

Join Mercy International Association in supporting Earth Day 22 April 2016.

Discerning together globally a shared response to 'the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor' in our world today.



MIA invites us all to pray Pope Francis' Prayer for the Earth on Earth Day, 22 April, when more than 130 heads of state and government leaders will gather in New York for the signing ceremony of the Paris Agreement adopted at the COP21 meeting last December.

As well as praying this prayer, you may also like to join the Earth Day Network which is working to plant 50,000 trees this month, to absorb carbon, clean our air and reduce climate change. (see earthinfo@earthday.org)

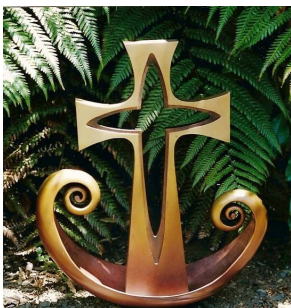
Earth loses 56 acres of forest every minute, increasing carbon levels that cause climate change and devastate local communities.

Perhaps you could organise a tree-planting ceremony on your site and invite participants to join in the following Prayer of Pope Francis:

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 recognise 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. Amen.

Pope Francis plants an olive tree for peace, with Israeli, Palestinian and Orthodox leaders in the Vatican Gardens, June 8, 2014.



New vision, new Earth

E Te Atua, Kainga o te Ao, God , Earth-maker:

Teach us to respect Earth's fragile balance, and to care for the gifts of your creation. Let us reverence the life-forms that share this planet with us, on which we and all generations depend.

Help us to change our mind-sets and life-styles, that we and all your creatures may know the joy of abundant life, now and always. Amen.