



## *Reverencing the Wonder of Creation: Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Laudato Si'*

Living our vocation to be guardians of God's handiwork  
is essential to a life of virtue;  
it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our  
Christian experience.  
*Laudato Si' § 217*

### Opening Prayer:

God, you are the giver of every good gift, gracious and extravagant in your love. We are called to be women of prophetic hope, loving and knowing you and making you known and loved in this beautiful world you have fashioned. On this tenth anniversary of Laudato Si', we want to celebrate creation, imprinted with your spirit of life and mystery. May we embrace all creatures of this expanding, ever-changing cosmos with love, honor, and respect. May our actions be a reflection of our communion with you, our God, who took on our own flesh, in Jesus, a human creation like us, creature of stardust, shaped in his mother's womb, companion, friend, and brother to all. Amen.

Suggested Song: **Song at the Center** Marty Haugen

**Psalm 8** - adapted from *Psalms for Praying*, Nan C. Merrill

**O God, Giver of all that is good, how wonderful is your name in all the earth!**

When I look at the heavens,  
at the work of your creation,  
at the infinite variety of your plan,  
what is woman that you rejoice in her,  
and man that you delight in him?

You have made us in your image, you fill us with your love.  
You have made us co-creators of the earth:

Guardians of your planet,  
to care for all your creatures,  
to tend the land, the sea and the air we breathe;  
all that you have made, you have placed in our hands.

**O God, Giver of all that is good, how wonderful is your name in all the earth!**

## Readings

Jesus went on to say: “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it with? It is like a mustard seed which a man took and threw into his garden: it grew and became a tree and the birds of the air sheltered in its branches.”  
- Luke 13: 18-19

The myriad of stars that adorn the heavens form different choirs and each star accepts faithfully the influence of the one that is the center. All are under the sway of the sun and all of them together receive the imprint of the supreme, all-powerful will that governs the whole system. All is one because all must bear the image of God. - Jean Gailhac: 21 February 1871

You taught your songs to the birds first, why was that?  
And you practiced your love in the hearts of animals  
before you created humans.  
I know the planets talk at night and tell secrets about you.  
A limb just moved before me, the beauty of this world is causing me to weep.  
– Mira, women poet-saint of India

We want to reveal the tenderness of God as we seek to respond to the cries of the Earth and of those on the margins.  
- 2019 General Chapter Vision Statement

When I am among the trees,  
especially the willows and the honey locust,  
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,  
they give off such hints of gladness.  
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

- When I am Among the Trees, Mary Oliver

Founders are visionaries beyond their time. We want to go back to our foundational history and ask what our Founders would say about *Caring for the Earth* today.

We affirm that our Care of the Earth is in defense of all life. This is at the heart of who we are as RSHM and needs to be expressed in all the dimensions of our life – personal, communal, ministerial and in our lifestyle.

We make this statement aware of all that is happening in the world, all the human crises that are rooted in the lack of respect, care and reverence for Mother Earth. These planetary crises require an urgent call for global solidarity.

-excerpts from JPIC / UN NGO Network Statement January 2025

## Reflection/Sharing

What from the readings touches you at this time? Share a word or phrase that is significant to you.

## Intercessory Prayers (based on the reflective prayer of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*)

**R./ Gracious God, we praise you for you love all creation  
and all creation is a revelation of your love.**

Loving God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of creatures:  
may we embrace all creation with the tenderness of your love. R./

Loving God, you are the artist of creation: give us the strength and courage to protect all life  
and beauty. R./

Loving God, you are friend and lover of the poor: enable us to stand in solidarity with the  
poor, the abandoned, the forgotten of this earth, who are so precious in your eyes. R./

Loving God, you whose image is imprinted in all creation: teach us to be filled with awe and  
contemplation, to reverence the holy ground upon which we stand. R./

Loving God, as RSHM we want to live the faith vision of Jean Gailhac, a mystic and prophet,  
who saw the imprint of your face in all of creation, in others, especially in marginalized  
women and children. R./

## Prayer

God, source of all life, we thank you for the great gift of our earth.

Through your infinite goodness, you have blessed us with an abundant and life-giving  
natural world, capable of nourishing all generations.

Inspired by the example of Pope Francis, give us the humility to remember that we are just  
one part of a vast ecosystem, an integral ecology, which is precious in your eyes.

Encourage us with your Spirit and light, so that endowed with a renewed understanding and  
appreciation, we can assume our responsibility to respect and care for our common home.

Impel us, O God, in the spirit of faith and zeal that marked our founders - Jean Gailhac and  
M. St. Jean - to take significant action wherever we are "so that all may have life." This we ask of  
you through Jesus, who loved your creation and told stories about sparrows, fig trees, lilies, and  
the birds of the air. Amen.

- Manuela Queiros, rshm - inspired by *Laudato Si'*