



*Sisters of the Presentation San Francisco*  
"Spend yourselves for the poor" —Nana Nagle

*Not Words  
But Deeds*

## ***EARTH DAY CELEBRATION***

**By Sister Rosemary McKean, PBVM, Earth Day Committee Member**

**Celebrate Earth, our common home!** It has been tradition in our community for the past twenty years to observe Earth Day. This year the Earth Day Committee prepared a prayer/ritual that was sent to all Sisters and Presentation Associates.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Sisters at the Motherhouse gathered in the dining room and were seated at their tables before the meal was served, each with a copy of the Earth Day prayer.

The tables were decorated with center pieces featuring ceramics of birds and fish, shells, rocks and plants, and a sign reading "Earth Day 2018" with a photo of Earth from space.

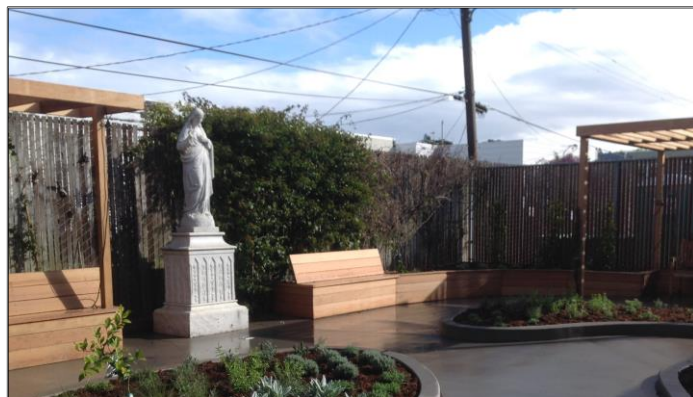
Sharing the prayer for our Earth together helped raise awareness of God's gift of creation and our responsibility to care for it.



2018 Earth Day Committee Member, Sister Rosemary McKean, PBVM, before one of the table displays of green paper with sunflower borders holding various ceramic creatures, rocks and plants, and a photo of Earth from space.



Sister Helen Matosich, PBVM, says, "I loved reading the Earth Day Prayer because I love the beauty of our Earth. On my daily walk around the USF Lone Mountain Campus, I feel like I am in a forest." Also, in the background of this photo is the landscape artist rendition of the renovated Ecological Garden (*Also, See Photo below*).



Sister Michaeline O'Connor, PBVM, adds, "The Earth Day celebration emphasizes respect for the beauty we have around us here at the Motherhouse; especially, in our renovated Ecological Garden outside our dining room!"



The Sisters at the Motherhouse gathered for their Earth Day celebration on April 21, 2018, in the dining room. Sister Eileen Diggins, PBVM, says, “Including all of us at the Motherhouse, made us more aware of what we can do individually to care for God’s Earth.”

For information regarding current ministries and activities of the Sisters of the Presentation, please visit our website at [www.presentationisterssf.org](http://www.presentationisterssf.org)

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# Earth Day Call to Prayer

**Leader:** As we gather in gratitude for God's gift of creation and the Earth, let us recall our responsibility to care for our common home. (Pause) Pope Francis says, "Nurturing and cherishing creation is a command God gives not only at the beginning of history, but to each of us. It is part of his plan; it means causing the world to grow responsibly, transforming it so that it may be a garden, a habitable place for everyone." Let us remember in our prayer all migrants, all those who are homeless, hungry, and without hope.



## Psalm – Praise to God from Creation, Psalm 148 1-4, 7-13

Side 1: Praise our God!  
Praise God from the heavens;  
Praise God in the heights!  
Praise God, all his angels;  
Praise God, all his hosts!  
Praise God, sun and moon;  
Praise God, all you stars of light!  
Praise God, you heavens of heavens,  
And you waters above the heavens!

Side 2: Praise our God from the earth,  
You great sea creatures and all the depths;  
Fire and hail, snow and clouds;  
Stormy wind, fulfilling his word;  
Mountains and all hills;  
Fruitful trees and all cedars;  
Beasts and all cattle;  
Creeping things and flying fowl;

Side 1: Rulers of the earth and all peoples;  
Princes and all judges of the earth;  
Both young men and maidens;  
Old men and children.

Side 2: Let them praise the name of God,  
For God's name alone is exalted;  
The glory of God is above the earth and heaven.

**Leader:**

For the good earth which God has given us,  
And for the wisdom and will to conserve it, we pray,

**Reader 1:**

That we seek to know and understand the earth,  
Not to have power over it, but to love it unceasingly.  
That, in order to love the earth more generously,  
We come to know her more intimately.

**Reader 2:**

Lord, help us to pay attention,  
To be receptive to the multitude of your works –  
Each organism, a creature of God;  
Each element of creation good and admirable in itself –  
The harmonious ensemble of organisms  
Existing in a defined space and functioning as a system.

**Reader 3:**

Help us to awaken the ability to see and feel  
The magnificence of creation and our part in it,  
Lest we end up destroying both ourselves  
And the created order to which we belong.

**Reader 4:**

May we join in good will,  
In our gratitude for our common humanity,  
And may we protect, nurture, and treasure  
All elements, all creatures, great and small.

**Reader 5:**

May our children, and our children's children,  
And all generations live in peace and harmony  
In an environment that allows them to flourish –  
Even to the end of time.

**All:**

For the good earth which God has given us,  
And for the wisdom and will to conserve it,  
We pray.  
Amen.

