





INTRODUCTION



The jubilee of the earth is biblical – God the Creator knew how much the earth needed to renew, repair and restore herself.























POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION

LET US PRAY THAT THE PLANET'S RESOURCES WILL NOT BE PLUNDERED, BUT SHARED IN A JUST AND RESPECTFUL MANNER.







CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY







OPENING PRAYER

God of Creation, thank you for the wonder of your Creation.

From the beginning, you gave human beings the responsibility of joining you in the stewardship of creation: to care for, protect and guard it.

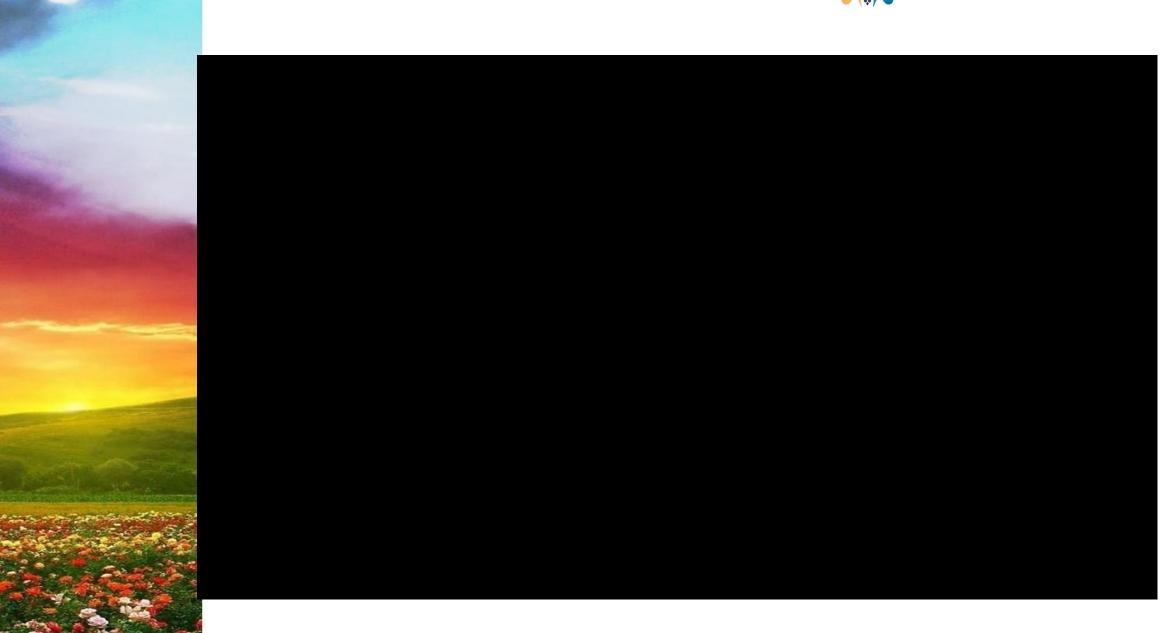
You desired that we may all enjoy your wonders, that humanity may be the bearers of your beauty, and the world may live in equality and solidarity.

Give us today the spirit of trust, take from us all selfishness and greed, and help us to m the damage caused, so that we may live according to your love and in everything there may be harmony and peace.

Give us the strength to live as one family.

Amen.









READING: LEVITICUS 25: 1-4; 8, 10

The LORD said to Moses at Mount Sinai, speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan.





REFLECTION







Moment of silence to name one thing the person would like to commit to do







We pray for the poor, vulnerable, marginalized of our world; those whom we minister to through our apostolates and many we are unable to reach.

That we may always work at promoting their dignity and empowering them to be what you created them to become.







We pray for the earth; Lord as we celebrate the Jubilee of the Earth we pray for forgiveness for the times we have failed to take care of your creation. Forgive us for plundering the resources of the earth.







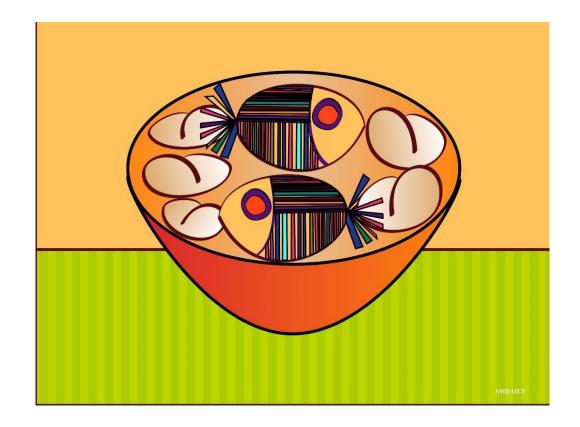
We pray for our leaders, that they may allow themselves to be guided by you to make laws that protect the poor and also the earth. May they work for the good of the earth and of the whole of humanity.







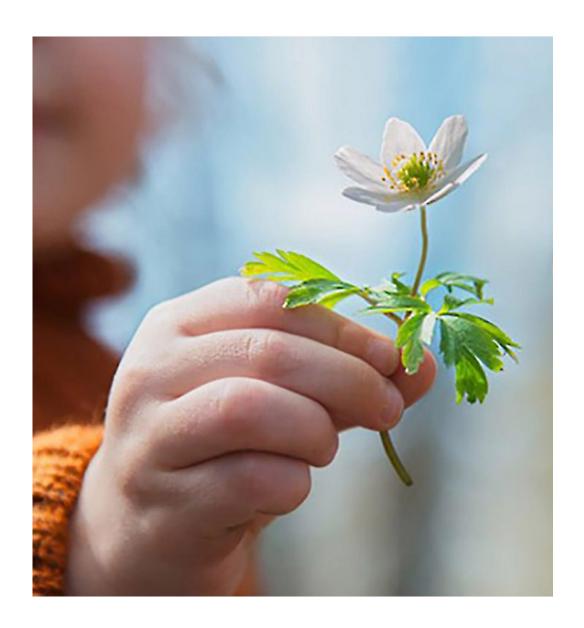
We pray for a true conversion of heart that the spirit of greed and plunder may be transformed to passion and desire for promoting the earth and championing the plight of those who need us the most. May we learn to live with what is enough.







Symbols of our commitment to our common home







CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, during this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our Planet.

Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your Providence.

Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given.

Teach us to be satisfied with enough.

And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send your Holy Spirit that the face of the ear th may be renewed.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.



Amen.

