

CGI: International Youth Day 2019 Prayer and Reflection

Reflection 1:

Pope Francis has declared a global “climate emergency”, warning of the dangers of global heating and that a failure to act urgently to reduce greenhouse gases would be “a brutal act of injustice toward the poor and future generations”.

“Future generations stand to inherit a greatly spoiled world. Our children and grandchildren should not have to pay the cost of our generation’s irresponsibility,” he said, in his strongest and most direct intervention yet on the climate crisis. Pope Francis (2019)

The Pope’s plea came as he met some of the world’s oil company leaders in the Vatican in June 2019. Bob Dudley, chief executive of BP, said after the Vatican meeting: “The world needs to take urgent action to get us on a more sustainable path and it is critical that everyone plays their part – companies and investors, governments and individuals. This requires all of us to come together, build understanding and collaborate to find solutions. Constructive dialogues such as this meeting are essential in aligning key players on the steps needed to accelerate the energy transition while still enabling advances in human prosperity. I am grateful to his Holiness for continuing to support this critical engagement.”

- Why is climate change so important to Pope Francis?
- Do you believe all the information you are confronted with?
- What thoughts or feelings does this stir in you?

Reflection 2:

Charity:

Charity is the summary of the Law – the greatest of all the virtues: thus it is the most difficult to exercise. It is easy to say that you love your neighbour as yourself, but how are you responding to the frequent calls on you to be charitable in word and in deed and in attitude. The secret of true charity? To SEE God in everyone and treat them as you would treat Him.

- What is your definition of the word ‘charity’?
- Do you consider acting sustainably and being environmentally friendly acts of charity? Why?
- If ‘the secret of true charity is to SEE God in everyone and treat them as you would treat Him’ do you think your current lifestyle (e.g. recycling, carbon footprint....) reflects acting in a charitable manner?

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Holy God, earth, air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.

Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change.

Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Source: *The Anglican Church of Australia*

The Be-Attitudes

Blessed are those who use low energy light bulbs, for theirs is the light of God's wisdom.

Blessed are those who travel by train (and other public transport), for their lives are on God's track.

Blessed are those who chose a car with low fuel consumption, for they are in God's fast lane.

Blessed are those who insulate their homes, for theirs is the warmth of God's love.

Blessed are those who put themselves out to use energy from renewable sources, for they have kindled the flame of the future.

Source: www.greenfaith.org

Adapted from John Polhill, © Eggs and Ashes, WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow.

A Prayer of Intercession on Climate Change

Leader: We pray for people living with the effects of climate change. For the sake of those facing rising temperatures, drought and water shortages,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of those facing unpredictable weather, disrupted seasons and failed crops,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of those facing flooding, land loss and salination of vital water supplies,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of all those who fear the changing climate,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of the poor, the vulnerable, and the refugee

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of us all,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, recreate our hearts that we might partner with you to renew this damaged world.

Source: www.greenfaith.org