

Feast of St. Francis 2018
Who Is My Neighbor in a Climate Threatened World?

Show Me My Neighbor

L: God of All Love, as I step out the door

All: Show me my neighbor.

L: As I read the news...

All: Show me my neighbor.

L: As I pray...

All: Show me my neighbor.

L: On my left, on my right. Perhaps turning to me right now

All: Show me my neighbor.

L: Where my eyes have passed before and then turned away

All: Show me my neighbor.

L: Where my ears have heard cries that I have ignored

All: Show me my neighbor.

L: As they share a story that is different from my story, help me to listen as if it is my own.

ALL: Show me my neighbor.

L: As I open my senses to all your creation

All: Show me my neighbor and then let me love them.

L: In their joy and in their distress

All: Let me love them.

L: That their delight be mine and their pain be mine too

All: Let me love them.

L: As completely and mercifully as you love me

All: Let me love them.

L: In true solidarity, singing our songs together until a new song emerges

All: Let me love them.

L: I look up now, God of love and grace.

All: Show me my neighbor.

-Adapted from Catholic Relief Service Prayer,



Reading #1: Luke 10:25-37.

Reading #2:

St. Francis and the Leper St. Francis of Assisi's biographer, Thomas of Celano, writes, 'Among all the horrors afflicting the human condition, the one Francis feared most was leprosy.' One day, while he was riding his horse in the valley below Assisi, Francis encountered a leper. Instinctively, he spurred his horse on to escape the disgusting sight but was struck with remorse. So, he turned his horse around and dismounted. He then gave some money to the leper, hugged him and kissed him. He then got on his horse again and left, his heart filled with gladness. While he was galloping away he turned to say goodbye, but the leper was gone. The man had mysteriously disappeared. This experience was fundamental for Francis and is remembered in his Testament. Clearly, it is God who is acting here. He is present in the guise of a leper. (*St. Anthony Messenger*)

Reading #3:

“Why do you see climate change as a moral and ethical issue? It comes from the basic message that’s in all major traditions. It’s worded differently, but it is to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. And who is our neighbor? Our neighbors are those next to me. They’re the future generations, the children. They’re brothers and sisters who are economically challenged. They are the refugees and immigrants who are being affected by climate change. And my neighbor is also, as St. Francis of Assisi would say, everyone and everything. All the elements, all the creatures, the plants. What it really comes down to is: Am I following this basic command to put love into action?” *Sister Joan Brown OSF, Global Sisters Report*

Reading #4:

“There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation [...] We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family [...] The poor and the earth are crying out.” (*Laudato Si'*.)

Prayer for Creation and Migrants

Gracious God, we pray for the protection of all refugees, migrants and displaced persons in the world today, especially those displaced by war, poverty, and natural disasters. You experienced the life of a migrant in the flight to Egypt, when Joseph and Mary fled to protect Your life. Today, this phenomenon continues in a world that does not respect the vulnerable. Help us to respond to the needs of these people, our brothers and sisters. You told us that when we welcome the stranger that we welcome You and that the reward of that assistance is not forgotten on the day of our judgment. We invoke the Migrant Family of Nazareth to protect those who migrate today, especially those who do so because of environmental reasons. Keep them safe and bring them to their destinations with Your guidance. Amen. (*Adapted from a prayer by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn Copyright © 2016 Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., Silver Spring, MD. All rights reserved*)

