

STATIONS OF CREATION

WEEK 1: THE GOD OF BLESSING



PRAYER FOCUS: THE GOD OF BLESSING

In the Canticle of the Creation (also called The Canticle of the Sun or The Canticle of The Creatures), St Francis of Assisi praises God for the wonders of our “common home,” the Earth. St. Francis believed that everything in the natural world is a gift, a blessing, from God to be appreciated and valued.

St. Francis’ love for all of life flowed from his experience of deep and intimate joy in the interconnection and interrelationship of all creation.

For Francis, the sun, wind, air, and fire are his brothers, and the moon, stars, earth, and water are his sisters. With St. Francis as our guide, let us walk the Stations of Creation, discovering creation as the first revelation of God’s love and so glimpse God’s Presence that permeates every atom of the Cosmos. Let us walk the Stations in a prayerful spirit of reconciliation and repentance for any ways we do not live in right -relationship with creation.





LAUDATO SI

Pope Francis opens this encyclical with the words “Laudato si’, mi Signore” (Praise be to you, my Lord) from St. Francis’ beautiful Canticle of Creation. Pope Francis notes: “In the words of this beautiful Canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us: ‘Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother earth, who sustains us, and who produces fruits, vegetables and flowers of many colours for us (Laudato Si 1).”

REFLECTION

“Our Sister, Earth, now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of all with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. ... This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Romans 8:22). We have forgotten we ourselves are dust of the earth.” (cf. Gen 2:7) our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. (Laudato Si 2)