



Current Issues in Prayer

September 2025

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.**



Getting started:

I imagine myself in a beautiful valley, hearing the water in a nearby spring and looking at the grass, the flowers and the birds in the sky. I think about how living creatures, whether plants or animals make me feel. I also think of humans and their interactions with nature.



Short story:

The well-known saint, Francis of Assisi came from a very wealthy family. His father wanted him to become a cloth merchant like himself. However, from an early age, Francis was particularly drawn to helping the poor and eventually, his love for Jesus led him to choose a simple life in total service to others. St Francis is known to have loved creation and this relationship with creation filled him with immense joy. He called every living creature 'brother or sister'; and he used to speak to the birds, and animals were observed to listen to him. Once, St Francis got to know of a ferocious wolf that was attacking people and killing farm animals. St Francis approached the wolf and though the wolf was approaching him menacingly, St Francis retained his calm and spoke to it saying: "brother wolf". The wolf stopped and listened to St Francis as he reproached him for attacking people and animals. Francis also promised that if the wolf would refrain from this bad behaviour, it would be given daily portions of what to eat. The wolf stopped being ferocious from that day on and meekly roamed around the city like a stray dog, getting on well with adults and children alike.



Time to reflect:

How do I view the world in which I live: as a resource for me to use for my own interests or as a 'sister' or 'brother' who demands my respect and care?



Let us pray:

Lord we pray that, like St Francis, we come to experience a joyful relationship with our natural environment based on respect and care of everyone and everything. We also pray that this helps us to respect and care for the poorest of our human family who are the ones who suffer directly because of the misuse of resources.



Inspiration:

There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature, without a renewal of humanity itself.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 118



Hands on:

I take some time to think about how my daily activities might be impacting my environment and the world around me. What can I do to minimize use of resources and encourage re-use? How can I better share what I have with others? I might try to find time to watch the video called 'The letter movie' which is based on the pope's encyclical letter 'Laudato Si' at:

<https://www.laudatosi.org/the-letter/the-letter-movie-a-message-for-our-earth/>