



LAUDATO SI' REFLECTION - APRIL 2020

Resource for personal or group reflection in [Laudato Si' Circles](#).

MONTHLY INTENTION: Bringing New Life from Death

As we enter into the holiest of days, we offer this month's reflection and prayers for all those impacted by the coronavirus. We remember in particular those who have contracted COVID-19, those who have died, and the loved ones who are left behind. We hold in prayer those on the frontlines, our tireless nurses, doctors, all health care personnel, and all those who have continued to stock our groceries, keep our streets clean, and enabled our cities to still run smoothly. Finally, we offer this to the most vulnerable in our world, particularly those in the Global South who don't have the privilege to physically isolate and have to risk getting coronavirus in order to survive.

An Easter Prayer

*Good and gracious God, Our most glorious Creator,
As we greet the signs in nature around us:
Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,
In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,
We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life:
the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ,
that we especially celebrate at this time.
The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright
promise of immortality.
For the Resurrection is our guarantee
that justice will triumph over treason,
Light will overcome darkness,
and love will conquer death.
As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us,
By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among us,
As we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet,
We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives,
change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever.
Amen.
- Fr. Larry Snyder*



Holy Week

MONTHLY SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

*"Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth." (Psalm 104)
"for we know that things can change." (LS, 13)*

Amidst the unfolding epidemic of the coronavirus, one seemingly bright spot is the ecological impact. As production of goods has slowed down and many have eliminated unnecessary travel there is a drastic reduction of air pollution and carbon emissions in certain areas. It is an indication that our actions do have a visible impact on our environment. It shows us that another world is possible.

And yet we know that these ecological benefits could be temporary if we return to business as usual once COVID-19 begins to clear. That is unless we help steer things otherwise. Fr. Joshtrum Kureethadam, the Ecology Coordinator at the Vatican has written that **“The crisis of the present coronavirus could be an opportunity for a new beginning...We need to make sure that the post coronavirus economy should be different and should resolutely follow the path of sustainability, equity, democratic participation, etc.”**



Yet how can we help create this new beginning? **How can we allow this to be an Easter moment, where new life emerges from death?**

To not return to business as usual requires a shift from our previous consumer obsession to one based on simplicity. For many of us, particularly in the Global North, COVID-19 has forced us to live more simply as we have stayed at home. There are stories of people finding creative ways to be with their kids, to reconnect with family and friends, to focus on home-cooked meals, and finding ways to support those most vulnerable in their communities. We can then reflect on, what new life has emerged during this time of darkness? And what is the invitation to continue to nurture this new life, even amidst the coronavirus? Can it be about realigning our lives by our relationships and not things? Can it be about living with “the conviction that ‘less is more’” (LS 22)

Can we imagine what our role might be in shaping a new beginning, where our human and ecological values are at the center?

As we celebrate Easter, let us reflect on the ways that the Spirit is renewing the face of the earth, at this moment, at this time. As Fr. Joshtrum states, “It could be the occasion to launch a green, sustainable, circular and communitarian economy.” Let us pray for the Easter grace to move forward with courage and creativity to help shape our lives and communities anew based on what really matters in life - our relationships with God, our loved ones, brothers and sisters around the globe, and all members of the earth community.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What unexpected ways has new life emerged during your Lenten season? How can these learnings help shape what “a new beginning” might look like in your life and family during the Easter season?
2. What is one Easter action you can do to concretely help create a new beginning for our communities in light of COVID-19?

ACTION OF THE MONTH: Prepare for Laudato Si’ Week: May 16 - 24, 2020



Given our current realities of the coronavirus epidemic, we have now shifted the theme of Laudato Si’ Week to “Everything is connected” to stress our interconnectedness as a global community. We will build a web of solidarity by bringing Laudato Si’ to life through prayer, and reflection through an online conference and a Global Day of Prayer on May 24. Join us for these special events as we

recommit to our values of ecological and social justice as a global family. Details and resources are available at <https://laudatosiweek.org/>.