

Day 9

NOVENA TO ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



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Day 9

“To Collaborate in The Care of Our Common Home”

Opening prayer

Father of my very soul, always caring and solicitous of me, I revere you with all my heart. I humbly pray you as though I had you here present before me, to commend me earnestly and much to God our lord, that he may grant me light clearly to know his most holy will, and grace to fulfil it perfectly. And the same petition I make to all of our society, especially those I have known here on earth and are now with you in heaven. Amen

Introduction

Mother Earth and we are intertwined so as to be profited from each other. Ignatius of Loyola at the beginning of his “**spiritual Exercises**” in the principle and foundation, says “The human person is created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord and by doing so, to save his/her soul. All the other things are created to elevate us to the end i.e., God. The complete love of God is manifested in the creation. We must play a pivotal role in caring our mother earth. We are surrogate people of having the responsibility to cuddle our **common home** so as to show our love. May it be a different religion or ethnicity, she has no partiality and nurtures all with equality. What we all need is an ecological conversion of love towards nature and ultimately its creator our Lord. Pope Francis entreats us to listen to the groans of the earth. In spite of our all-wrong doings to the earth, she cares for us well. Since she gives us, life let us be great full to God. We call **Earth** “**She**” because she carries us in her womb.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

Save the Nature: Michael Jackson’s song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAi3VTSdTxU>

Reflection

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her... This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (*Rom 8:22*). We have forgotten that we ourselves are the dust of the earth (*Gen 2:7*); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

Pope Francis says, “When the human being considers himself the master of the universe and not its responsible steward, he or she justifies any kind of waste and treats the other people and nature as mere objects,” denying “the fundamental right of every person to live with dignity and to develop integrally.”

The Holy Father, therefore, warned against modern consumerism, which has caused so much damage, reiterating his call for a “change of course”.

“Everything is connected, and as a family of nations, we must have a common concern: to see that the environment is cleaner, purer and preserved. And take care of nature, so that it takes care of us,” he said.

Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

To Ponder Over

Let us ponder over some of the reflective quotes of Pope Francis

1. “God always forgives, we men forgive sometimes, but nature never forgives. If you give her a slap, she will give you one. I believe that we have exploited nature too much.” (*Press conference, flight from Sri Lanka to the Philippines, January 15, 2015*)
2. “As stewards of God’s creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family. When we destroy our forests, ravage our soil and pollute our seas, we betray that noble calling.” (*Speech, Manila, Philippines, January 18, 2015*)
3. “A Christian who doesn’t safeguard creation, who doesn’t make it flourish, is a Christian who isn’t concerned with God’s work, that works born of God’s love for us.” (*Meditation, Vatican City, February 9, 2015*)
4. “May the relationship between man and nature not be driven by greed, to manipulate and exploit, but may the divine harmony between beings and creation be conserved in the logic of respect and care.” (*General audience, Vatican City, April 22, 2015*)
5. “The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish.” (*Papal encyclical, Vatican City, May 24, 2015*)
6. “We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it!” (*Remarks, meeting with political, business and community leaders, Quito, Ecuador, July 7, 2015*)
7. “Our common home is being pillaged, laid waste and harmed with impunity. Cowardice in defending it is a grave sin.” (*Speech, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, July 9, 2015*)

Petitions

1. **God of heaven and earth**, we especially pray for our mother earth. Dear Lord with contrite hearts we implore you to heal the earth. Bless the minds of the people that they may be sensitive to nature that they may not contaminate rather preserve the natural resources. For this intention, let us pray to the Lord.

2. **God, the Creator of heaven and earth**, we profusely thank you for the gift of nature. You filled the earth with adequate natural resources. We, human beings, without true sensitivity, have overused, abused and misused. We are least concerned about our future generations. Dear loving Lord, grant us the grace that we may use it as much as we need and preserve it for the future generation. For this intention, let us pray to the Lord.
3. **Loving Father and Mother**, how sensitive we are towards the care of nature. Deforestation, contamination of water, pollution of air, and degradation of natural resources are all because of human intervention. Grant us the grace that we may love and care for mother earth through our simple and delicate gestures. For this intention, let us pray to the Lord.

Concluding prayer:

O God, for the greater glory of your name you chose Ignatius to be your servant, to battle for Christ and the Church under the banner of the cross. Grant to us who have received this grace of being his sons in the society that bears your Son's name, that through the help and example of our Father, we may fight on earth for the defence and spread of the faith, so that your name be glorified and your people may be saved. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**