

**5th of June 2011
World Environment Day**

God Saw That It Was Good

A Day of Prayer



“Within the movement of nature, tranquil and silent but rich in life, there continues to palpitate the original delight of the Creator.”

John Paul II

Sponsored by
The Carmelite NGO
carmelitengo.org

Please feel free to copy and distribute

There is a growing awareness that world peace is threatened not only by the arms race, regional conflicts and continued injustices among peoples and nations, but also by a lack of due respect for nature, by the plundering of natural resources and by a progressive decline in the quality of life.

John Paul II

Psalm 104: 1-9

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord, my God, you are great indeed. You are clothed with majesty and glory,

Robed in light as with a cloak. You have spread out the heavens like a tent;

You have constructed Your palace upon the waters.

You make the clouds Your chariot;

You travel on the wings of the wind.

You make winds your messengers, and flaming fire your ministers.

You fixed the earth upon its foundation, not to be moved; with the ocean, as with a garment, You covered it; above the mountains the waters stood.

At your rebuke they fled, at the sound of Your thunder they took to flight;

As the mountains rose, they went down the valleys to the place You had fixed for them

You set a limit they may not pass, nor shall they cover the earth again.



The Story of Creation according to the Book of Genesis in the Bible. This painting includes many scenes of the creation story within the one frame.

In the Book of Genesis, where we find God's first self-revelation to humanity, there is a recurring refrain:
"And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1-3)

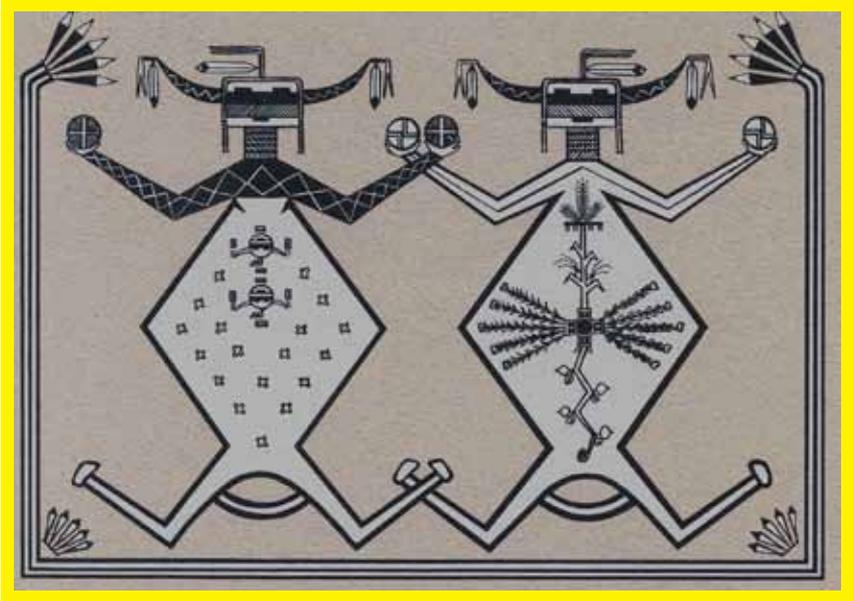
John Paul II

Psalm 104: 10-18

You send forth springs into the water-courses that wind
among the mountains
and give drink to every beast of the field, till the wild
animals quench their thirst.

Beside them the birds of heaven dwell; from among the
branches they send forth their song.
You water the mountains from Your palace;
the earth is replete with the fruit of Your works.
You raise grass for the cattle, and vegetables for our use.

Producing bread from the earth and wine to gladden our
hearts,



Earth and Sky in a Navajo sand painting-- according to the Navajo Creation Myth, the Holy Ones carefully hung the stars in the sky and placed the plants on the earth.

so that our faces gleam with oil and bread fortifies the hearts of all.

Well watered are the trees of the Lord, the cedars of Lebanon, which He planted; in them the birds build their nests; fir trees are the home of the stork.

The high mountains are for wild goats; and cliffs are a refuge for rock-badgers.

If man is not at peace with God, then earth itself cannot be at peace: *“Therefore the land mourns and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and even the fish of the sea are taken away”* (Hosea 4:3)

John Paul II

Psalm 104: 19-26

You made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows the hour of its setting.

You bring darkness and it is night; then all the beasts of the forest roam about.

Young lions roar for the prey and seek their food from God. When the sun rises, they withdraw and couch to their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his tillage till the evening.

How manifold are Your works, O Lord.

In wisdom You have wrought them all, the earth is full of Your creatures.

The sea also, great and wide, in which are schools without

A new ecological awareness is beginning to emerge which, rather than being downplayed, ought to be encouraged to develop into concrete programs and initiatives.

John Paul II



The most profound and serious indication of the moral implications underlying the ecological problem is the lack of respect for life evident in many of the patterns of environmental pollution. Often, the interests of production prevail over concern for the dignity of workers, while economic interests take priority over the good of individuals and even entire peoples. In these cases, pollution or environmental destruction is the result of an unnatural and reductionist vision, which at times leads to a genuine contempt for people.

John Paul II

number of living things both small and great, and where ships move about with Leviathans, which You formed to make sport of it.

Psalm 104: 27-35

They all look to You to give them food in due time. When You give it to them, they gather it; when You open your hand, they are filled with good things. If You hide Your face, they are dismayed; if You take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When You send forth Your spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord be glad in His works.

He who looks upon the earth, and it trembles; who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live.

Pleasing to God is my theme; I will be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and may the wicked be no more.



Creation of the Sun and Moon by Michelangelo, 1508-1512, Sistine Chapel, Vatican City.

Today the ecological crisis has assumed such proportions as to be the responsibility of everyone...I wish to repeat that the ecological crisis is a moral issue.

John Paul II

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Reading from Revelation 21: 5-6

The One who sat on the throne said to me, "See, I make all things new!" Then he said, "Write these matters down, for the words are trustworthy and true." He went on to say: "These words are already fulfilled. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To anyone who thirsts I will give drink without cost from the spring of life-giving water.

Let Us Pray

Loving Creator, hear our prayer for:

The vision to recognize the beauty and goodness of creation.

The courage to participate in protecting creation.

The wisdom to celebrate the wonders of creation.

Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the universe, who has made all things good and given the earth for us to care for.

Grant that we may always use created things gratefully and share your gifts with those in need.

We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Take Action!

Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light – gwipl.org

The Green Directory – thegreendirectory.com.au

United Nations Environment Program – unep.org

The content of this booklet is taken from “Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All of Creation” – John Paul II, January 1, 1990



The Carmelite NGO

211 East 43rd Street, Suite 708,
New York, NY 10017 USA

The **Carmelite NGO**, a non-governmental organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and affiliated to the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations, is comprised of the men and women from around the world who are members of the Carmelite Order or its affiliated Congregations, Institutes and ministries within the Catholic Church.

**For more information about us and our work,
visit our website: carmelitengo.org**