

Sample Reflection, Prayers for Pilgrimage of Hope 2025



A. Reflection at a site of Ecological Destruction

The world is charged with the grandeur of God. *Love* loves us into being. We belong to and in God's creation. This sacred belonging calls us to care for the Earth—as a core expression of our faith.

When our relationships with creation, each other, and God are broken, all suffer. Environmental harm today impacts human health, intensifies natural disasters, and impedes our witness to the Gospel—especially our call to stand with and serve those who are made poor by our global 'diseconomy'.

As Pope Francis teaches in *Laudato Si'*, environmental degradation disproportionately affects the vulnerable. This is our Gospel call. But awareness of the Church's teaching in this area remains limited. Just one in ten Catholics says they truly understand what environmental justice means, and most have never encountered *Laudato Si'*. This *Jubilee Year of Hope* and the *tenth anniversary* of *Laudato Si'* is a time of both opportunity and urgency.

We can and must work and pray to repair and restore our relationship with God through the healing of our relationship with creation. This work is not separate from our spirituality—it is essential *to it*.

This is why we are joining **Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation**. In these journeys, we embrace the earth not only physically, but also in spirit. We grieve the pollution and devastation. We walk together—with *LOVE*, with creation, and with one another—renewing, reconciling, and sharing responsibly. People of all ages, races and identities express together our faith-in-action.

B. Sample Litany Prayer for Pilgrims of Hope for Creation

Holy Mary, Mother of God, you who baked bread for Jesus and Joseph, we bring to you our polluted soils that grow our wheat ... *Pray for us*.

Saint Joseph, Protector of workers, we bring to you the laborers who work in factories and mines and never see the sun ... *Pray for us*

Saint James the Apostle, we pray a blessing on all pilgrims, ... *Pray for us*

Saint Christopher, Patron of travelers, bless all who travel to their place of pilgrimage ... *Pray for us*

Saint Francis of Assisi, Patron saint of ecology, help us to see all creation in divine *LOVE* ...

Pray for us

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, patron saint of ecology and care of creation, we bring to you our throw away society ... *Pray for us*

Saint Carlo Acutis, first millennial saint, influencing youth and evangelizing through social media ... *Pray for us*

St. Brother André whose love healed others . . . *Pray for us*

Saintly Six, Black Americans who loved and cared for all... *Pray for us*

Nicholas Black Elk, Lakota Indigenous who integrated indigenous and Catholic spirituality ...
Pray for us

All you holy saints and angels... *Pray for us*

We proclaim our life's love song: Creator, Healer and Lover of all Creation...

Thank-you for embracing us, our world in LOVE.

Heal and renew us to live in love and compassion.

Glory to You, Awesome, creative, intimate Mystery,
Merciful, compassionate, healing Sophia,
Surprising, tender, loving, gentle Spirit

Divine Fire, all LOVE. In the all-holy, ever present NOW. Amen. Thank-you.

C. Sample Prayers of the Faithful

1. That we, Pilgrimages of Hope for all Creation, may be enkindled in our relationship with Divine Fire, creation, and one another to spark our own inner commitment and inspire others to care for our Earth Community. *We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.*
2. That we and all Pilgrims of Hope for Creation may encounter Christ in creation and grow in a spirit of solidarity and compassion with those who suffer environmental degradation. *We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.*
3. That all communities' prayer, reflection and action during the pilgrimage, may deepen their bonds with one another and strengthen our commitment to live Catholic Social Teaching locally and globally. *We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.*
4. That our leaders in Church, SSND and society may teach and apply Pope Francis' themes in *Laudato Si'*, to protect the environment, promote justice for marginalized communities, and foster a culture of care for God's creation. *We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.*
5. For those who are most affected by the destruction of creation, particularly Indigenous communities and those on the frontlines of climate change, that *Love* may empower us to listen and *hear* their voices, feel compassion, address their needs, and seek justice for all of creation. *We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.*
6. For the healing of the earth, that through our prayer, reflection, and action during Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation and beyond, we may restore ecosystems, protect

biodiversity, and use natural resources responsibly as God passionately desires. *We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.*

7. That those who feel disconnected from nature or lack access to the beauty of God's creation, may experience the healing power of nature and increase their awareness of God's presence in all things. *We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.*
8. In this tenth Anniversary Year of Laudato Si', that all people may collaborate to give future generations the gift of Earth with cleaner land, water, and air . . .healed, restored, and teeming with life. *We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.*
9. Inspired by St Francis of Assisi in this 800th year anniversary of his Canticle of the Creatures, that we may safeguard biodiversity, protect and restore even the smallest of the species, for not one of them is forgotten in God's sight.
We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.
10. In this Jubilee Year, may all encounter the Risen Christ personally and strengthen bonds of *Love* with each other and the rest of Creation. *We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.*
11. That all who have died, especially those who have suffered due to environmental destruction, may live in universal communion in *Love*, and that their memory may inspire us to Trust and Dare to believe Love's promises, to trust Love and to care for all creation in Love.
We pray to You Love... Love, hear our prayer.

D. Sample Reflective Walk in Residence's Outdoor Areas

Gather in the front lounge. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement. Purpose of the Pilgrimage

Brief prayer to praise creation and to be more caring towards Earth

Pilgrimage: Walk to the garbage collection.

Stop 1: *Story telling by pilgrims*, "What do you want to say about this garbage bins and the care of creation?"

Pilgrimage: Walk along the parking lot.

Stop 2: "What do you want to say about this parking lot and the care of creation?"

Pilgrimage: Walk to the vegetable garden plot and meet the farmer:

Stop 3: "What do you want to say about this place and the care of creation?"

Walk to the Lounge.

Farmer Rus uses the portable mic.

Tell us about your gardening project in Hamilton and here in Waterdown and why you do it.

How is local gardening vital to climate care?
What else do you do to protect the Earth?
What does gardening do for your mental, spiritual, emotional and physical health?
Anything else you want to share

11:20 Sing the **Pilgrimage Song**
Lunch with the Gardener and sing

Sample Pilgrimage Song (Melody is “Ode to Joy”)

What a blessing, what a wonder to be creatures of this Earth:
Graced by mountains, seas and forests, green that nurtures us from birth.
O Great Spirit, help us to live well on this vibrant, sacred ground,
Fill us with the joy of knowing there is mercy all around.

Still a sadness overwhelms us when we see our Earth abused
And all those who suffer with her as they hear their hopes refused.
Some stay blind to all this suffering, some choose not to be informed
Others open up their hearts to listen to the pain endured.

Esta tierra es sagrada, don de Dios, su creación
Uniremos a cuidar a esta bella bendición
Toma mi mano, dame tu fuerza, juntos iremos a sanar
Nuestra única planeta, Casa Común, bello hogar

May fresh courage move us forward in a steady, growing stream
Of concerned and helpful people who can share this precious dream.
Let us lift our hands and voices in a love song for our Earth,
Let us pledge our finest efforts to proclaim her sovereign worth!

Source: Pilgrims of Hope for Creation Pilgrimage Planning Toolkit
[Toolkit- Pilgrims of Hope for Creation \(V1\) \(2\) \(1\).pdf](#)