

## Laudato Si' Week May 17- 24, 2026026

### *From Hope to Action*



*Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems. (LS 61)*

We strive to be artisans of care for one another, for those on the margins, and for our common home.

*- 2025 RSHM General Chapter Statement*

#### Opening Prayer:

Loving God, you are the giver of every good gift, gracious and extravagant in your love. We love you and know you and want to make you known and loved in this beautiful world you have fashioned. Yet we see our earth awaiting the fullness of your revelation, as it groans because of exploitation, greed, and conflict. 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, our companion and friend. Amen.

#### Readings

Jesus said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A farmer throws seed on the land. Night and day, while sleeping and while awake, the seed is sprouting and growing. And when the crop is ready, the farmer begins to reap because the harvest has come." *Mark 4: 26, 27, 29*

Living our vocation to be protectors of Gods handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience. *(LS 217)*

Look at the gardener. After he has cleared the ground, removed the weeds, worked the soil, leveled it off and planted new flowers, is his work finished? No, indeed, it is precisely now that it begins... He has to frequently water the new growth, remove the weeds that would kill the flowers, and remove the insects that would destroy them. You must work tirelessly to have new and rare flowers, like the gardener who is careful of the garden.

*Gailhac - 13 Sept 1880*

We are guardians of creation, not rivals for its spoils. As stewards of God's creation, we are called to act swiftly, with faith and prophecy, to protect the gift entrusted to us."

*Pope Leo XIV to COP 30*

We, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, recognize the sacred commitment we have with our earth and its peoples. As contemplative listeners with a preferential ear to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, we desire to take prophetic action, reflecting our conviction that the earth is God's dwelling, a sacramental communion of creation and re-creation.

*RSHM Deepening our Call to Stewardship of the Planet*

Contemplate God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature-even a caterpillar - I would never have to prepare a sermon: So full of God is every creature.

*Meister Eckhart*

### Reflection/Sharing

What from the readings touches me at this time? Share a word or phrase that is significant to you. What is one action I am doing to be a guardian of creation?

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

**R./ Gracious God, we praise you for 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./

### Concluding Prayer – *adapted from the U.N. Environmental Sabbath Prayer*

God of all goodness, Artisan of Creation, give us hearts to understand: never to take from creation's beauty more than we give; never to destroy wantonly because of greed; never to deny to give our hands for the building of Earth's beauty; never to take from her what we cannot use. Give us hearts to understand that to destroy Earth's music is to create confusion; that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty; that to exploit her fragrance is to disgrace your sacred dwelling; that as we care for her, she will care for us. Amen.