

BENEDICTION

(to the tune of "Eidelweiss")

Bless our friends, bless our food
Come O God and sit with us
May our talk glow with love
May your love surround us
Friendship and peace, may they bloom and grow
Bloom and grow forever
Bless our friends, bless our food
Bless our true land forever!



Prayer of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress

God our Father,
we bless you and give you thanks
for your Son Jesus, the gift of your love
for the life of the world.

Watch over your Church as it celebrates in joy and hope
the 49th International Eucharistic Congress.

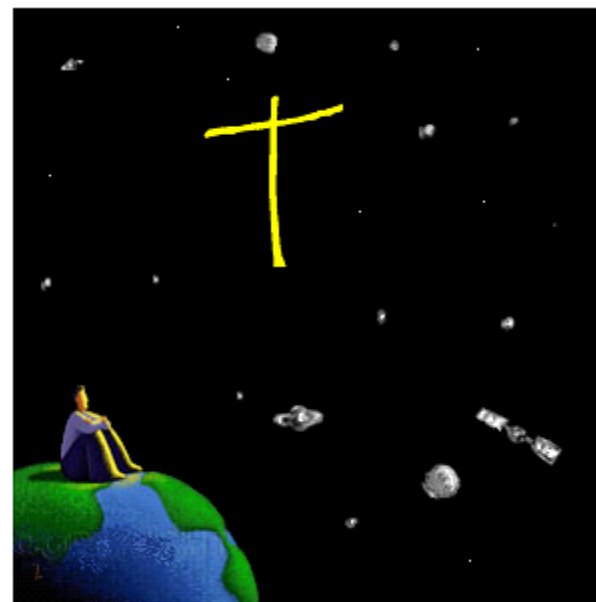
Renew our faith in the Holy Eucharist,
the memorial of your Son's death and resurrection.

May your Holy Spirit shed its light upon us
and grant us strength
to serve as faithful witnesses to the Gospel.

Nourish us with your Word and your Bread of Life
So that united with Mary,
the Mother of your Divine Son and Mother of the Church,
we will bear much fruit
for the salvation of the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Spiritual Program



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Edmonton Diocesan Council 86th Annual Diocesan Convention

April 18 - 20, 2008
Lloydminster, AB



Friday, April 18, 2008

Opening Reflection

Rhythm of Creation and Rhythm of Life

(From European Christian Environmental Network)

SONG: "We will love with open arms"

Next Tuesday April 22, millions of people will take part in Earth Day 2008 celebrations. We will recall God's precious gifts to us: land, water and air. They are divine gifts that make life possible on earth.

We remember that they are gifts for all and we reflect on Pope Benedict's warnings to the world "the poor and vulnerable, the least responsible for contributing to climate change, will suffer the worst consequences".



The Spiritual Reflections over the next few days call to mind the greatness of God, our Creator. In today's program we reflect on the "Rhythm of Creation and Rhythm of Life" and our call to develop a lifestyle in harmony with the 'household' of the Creator.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Together let us clear our hearts and minds, and enter the deep, rich silence of God.

P: Let us pay attention to our breathing.

Let us be relaxed in our body and our minds.

Let us return to ourselves and become wholly ourselves.

Let us be aware of the source of being common to us all and to all living things.

Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion, let us fill our hearts with our own compassion - toward ourselves and all living things.

Let us pray that all living beings realize that they are brothers and sisters, all nourished from the same source of life.

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be the cause of suffering to others.

Let us plead with ourselves to live in a way that will not deprive other beings of air, water, food, shelter, or the chance to live.

With humility, with awareness of the existence of life, and of the

Left: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Right: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.

All: **O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!** (Psalm 8)

League Prayer



Post-Convention Meeting

Closing Prayers

Prayer for the 49th international Eucharistic Congress (Back Cover)

Leader: And so, as we conclude our time of prayer and reflection this day, do not let the learning and conversations of this gathering die, but allow them to germinate within us and bear fruit in our ministries throughout the year. We ask this in the name of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

SONG: "Awesome God"

Sunday, April 21, 2008
Post-Convention Meeting
On the Call to Servant Work

SONG: "We will love with open arms"

Reader: "As the seeker prayed, along past him came the crippled and the beggar and the beaten. And seeing them . . . he cried, 'Great God, how is it that a loving creator can see such things and yet do nothing about them?' . . . God said, 'I did do something. I made you.'" -A Sufi parable

Leader: In the opening chapters of the book of Genesis, our Scriptures tell us of the work of God that is creation. With tenderness and care, day after day, God labors to bring forth the earth and all that is in it. On the last day of creation, God takes one creature from amidst the rest and breathes into this being God's very own breath—God's very own life. This creature, Scripture tells us, is formed in God's very own image and likeness. This creature is called to participate with God in the ongoing work of creation. This creature has a most special role in the universe: This creature is a servant worker.

Reader: "Servant workers are called to pursue justice. In the Catholic tradition, work is not a burden. Work is a way of supporting our family, realizing our dignity, promoting the common good and participating in God's creation. Decisions made at work can make important contributions to an ethic of justice. Catholics have the often difficult responsibility of choosing between competing values in the workplace. This is a measure of holiness."[†]

Reader: When considering the great dignity and call of the human person, our ancestors in the faith were moved to marvel. Let us now pray together in their timeless words of praise:

sufferings that are going on around us, let us pray for the establishment of peace in our hearts and on Earth.

Amen.

- Adapted from a prayer by Thich Nhat Hahn, Zen Buddhist Monk

SONG: "Open My Eyes"

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray to our loving Creator,

P: You care for the land by sending rain;
you make it fertile and fruitful.
What a rich harvest you provide!

A: All your creation sings for joy.

P: When we take care of the land,
sowing the seed and reaping the harvest,

A: All your creation sings for joy.

P: When we keep streams and rivers clean,
when we respect the purity of lakes and seas,

A: All your creation sings for joy.

P: When we recognize that we are one family,
brothers and sisters together,
with responsibility for the land and the waters,

A: All your creation sings for joy

P: for you bless us abundantly all our days.

(Per Harling, from Prayers & Hymns for the 12th Assembly of CEC, 2003)

Our God is the Lover of Creation

P: May the Lover of Creation, who gives birth to all things,
the Beloved, who meets us in Jesus,
and the Spirit who joins us in love,
Three-in-Communion, One God,
make us a community of hope and wholeness,
loving the last and the least, making peace, resisting evil,
and caring for the good earth,
till all things are fulfilled in the great dance of God;
and may God be praised, now and for ever. Amen.

From *What Does the Lord Require*, compiled by Francis Brienen, Canterbury Press, 2000



PRAISE - Psalm 36



- P: With you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
- A: **With you is the fountain of life, in your light we see the light.**
- P: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens;
your faithfulness to the clouds.
- A: **With you is the fountain of life, in your light we see the light.**
- P: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.
- A: **With you is the fountain of life, in your light we see the light.**
- P: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
- A: **With you is the fountain of life, in your light we see the light.**
- P: They feast on the abundance of your house;
and you give them to drink from the river of your delights.
- A: **With you is the fountain of life, in your light we see the light.**

READING

A reading from the Book of John (1:1-5)

- P: In the beginning was the Word:
The Word was with God
And the Word was God.
The Word was with God in the beginning.
Through God all things came into being,
not one thing came into being except through God.
The Word of the Lord.



REFLECTION

Jesus liked to use examples from nature for some of his parables. He invited his disciples not to worry about what to eat, because "the birds of the air neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them" (Mt 6,26). In our society dominated by speed and haste, Jesus might tell us not to worry about hurrying too much. Consider the turtle, he might say: it's slow yet strong and

86th Annual Convention Closing Prayer

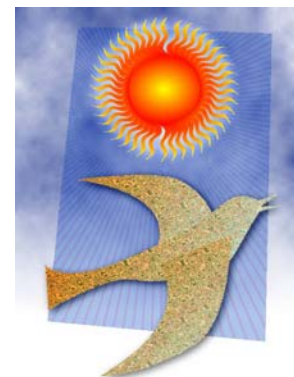
Prayer for the 49th international Eucharistic Congress (Back Cover)

Together, let us pray.

As we prepare to leave
and embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world
let us ask for God's blessing
May God bless us with wisdom
to care for the earth. **Amen**
May God bless us with love
to bring forth new life. **Amen**
In the name of God
the Maker of the whole world,
of Jesus, our new covenant,
and of the holy Spirit,
who opens eyes and hearts. **Amen**

Go in peace and be witnesses of hope.

SONG: "Awesome God"



FINAL BLESSING

Spiritual Advisor: May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and in the grace of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: May almighty God bless you, the Creator God, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

SIGN OF PEACE

Leader: Let us conclude our celebrations by offering one another a sign of peace.

We ask this blessing through Jesus Christ and through the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

All: Amen

SONG: "Onward to the Kingdom"



enduring – no need for gas, just a few leaves of salad, and it can reach 150 years of age. In its patience, through its slowness, the turtle can see and have experiences which we humans might be missing.

P: Let us praise the Lord who created the turtle.
God our Maker, we praise you for the beauty of your creation:
for the green earth, for the blue skies and the fresh waters.
We praise you for the different forms of life you created,
from big animals to small and humble beings,
for the rapid leopard as well as for the slow turtle.
In this age of growing speed and unrest we especially praise you
because in your wisdom you created the turtle,
giving it a slow pace but a long life.
Let us consider the turtle and learn the lesson you want to teach
us.
Let us value slowness; let us learn patience.
Give us a slow pace in order to better respect your creation
and to be able to contemplate its beauty.
Teach us to live our life respecting the rhythms of your creation.

A: Amen

(Luca M. Negro)

SONG: "God Created Heaven and Earth"

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters in the League, let place our prayers with our Lord Jesus:

P: O Lord, grant us the grace to respect and care for Your creation.

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, bless all of your creatures as a sign of Your wondrous love.

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, help us to end the suffering of the poor and bring healing to all of your creation.

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, help us to use our technological inventiveness to undo the damage we have done to Your creation and to sustain Your gift.

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

Creating God, source of light and life, we place before you the needs of your world and your people, grant that our prayers will be answered for your glory.

THE LORD'S PRAYER - (R) Right Side and (L) Left Side

United in the same Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

- R: Our Father, who are in heaven,
L: **You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans,**
R: Hallowed be Your name,
L: **by the care we take of your creation,**
R: Your Kingdom come,
L: **all that you see is good,**
R: Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
L: **your will to love one other and all you have created for us**
R: Give us this day our daily bread,
L: **that all may have enough to live life in fullness,**
R: Forgive us our trespasses,
L: **our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species
and for future generations,**
R: as we forgive those who trespass against us.
L: **by reconciliation with justice and peace.**
R: Lead us not into temptation,
L: **the temptation to equate domination with exploitation,**
R: and deliver us from evil,
L: **the evil of destroying your gift of creation,**
R: for Yours is the Kingdom,
L: **Yours, Lord, not ours,**
R: the Power and the Glory,
L: **in the cross and the resurrection,**
R: for ever and ever,
L: **You were the beginning and you are the end.**
R: Amen.
L: **And so be it.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

It is in God that we are breathing, in God we are living, and in God that we share the life of all Creation.

- P: We belong to the Creator, in whose image we are all made.
A: **In God, we are breathing, in God we are living,
in God we share the life of all creation.**

SCRIPTURE READING - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

Silent Pause

MEMORIAL ROSES AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Leader: God is the glory and joy of each of our departed members whose memory we celebrate today. A rose, a symbol of life in Christ, will now be presented as a living memorial for our deceased sisters in the Edmonton Archdiocese.

SONG: "Songs of the Angels"

Zone Chairperson: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

All: And may perpetual light shine upon them.

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR THE BOOK OF LIFE

Spiritual Advisor:: Ever loving and gracious God, we thank You for the gift You gave Your church in the people whose names are inscribed in this *Book of Life*. You called them to be salt of the earth and a light to the world. In their families and in parishes they let their lights shine before all so that their good works gave glory to You, and were an example and encouragement for all of us. As we hold close to our hearts the memory of those who are inscribed in this book, we ask you to bless † this *Book of Life* and to bless those members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada who we honour in this book.

We ask this blessing through Jesus Christ and through the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

All: Amen

CLOSING PRAYER

Spiritual Advisor: Compassionate God, Mary, the mother of Jesus, gave of herself completely. Blessed is she who gave humanity to Jesus, and blessed are our sisters who spent their lives serving others in God's name. We join Mary in proclaiming Your greatness and in thanking You for giving us life through death and resurrection of Jesus. We proclaim Jesus and the gift of Your life-giving Spirit.

All: Amen

Saturday, April 19, 2008
86th Annual Convention
Memorial Service For Deceased Member

SONG: "You are Mine"

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

INSTRUCTION

Leader: We gather today as members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada to honour the memory of our sisters who have gone from this life to their eternal rest in Christ.

In the world of today, as perhaps never before, the church needs an enlightened and faithful laity. Dedicated members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada live their faith by serving others and thus discover Christ through relationships with others.

The members we honour today openly made a solemn commitment to be witnesses of Christ, carrying out the mission of Christ at home, in the parish and in the whole community. We recall now their service to others, and we pray that the God of all has joyously welcomed them into the fullness of life, where they rest in peace and love.

Silent Pause

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Gracious God, to whom mercy and forgiveness belong, hear our prayers on behalf of Your faithful servants whom You have called into the light of Your presence. May they be welcomed joyously into heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Redeemer.

All: Amen

P: We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

A: **In him, God is breathing, in him God is living,
through him we are reconciled.**

P: We belong to the Holy Spirit,
who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

A: **In the Spirit, love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living,
the breath of God always moves us.**

P: We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

A: **In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved,
in the Spirit we are all united.**

(Per Harling, from Prayers & Hymns for the 12th Assembly of CEC, 2003)

BLESSING

To strengthen and to remind people of God's active presence in our lives, we ask for blessings upon us.

P: May God who established the dance of creation,
who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
who transforms chaos to order,
lead us to transform our lives
to reflect God's glory in creation.

A Amen

League Prayer

SONG: "Awesome God"

Sign of Peace



The Story of Stuff Workshop Creation Prayer Service

SONG: "God Created Earth and Heaven"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Together let us clear our hearts and minds, and enter the deep, rich silence of God.

Creating God, you are the source of light and life, so we praise you.

You became flesh to bring light and life, so we praise you.

You sustain the world with your light and life, so we praise you.

PART ONE

DAY ONE

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water. God said, "Let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light "day", and darkness God called "night". Evening came and morning came: the first day. (Light candle)

DAY TWO

God said, "Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two". God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called the vault "heaven". Evening came and morning came: the second day. (Light candle)

DAY THREE

God said, "Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear". And so it was. God called the dry land "earth" and the mass of waters "seas", and God saw that it was good. God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth". And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day. (Light candle)

Pre-Convention Meeting Closing Prayer

Prayer for the 49th international Eucharistic Congress (Back Cover)

ALL: All praise and thanks to you, eternal God of life, for the wonders of creation and all the possibilities that emerge. May we use our most human of all capacities, our consciousness, for the good of all life and the glory of God. May we celebrate the strands of God's life and love that bind us together as one human family. Bless us with the spirit of justice and love. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SONG: "Awesome God"



CLOSING PRAYERS - *Right Side (R) and Left Side (L)*

As we prepare to embrace the challenges in our lives and our world, let us ask for God's blessing.

R: May God bless us with courage to speak and act when people are suffering. AMEN.

L: **May God bless us with perseverance to work to change unjust policies. AMEN.**

R: May God bless us with wisdom to choose fairness rather than personal gain in our relationships with people. AMEN.

L: **May God bless us with a deep and abiding respect for the gift of the earth and all of its wonders and possibilities. AMEN.**

Let us always joyfully proclaim that "The Earth is for All".

A: **Thanks be to God. AMEN.**

Adapted from Gary and Linda Bowron, 2001

SONG: "Awesome God"



DAY FOUR

God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth". And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day. (Light candle)

DAY FIVE

God said, "Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven". And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them saying, "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth". Evening came and morning came: the fifth day. (Light candle)

DAY SIX

God said, "Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast". And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good. God said, "Let us make people in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be stewards of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts, and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth". People were created in the image of God, in the image of God they were created, male and female God created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. Be stewards of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on earth". God said, "See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven, and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food". And so it was. God saw all that was made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day. (Light candle)

DAY SEVEN

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work. God rested on the seventh day after all the work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day God rested after the work of creating. (Light candle)

PART TWO

DAY SEVEN

But, some people began to believe that the goods of this earth were meant for their personal gain so they set about to secure control of the land, the air, the water, the abundance of natural resources – all things that are essential to human life and well-being.

And some people said.... “Let there be darkness”...and there was darkness. And we like the darkness; so we will call the darkness ‘security’. And there was no evening and no morning the seventh day before the end. (Extinguish candle)

DAY SIX

And some people said....

“Let there be a strong government to control our economies and social programs with World Trade Organizations and Economic Summits. Let there be cement walls, riot police and tear gas to protect us in our darkness.” And there was no evening and no morning on the sixth day before the end. (extinguish candle)

DAY FIVE

And some people said....

“Let there bio-patenting to gain control over all seeds, plants, animals and medicines. Let there be pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries that will compel countries to allow our patents on micro-organisms.” And there was no evening and no morning the fifth day before the end. (extinguish candle)

DAY FOUR

And some people said....

“Let there be increasing consumerism and a concentration and control of the media to distract our attention, for there is that constant annoyance...reality...which is disturbing our comfort.” And there was no evening and no morning the fourth day before the end. (extinguish candle)

DAY THREE

And some people said....

“Let there be privatization of water. Let this life-giving and sustaining essential fluid be under the control of multinationals rather than being considered a shared legacy and collective responsibility.”

And there was no evening and no morning the third day before the end. (extinguish candle)

DAY TWO

And finally, some people said....

Let us create our own god in our own image. Let the other God compete with us. Let us say,
“Our god thinks ... as we think.”
“Our god hates ... as we hate.”
“Our god kills ... as we kill.”

And there was no evening and no morning the second day before the end. (extinguish candle)

DAY ONE

But, on the last day there was a great noise on the face of the earth as faithful people everywhere shouted, “The earth is not for sale! “The goods of this world are meant for all!” “Life before profit!”

Therefore, let us commit ourselves to be active witnesses to the Gospel message of justice, compassion and respect for the earth as we ask for God’s blessing. (Re-light candles and extend hand in blessing.)