



Petitions for the Feast of St. Francis

Please use as many or as few of these as you wish. If your parish or your parishioners are planning to take the St. Francis Pledge, you may wish to use the first five petitions as they relate to the five parts of the Pledge. We would recommend to at least be sure to include petitions for the earth and its protection *and* the poor who are most impacted by environmental degradation, including climate change.

Petitions corresponding to the St. Francis Pledge:

- That our public and private prayer may lead us to a deeper concern for the gift of God's creation and those impacted by our lifestyles. We pray to the Lord
- That we take the time to learn about Church teaching on the environment and climate change and the impacts of our lifestyles on the poor and vulnerable in our own country and around the world. We pray to the Lord.
- That we have the courage to honestly assess our own contributions to climate change as a community of faith, within our homes, and through our everyday lifestyle choices. We pray to the Lord.
- That we take the steps necessary to live more sustainably and more simply as a sign of solidarity with those who suffer the consequences of our lack of respect for God's gift of Creation. We pray to the Lord.
- That we become the voice of the poor to ensure that local, state and national policies designed to address climate change do not place additional burdens on the most vulnerable people at home and abroad. We pray to the Lord.

Petitions for Care of Creation

- That we as Christians may respond to the urgent call of Pope Benedict XVI to safeguard God's creation and be in solidarity with all human and non-human inhabitants of the earth. We pray to the Lord.
- For the Church, that we may be a witness to Christ's love by practicing a more ecologically sustainable lifestyles, and promoting justice and peace throughout the world. We pray to the Lord.
- That we may be inspired by the example of St. Francis of Assisi – the Patron Saint of ecology – and become instruments of God's healing for our imperiled planet and its inhabitants. We pray to the Lord.
- That through the example of St. Francis of Assisi, we may develop a stronger connection between our Christian faith and our role as caretakers of creation. We pray to the Lord.

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- That the human family treats the non-human inhabitants of the earth with respect and empathy, and commits itself to their long-term survival. We pray to the Lord.
- That the human family experiences all of God's creation as deserving of consideration, respect, and rightful treatment. We pray to the Lord.

Petitions for Care of the Poor and Environmental Justice

- That we may come to recognize that our own carbon footprint impacts the poorest people on earth and that they will suffer the worst consequences of climate change. We pray to the Lord.
- That we have the courage to alter our own behaviors that contribute to climate change and thereby lessen the impacts of climate change on poor people at home and abroad. We pray to the Lord.
- For the millions of environmental refugees all over the world that have been displaced from their homes because of rising sea levels, draughts, expanding deserts, catastrophic flooding, and other environmental disasters. We pray to the Lord.

Petitions for Our Responsibility for Future Generations

- For our children and grandchildren whose future is threatened by the progressive destruction of the Earth's ecosystems, that we may find the courage to alter our consumption patterns and pass on to future generations an Earth that is restored and healed. We pray to the Lord
- That we may be attentive to discover and quick to embrace ways to live more sustainably, to influence the public policy of our nation, and to save our planet for the future generations. We pray to the Lord.
- For our children and grandchildren whose future and lives are being threatened by our unsustainable daily habits, business practices and the lack of policies that protect our air, water, and land. May God empower us to change our ways and believe that each one of us can make a difference. We pray to the Lord.
- For our elected leaders and those who help shape public policy on climate change, that they and we may heed the urgent call of Benedict XVI: "Our earth is speaking to us, and we must listen if we want to survive." We pray to the Lord.