. When love is the way, the Earth will be a sanctuary.” Bishop Michael Curry	
Sunday	25	Prayer of Compassion O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers the animals to whom thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of life. St. Basil the Great, 330-379	

Monday	26	Earthworm Day Yes, there is a special day to celebrate our wriggly friends! Earthworms are the unsung champions of the soil. In healthy ecosystems, they can move up to 10–20 tons of soil per acre each year, continuously mixing and enriching it. As they tunnel through the ground, they create channels that let air and water reach plant roots. At the same time, they recycle decaying matter into casts that are several times richer in nutrients than the surrounding soil. These tiny engineers help gardens and farms thrive by stimulating beneficial microbes, improving drainage, increasing drought resistance, and storing carbon in the soil. Want to support them? Feed the soil with organic matter, disturb it as little as possible, avoid harsh chemicals, and keep it slightly moist. While exact numbers vary, scientists estimate trillions of earthworms live worldwide, working quietly beneath our feet to keep the planet's soil alive. <i>Celebrate World Earthworm Day by learning more about earthworms, starting a worm farm, or simply appreciating the work they do in your garden.</i> 
Tuesday	27	World Sustainability Day (26 October) World Sustainability Day highlights global environmental awareness - a healthy planet, thriving economy, and people's wellbeing. The three Core Pillars of Sustainability are: • <i>Healthy Planet:</i> Protecting natural resources, reducing carbon emissions, and supporting biodiversity (#14 Life Below Water, #15 Life on Land). • <i>Thriving Economy:</i> Promoting eco-friendly business models, sustainable supply chains, and green infrastructure. • <i>People's Wellbeing:</i> Ensuring community resilience, public health protection, and equitable access to clean energy and water. Each one of these pillars sound very academic and beyond our reach, however they can be implemented by everyone! Here's how: • <i>Reduce Waste:</i> Minimize single-use plastics and embrace reusable containers and bags. • <i>Conserve Energy:</i> Lower household and office power consumption by shifting to LED lighting and smart climate controls. • <i>Support Local Initiatives:</i> Engage with community recycling programs, tree-planting drives, or local sustainable enterprises. <i>In other words – it boils down to reducing our environmental footprint in every way we can!</i> 

Wednesday	28	God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mystery of our fragile planet we celebrate the wonders of Earth as our home. Help us to discern how we have polluted our planet and show us how to empathize with the groaning of creation. Teach us to sense the presence of God pulsing through Earth as a living green blue sanctuary. Teach us to love Earth as our home. In the name of Christ, the Word of God, who is the creative impulse in all creation. Amen
Thursday	29	Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship Chapter Five INTERNATIONAL POWER 170. I would once more observe that “the financial crisis of 2007-08 provided an opportunity to develop a new economy, more attentive to ethical principles, and new ways of regulating speculative financial practices and virtual wealth. But the response to the crisis did not include rethinking the outdated criteria which continue to rule the world”.^[147] Indeed, it appears that the actual strategies developed worldwide in the wake of the crisis fostered greater individualism, less integration and increased freedom for the truly powerful, who always find a way to escape unscathed. 171. I would also insist that “to give to each his own – to cite the classic definition of justice – means that no human individual or group can consider itself absolute, entitled to bypass the dignity and the rights of other individuals or their social groupings. The effective distribution of power (especially political, economic, defence-related and technological power) among a plurality of subjects, and the creation of a juridical system for regulating claims and interests, are one concrete way of limiting power. Yet today’s world presents us with many false rights and – at the same time – broad sectors which are vulnerable, victims of power badly exercised”.^[148] 172. The twenty-first century “is witnessing a weakening of the power of nation states, chiefly because the economic and financial sectors, being transnational, tend to prevail over the political. Given this situation, it is essential to devise stronger and more efficiently organized international institutions, with functionaries who are appointed fairly by agreement among national governments, and empowered to impose sanctions”.^[149] When we talk about the possibility of some form of world authority regulated by law,^[150] we need not necessarily think of a personal authority. Still, such an authority ought at least to promote more effective world organizations, equipped with the power to provide for the global common good, the elimination of hunger and poverty and the sure defence of fundamental human rights. <i>Prayerfully consider how this affects our Country</i>



Friday	30	Psalm 65 ¹ Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled. ² You who answer prayer, to you all people will come. ³ When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions. ⁴ Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. ⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, ⁶ who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, ⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. ⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. ⁹ You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. ¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. ¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. ¹² The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. ¹³ The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.
Saturday	31	AN AFRICAN BLESSING <i>Author - The late Bishop Eric Pike</i> May the call of the Hadedas awaken you to God's presence. May the exquisite beauty of the Lourie open your eyes to the wonder of God's Magnificent Creation. May the scurrying and the business of the Guinea Fowls inspire you to walk as Jesus walked. May the evocative call of the Fish Eagle point you to the empowering of God's Holy Spirit. May the rising of the sun bring to your mind the mighty resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the heat of the Noonday Sun cause you to bend your knee in prayer for our continent. May the shade of the Acacia Tree remind you that The Lord will walk with you through the shadows. May our lofty Mountains point you again and again to The Lord Jesus Christ, who is The Rock that is higher than us. May our rivers and streams lead you to drink even more deeply from His well of Life. May our dry parched landscapes cause your heart to pant for the cooling streams of God's Spirit. May the brightness of the Moon at evening tide so lighten your spirit that you may know the peace and serenity of contentment in Jesus Christ. May the twinkling of the Stars in the Milky-way and the poise of the Southern Cross cause you to fall on your knees in adoration of The One who was lifted on the cross for you. And to Him - Creator of it ALL, Be all praise and glory for ever and ever. AMEN.