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Dear Friends,

As you know, Pope Francis recently designated September 1 as an annual day of prayer for the care of creation for Catholics throughout the world. In observance of this day, we invite you to pray and reflect upon "A Prayer for Our Earth" which occurs at the conclusion of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and follows below.

We also encourage you to join Pope Francis in endorsing the Global Catholic Climate Movement Petition which calls on political leaders to commit to ambitious climate action, sufficient to keep global temperature rise below the dangerous 1.5°C threshold, and help the world's poorest people and nations cope with climate change impacts.

In prayer for Mother Earth, our common home,
Mary

Mary Turgi CSC, Director
Holy Cross International Justice Office

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

—Pope Francis, *Laudato si': On care for our common home*