

*If the defacement of the poor is
a defacement of God, in the
same way a defacement of
Earth is a defacement of God...
From now on, caring for the
environment has to be
understood as being at the
core of what mercy is, of what
mercy asks us to do.*

-Carmody Grey



Drone footage of degraded landscape
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Opening Prayer



Leader:

We gather in Mercy across our world with a profound consciousness of the death and severe illness of thousands of people as a result of the COVID-19 Virus.

We live with awareness of the remarkable inter-connection between all forms of life across Earth and of our total interdependence with each other.

We are newly conscious that our world's borders mean nothing in the face of a living virus that does not differentiate, nor respect, nation-states, race, gender, age or socio-economic status.

Refrain - All: God of life, of Mercy, justice and compassion, bring healing to our world.

Opening Prayer cont.



Leader:

We ask your protection and healing for our world and for each other, as we recognise in a new way, the deep connection of all creation.

We experience the power and energy of the Creator Spirit of these lands on which we gather.

We acknowledge the First Peoples who have cared for these lands for thousands of years.

We acknowledge our slowness to understand the gift of deep connection between all creation, all peoples and the land as our common home.

*Refrain - All: **God of all life, of Mercy, justice and compassion, bring healing to our world.***

Opening Prayer cont.



Leader:

We are learning anew, each day, of the profound web of inter-connectedness in our world.

We are one on this planet and, from wherever we stand, we are all in this together.

We acknowledge our interdependence with the natural environment in which each of us lives and breathes.

We understand, as we live through this pandemic, that nature and people are now in a reverse relationship with the air we breathe - as those sick with the virus struggle for breath while the newly rested earth breathes deeply.

Refrain - All: God of life, of Mercy, justice and compassion, bring healing to our world.

- Source: From the Reflective prayer by Adele Howard rsm, MGP presentation 'Mercy and Degradation of Earth', April 2020



Drone footage of degraded landscape – industrial place.
Image used under licence, shutterstock.com

‘If the defacement of the poor is a defacement of God, in the same way a defacement of Earth is a defacement of God... From now on, caring for the environment has to be understood as being at the core of what mercy is, of what mercy asks us to do.’

-Carmody Grey



‘The degradation of Earth led to a three-layered emergency visible in global climate change, approaching tipping points of ecosystems (Amazon, Arctic, Australia, and Antarctic), and the unprecedented threat of biodiversity loss and habitat destruction.’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm

‘Young people, so aware of the environment and the importance of maintaining it, respecting it, and allowing the flora and fauna time to regenerate – Who will speak for the environment if you don’t?’

-Gabrielle Scanlon,
Our Lady of Mercy College,
Parramatta



Drone footage of degraded landscape
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‘Through these two aspects of living Mercy, the ‘practical-active’ and the ‘reflective-spiritual’, we can make a committed and integrated response to healing the degradation of Earth and its creatures and, in so doing, heal our human community.’

-Adele Howard rsm

‘I am uneasy with the statement that Earth is degraded. She has been “Good” for nearly 14 billion years, gracefully orbiting a benevolent star, open to whatever comes next. We are learning from birds and beasts, and presently an invisible virus, how to belong and behave here. Just maybe we will learn to live out the sacred song inside us — the same catchy tune that fills the violet and the tree frog with the will and un-degradable gift of being alive.’

-Mary Bilderback rsm



“‘We are in Need of Respirators Urgently!’ Thus Cry Out the Oceans of the World’

-Margie Abbott rsm

‘The impact on the planet as seen through the works of mercy – hunger of people and other species, water scarcity for many, washed clothing polluting oceans, housing a human right, the sickness that is COVID-19, imprisonment for climate justice, burial rituals during a pandemic, planetary health.’

-Bridget Crisp rsm

‘The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing.’

(Hos 4:3)



MERCY AND DEGRADATION OF EARTH



Small Group Discussion



- As you considered the words, quotes and images on the poster
 - What did you notice? -What did you admire?
 - What astonished you? -What was most wonderful?
- Where, in this pandemic, have you heard the cry of Earth -and what is the cry you have heard?
- What is it about Mercy in this time of pandemic that gives you, your congregation or institute, friends or family, the courage to go on in our struggle to bring an end to the degradation of Earth?

Large Group Discussion



- What new energy, new dream or possibility emerged as you reflected together.....

Give us Feedback!

Post some words or a sentence or two in the chat or
Email: mgpfeedback@mercyinternational.ie



Join in Again!



- Poster theme: 'Mercy and Displacement of Persons'
- Thursday, 27 August at the same time but in a different room
- Bookings open online on Monday, 17 August. Details in Mercy eNews
- Poster available for download on Wednesday, 19 August
- Explore the presentations on this theme at:
www.mercyglobalpresence.org

Final Blessing



Go now in peace to share the abundance of God's Spirit of mercy, love and healing for the entire Earth Community!