



**Clelian  
MISSIONARY  
YEAR**  
To Love Is Our Mission!



## **GFASC –Missionary Year – Reflection 9** **To love is our mission**

### **EVERY CREATURE SERVES THE LORD** (Clelia Merloni)

**To love nature is also our mission!**



“O my God, my Creator and Supreme Master, if You have created me to be all Yours, may my only occupation and my only good be to serve, praise, and love You.” (*Diary of Mother Clelia Merloni, p. 197*)

**Mother Clelia** invites us to reflect, and she says that every creature serves, loves, and praises the Lord. Saint Francis of Assisi would sing “Laudato si’, mio Signore”—“Praise be to you, my Lord.”

“The Holy Spirit said to me: “Look, you lazy one, at the ant and learn wisdom from her; look at the stars – they all happily do the Creator’s will; as He decreed, each one shines in its proper place, happy to obey Him. The sky obeys God with an unchanging constancy, always remaining in the place where He put it. Every creature serves the Lord. How is it possible for me not to feel aroused to similar and even greater homage? Will I thus be so ungrateful, thoughtless and rebellious as to be the only one who refuses to serve Him?” (*Diary, pp. 74-75*)

*Nature our common home, is a fascinating world that makes us sing, praise, love, and pray.*



## Week of prayer and reflection on LAUDATO SI' of Pope Francis on care of our common home

*“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”.* 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 and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.” (Laudato Si’ [LS] 1)

In the second chapter of the Encyclical *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis speaks of the “Gospel of Creation” and identifies the

deep need for meaning in life, which sometimes escapes us and takes second place as we are involved in so many other concerns. Life’s demands do not allow us to order our lives on true human and Christian values.

**LS 95.** The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all. If we do not, we burden our consciences with the weight of having denied the existence of others. That is why the New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment “Thou shall not kill” means when “twenty percent of the world’s population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive.”

**LS 73.** The writings of the prophets invite us to find renewed strength in times of trial by contemplating the all-powerful God who created the universe. Yet God’s infinite power does not lead us to flee his fatherly tenderness, because in him affection and strength are joined. Indeed, all sound spirituality entails both welcoming divine love and adoration, confident in the Lord because of his infinite power. In the Bible, the God who liberates and saves is the same God who created the universe, and these two divine ways of acting are intimately and inseparably connected: “Ah Lord God! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard

for you... You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders” (*Jer 32:17, 21*). “The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless” (*Is 40:28b-29*).

**LS 83.** The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ, the measure of the maturity of all things. Here we can add yet another argument for rejecting every tyrannical and irresponsible domination of human beings over other creatures. The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love, and drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator.

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**WORD OF GOD**

Human beings entered into God’s creation just as all the other creatures did. However, they carry within themselves something that makes them greater, even greater than themselves. Human beings belong and are open to God’s world and thus to infinity.

**Genesis 1: 26-31**

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

## **Matthew 5: 13-16**

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

### **SHARING**

Pope Francis asks us: “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? . . . What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?”

### **Pledge**

- To respect and love the environment where we live, our common home. What can I do in my family and wherever I am?

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### **Prayer for Our Earth**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. (Pope Francis)

**My goal is to serve God! (MC)**

