

Second Week of Lent – Contemplation

Reflection on Goal Action #3
of the US Unit Laudato Si Action Plan:

“We will contemplatively pray for Creation and use Laudato Si quotes in our prayer as well as continue our study and reflection on Laudato Si.”

READ: The Lord’s Speech to Job

(Job 38:1-11...if you wish you may continue on thru 39:30)

REFLECTION: In reading Laudato Si, we are aware that Pope Francis recognizes the value of the contemplative life in responding to the cry of Earth:

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. Saint Bonaventure teaches us that “contemplation deepens the more we feel the working of God’s grace within our hearts, and the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves”. LS #233

Pope Francis stresses simplicity & contemplation for those in religious formation:

It is my hope that our seminaries and houses of formation will provide an education in responsible simplicity of life, in grateful contemplation of God’s world, and in concern for the needs of the poor and the protection of the environment. LS #159

How do we as Presentation People respond? Certainly through being inspired by Nano Nagle and ***“her search for union with God in contemplation”*** (Our Way of Life, p. 5) and thus ***“we value silence, stillness and solitude as ways of nurturing our relationship with God”***. (C13)

ACTION: This second week of Lent, take some time to *slowly & mindfully* pray Pope Francis’ first concluding prayer of *Laudato Si*. It is in paragraph # 246.

To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope. This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice. LS #85