

This year, we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ...

The 1<sup>st</sup> Earth Day held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1970 sought to raise awareness about our role in protecting nature and celebrating our environment.

## 2020 theme Climate Change



**SETTING:** Put on a ritual table a globe or a picture of Earth & some symbol that reflects your ties with Earth.

**READING: Gen 1: 9 - 12, 24 - 25**

*And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ... And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ... And God saw that it was good.*

### REFLECTION

God made human beings in the divine image and likeness. Can we not recognize that sky, streams, soil and seasons all reflect the majesty of the Creator? Help us, O God, to respect and protect all of your creation, remembering that you created it and gave it to us for our "common home". May we learn to be ever more good stewards of this Earth you have entrusted to us. May we find ways to pay homage to our Earth by our actions. Let us say again the prayer for the 31<sup>st</sup> General chapter: "God of fire ... enflame our hearts with love for all your creation: enkindle in us care for the cosmos and our Earth, ...".

### QUIET

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Consider more specifically issues in your immediate area. What are the challenges? What is being done? How can you contribute to these efforts ... personally?... on a communal basis?



2. How is COVID-19 affecting Earth? In what way is its rampage inviting us to ponder more deeply the Paschal Mystery? What learnings, as a human community, can we draw from this difficult situation?
3. Read the end section on “things to do” and bring your own suggestions. What will you do?

## A PRAYER for our EARTH

As we observe Earth Day on April 22, while we live the global reality of COVID-19, we have every reason to pray and advocate for everyone to protect life and to care for the future.



Vimeo of another prayer for Earth  
from *Laudato Si'*  
<https://vimeo.com/265810625>

## THINGS TO DO

- Re-read parts of *Laudato Si'* and reflect on the meaning of ‘integral ecology’. Plan to do something during *Laudato Si'* week, which is May 16-24. <https://bit.ly/2XwQPN1>
- Read up on the situation in the Amazon and the Pope’s plea for this region of our Earth..
- Plant a garden. Plant wildflowers! Invite native bees to your garden.
- Conserve water ... avoid over-watering. Reduce dependency on bottled water and drinks.
- Help clean up your community - pick up litter in a local park, along a roadway or in your neighborhood.
- Plant a tree. Donate a tree to a non-profit. Ask your local government to plant more trees.
- Cut back on plastic consumption! Learn how to reuse and re-purpose everyday household items.
- Share rides. Go transit when possible.