



Campus Ministry Online

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Autumn

- Cool Air
- Falling Leaves
- Beautiful Colors
- Short Days
- Praise God

An Autumn Prayer

*We bless you,
God of Seed and
Harvest
And we bless each
other
That the beauty of this
world
And the love that
created it
Might be expressed
through our lives
And be a blessing to
others
Now and always
AMEN*

A new work of mercy: care for creation

In his recent encyclical *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis cautioned that “God gave us a bountiful garden, but we have turned it into a polluted wasteland of debris, desolation and filth.”

“We usually think of the works of mercy individually and in relation to a specific initiative: hospitals for the sick, soup kitchens for the hungry, shelters for the homeless, schools for those to be educated, the confessional and spiritual direction for those needing counsel and forgiveness.” However, when we look at the works of mercy as a whole, “we see that the object of mercy is human life itself and everything it embraces,” the Pope said in his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, published Sept. 1.

Since human life itself and all that it entails naturally includes caring for creation, Francis proposed “a complement” to the two traditional sets of seven corporal and spiritual works of mercy. “May the works of mercy also include care for our common home,” he said, explaining that as a spiritual work of mercy, care for creation “calls for a grateful contemplation of God’s world which allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us.”

As a corporal work of mercy, he said, it “requires simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness and makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.”

The seven traditional corporal works of mercy include concrete acts of charity such as feeding the hungry; giving drink to the thirsty; clothing the naked; sheltering the homeless; visiting the imprisoned; visiting the sick and burying the dead. The spiritual works, on the other hand, entail actions like instructing the ignorant; counseling the doubtful; admonishing the sinner; bearing wrongs patiently; forgiving offenses willingly; comforting the sorrowful and praying for the living and the dead.

Caring for creation, then, marks a new opportunity not only to get a green thumb, but to practice mercy while doing so.

The Pope, he said, “is asking us to live *Laudato Si*. Are we ready to respond to the Holy Father’s invitation – and challenge?”

Mankind is called to “till and keep” the earth in “a balanced and respectful way,” he said, noting that “to till too much, to keep too little, is to sin.”

Francis concluded his message by stressing that despite our faults and the daunting challenges posed by caring for the environment, “we never lose heart.”

The Creator, he said, “does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us...for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward.”

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries

1. The annunciation to Mary that she is to be Mother of the Savior
2. The visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth
3. The nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
4. The presentation of the Infant Jesus in the Temple
5. The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The agony of Christ in the garden
2. The scourging of Jesus at the pillar
3. The crowning with thorns
4. The carrying of the cross
5. The crucifixion and death of Jesus

Glorious Mysteries

1. The resurrection of Jesus
2. The ascension of Jesus into heaven
3. The coming of the Holy Spirit
4. The assumption of Mary into heaven
5. The coronation of Mary

Luminous Mysteries

1. The baptism of the Lord
2. The wedding of Cana
3. The proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The institution of the Eucharist

A Question of Life?

Brief Homily from a former All Star American Football Player, ex-Green Beret, and Millionaire turned Priest:

I have been celebrating Mass at a local parish while the pastor is away the past few weeks. Many of the readings during that time concerned the prophets and their message and trials. I was moved to reflect once again on the prophetic dimension of our Baptism in Christ-Priest, Prophet and King. Several decades ago, the great Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "The prophetic voice of Christ has all but been stilled in the Church today." To the degree we fail in this prophetic mission, the world will sink into oblivion under the increasing weight of its sins.

In my lifetime, the United States has gone from quite a wholesome, rational, and moral country, to one that is largely decadent, irrational, and immoral. Most people seem to be hardened to it, unconcerned that we have a death wish in process.

First it was artificial contraception, then abortion, then partial-birth abortion, then infanticide (all of which have been supported by many liberal politicians at one time or another, even some running for president) not to mention euthanasia, and outright killing of the disabled and sick. Actually, it's even worse. Terri Schiavo wasn't sick. She didn't die from an illness. They killed her by starvation, a very cruel way to die.

Now it's same sex marriage (no transmission of life, no fruit of natural love) and we call it inclusive and just. It is yet another nail in the coffin of a society that is clearly dying. Every stage of life is under assault by the forces of death. From prevention of life through artificial contraception, to abortion-which is homicide by definition in each case (the taking of the life of an innocent human being), and genocide taken as a whole. Preventing life, ending life from the youngest to the oldest. We call it progress. It is a death wish, and we had better watch what we wish for. (for the end of a culture of death is death for all!)

"All that evil requires to prosper is that good men remain silent."

The hour is late. We have had years to change course. Instead, we have obstinately refused and gone from bad to worse. May God have mercy on us, and grant us the courage and strength to act in accordance with that truth.
God bless you,

Fr. John Corapi

Praying the Rosary

The rosary is a form of combined prayer and meditation that has been around for over 1200 years. The origin of the rosary dates back to the ninth century where Irish monks would recite and chant the 150 Psalms of the Bible as a major part of their worship. It was suggested to the people outside the monastery that they recite a series of 150 "Our Father" prayers in place of the psalms.

As this form of devotion became increasingly popular, people started to devise methods in order to keep track of their prayers. At first, 150 little pebbles were placed inside small leather pouches to keep count. Since this method was rather troublesome, a thin rope having 50 knots on it was used instead (it was used three times for a total of 150 prayers). Eventually, the instrument of choice became the use of string with small pieces of wood.

In later years, the Irish monks traveled throughout Europe and brought this form of devotion with them. In some areas, both clergy and lay people began to recite the first part of the "Hail Mary" as part of this devotion. The interpretation of the psalms led to the implementation of special thoughts or meditations being attached to each bead. The prayers of the Rosarium were later broken out into sets of 10 and these groupings became known as decades. Each decade of ten "Hail Mary" prayers would be preceded by one "Our Father".

The thoughts used in the rosary started to become narratives that eventually became used as meditations for each decade of the rosary. These narratives were divided into five Joyful, five Sorrowful, and five Glorious meditations that are referred to as "mysteries". Just recently, in 2002, Pope John Paul II introduced another set of five meditations referred to as the "Luminous Mysteries".