

PRAYER OF PETITION

Open to finding God in all creation, O God
Show us your goodness, O God

That we may see you revealed in the strength and
protection of the mountains, we praise you and say:
Show us your goodness, O God

That we may see you revealed in the rising sun of
hope, the midday heat and the setting sun of rest, we
bless you and say:
Show us your goodness, O God

That we may see you revealed in life-giving rain and
the majestic arch of the rainbow, we hope in you and
say:
Show us your goodness, O God

That we may see you revealed in rolling waves and
crashing ocean, we glorify you and say:
Show us your goodness, O God

That we may see you revealed in rising moon and
star-filled nights, we trust in you and say:
Show us your goodness, O God

That we may see you revealed in unfolding buds and
vivid rainforest colours, we thank you and say
Show us your goodness, O God

That we may see you revealed in the myriad colours of
our Reef, its gracious lifeforms and diverse seascapes,
we rejoice in you and say:
Show us your goodness, O God

CAIRNS-TOWNSVILLE A.P.R.E. CONFERENCE
- JUNE 2004

PRAYER FOR ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

God of the sun and the moon
Of the mountains, deserts and plains
God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams
God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in
the air
Of every living thing that grows and moves on this
sacred Earth

We are formed by Christ into Your People
Called to Bring the world into Your marvellous light
As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of
ecological vocation
We are entrusted with caring for this Earth which You
have created

Help us to love and respect it
To repair what we have damaged
To care for what You have made good and holy
Give us the wisdom and the passion
To change our minds, our hearts and our ways

Let us be mustard seeds in our world
Bringing about ecological conversion which grows and
spreads to every corner of the Earth

For our sake now
And for every generation which is to come.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord,. Amen.

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE LAUNCH
- BRISBANE 2002



Let the Many Coastlands Be Glad!

A Pastoral Letter on the Great Barrier Reef

– By the Catholic Bishops of Queensland –



Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! . . . before the Lord of all the earth.

Psalm 97:1-6

Creation is a sublime gift and blessing from God which we share with all the other creatures, and for which we give thanks and praise.

As dwellers in God's universe and inhabitants of Earth, we are part of the one web of life. As Christians we believe that the Risen Christ is at the heart of creation and the web of life, bringing all to its completion in God.

Australians have a sacred duty of stewardship to protect the integrity of the South Pacific region of our fragile planet for present and future generations yet unborn.

The Great Barrier Reef is an underwater paradise of astonishing colours and life forms. This loving expression and extraordinary revelation of the Creator is sacred and endangered.

The Reef in all its beauty, fecundity and diversity is to be protected for the common good. In this regard we have much to learn from our indigenous brothers and sisters, about the way they have for millennia, cared for their land and sea country.

Many human activities compromise the health of the Reef, including - emission of greenhouse gases, overfishing, poorly planned development, some tourist recreational activities and nutrient and toxic chemical run off from the coastal mainland.

Sacrifices already made in addressing these problems are commended but Queenslanders will need to make more in order to preserve the ecological integrity of the Reef.

We have also made significant progress in protecting the Reef, especially the recent increase in Green Zone sanctuary to protect more than 11 million marine hectares. We are called to increase our ecological research, wisdom and efforts of conservation.

Many of the environmental problems harming the Reef are harming the planet generally. To redress this, we are called by Pope John Paul 11 to an 'ecological conversion' - to authentically live out our 'ecological vocations' so that we 'prepare for future generations an environment closer to the plan of the Creator'.

Finally, this means a candid examination of lifestyle - living more simply, more sustainably and more spiritually. And the way forward for us, invigorated by the inexhaustible Spirit in this Great South Land, is always found in following the teachings and footprint of Jesus Christ, who fills 'the whole universe with his presence" (Ephesians 4.10).

For a copy of this Statement, contact your local Bishop or

Catholic Earthcare Australia

Leo XIII House, 19 Mackenzie Street, North Sydney NSW 2060

Ph: (02) 9956 5800 • Fax: (02) 9956 5782 • Email: green@catholicearthcareoz.net

www.catholicearthcareoz.net



SPONSORED BY THE TOWNSVILLE CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE.
Where Education for the Environment is a priority.