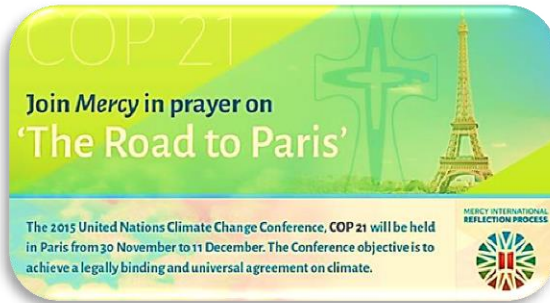


## OUR SEVEN DAY VIGIL ON THE ROAD TO COP21



The 21st Conference of the Parties, i.e. the annual meeting of all countries which want to take action for the climate, will be held in Le Bourget, France, from 30 November to 11 December. Its goal is to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.

Echoing the creation story of Genesis 1, we begin our seven day vigil on the road to the United Nations Climate Change Conference. Each day, beginning on November 30, we are invited to pray and reflect either in community or personally. Each day carries a colour of the rainbow (see covenant reference on day 7) and an image of the day of creation as well as a short text and a prayer followed by a call for action.

Our vigil will end on the first day of the Conference (November 30). On the tenth day of the Conference (December 9), the *Prayer for Earth* will be led by Canada/Peru on behalf of the Mercy world.

## ON THE ROAD TO COP21 November 24, 2015 Day 1

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. Gen 1:1-3

**Prayer: *Let us create a climate of change***

Lord, in the joy of your Creation,  
The whole human family has received  
this unique gift from you: our planet Earth.

We sincerely thank you, Lord!

Lord, look on our EARTH and  
help us to recognize that it is urgent that we  
act... for we are destroying our forests,  
devastating our soil, and polluting our seas.

When we do this, we cause changes to  
our climate, and create environmental  
turmoil that increase poverty in the  
countries of the South.

We sincerely ask for forgiveness, Lord.  
Yes, it is time to act...to guide our planet in its  
development and in its peace. Amen.



## ON THE ROAD TO COP21 November 25, 2015 Day 2

Humankind on the Planet Earth is ordained to live in equity, justice and dignity, peace and harmony in the midst of the order of Creation. Humankind is ordered to treat respectfully Creation, which has a value in itself. We Catholic Bishops recognize the atmosphere, rainforests, oceans and agricultural land as common good that require our care.

*Catholic Bishops' Statement, Lima  
On the Road to Paris (2014)*

**Prayer:**

May God bless us with wonder  
at creation's glory.

May God bless us with fury  
at creation's spoiling.

May God bless us with courage  
at this critical hour.

And may the blessing of God, Creator,  
Son and Holy Spirit,  
rest upon us and on all creation,  
this day and for the future to come. Amen.



## ON THE ROAD TO COP21

November 26, 2015

Day 3

A flourishing humanity on a thriving Earth in an evolving universe all together filled with the glory of God – such is the theological vision and praxis we are being called to in a critical age of Earth's distress. We need to act as members of the Earth community called to be partners with God in the ongoing creation rather than destruction of the world. *Elizabeth Johnson, csj*

### Prayer:

Creator of all that was, is now and ever will be.  
Look with mercy on our frailties;  
forgive our carelessness.  
We ask for minds to share in Your wisdom,  
that we might NOW become good and faithful  
stewards of your beautiful creation.  
We ask for hearts to imitate Your love,  
that we might NOW take up the cause of justice  
for our sisters and brothers who go without.  
We ask for spirits to share in Your joy,  
that we might NOW work with leaders,  
organizations and communities to take action  
to end climate change.  
For this, O God, we thank you. Amen.



## ON THE ROAD TO COP21

November 27, 2015

Day 4

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. *Laudato Si', 13*

### Prayer:

Lord, make us fervent protectors of the world  
That you have given us:  
Where there is waste, let us practice frugality.  
Where there is greed, let us model sharing.  
Where there is exploitation,  
let us shout out against injustice.  
May we be vocal and persistent  
in demanding action on the part of  
governments and world leaders.  
May we make everyday lifestyle choices wisely,  
leading by example.  
Deepen our understanding of the environment  
and our love of each other,  
that we may preserve your gifts  
for generations to come. Amen.



## ON THE ROAD TO COP21

November 28, 2015

Day 5

This is a good old house, delightfully situated, fields and garden all around it. Just now it appears like a fine summer day . . . (There are) walls or hedges in every direction. It must be particularly healthy. *Catherine McAuley*

### Prayer:

God of creation, we thank you  
for all that you have made;  
For the joy and glimpses of you  
we find in nature's beauty,  
Help us to tread lightly and use wisely,  
Valuing the needs of others, and of creation,  
above our own desires.  
Challenge us where we need  
to change our lifestyles,  
Convict us when we need to speak out on  
behalf of a voiceless people, or world  
And soften us where we have stood  
in judgement of others.  
O God in your mercy, change us and use us  
For the restoration of your world,  
and the protection of all your children. Amen.



## ON THE ROAD TO COP21

November 29, 2015

Day 6

We do not inherit the earth from our parents,  
we borrow it from our children. *Inuit Saying*

Once we start to think about the kind of world  
we are leaving to future generations, we look at  
things differently; we realize that the world is a  
gift which we have freely received and must  
share with others. *Laudato Si', 159*

### Prayer:

Creator God, call us to renewal, to stewardship;  
Call us to solidarity to Earth  
and all its creatures.  
Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty  
that remains to us;  
Give us new spiritual energy to become active  
In loving the world through our daily life;  
Give us new voices to speak out for  
environmental solidarity.  
Bless us again with the gift  
Of being a joyful community;  
Bless us with a love of your Creation  
And we will glimpse your Eden once again.  
Amen.



## ON THE ROAD TO COP21

November 30, 2015

Day 7

Human beings must feel that they are sons and  
daughters of the rainbow, those who translate  
this divine covenant with all the beings existing  
and living, with new relationships of kindness,  
compassion, cosmic solidarity, and deep  
reverence for the mystery that each one bears  
and reveals. Only then will there be integral  
liberation, of the human being and of Earth, and  
rather than the cry of the poor and the cry of  
the Earth there will be common celebration of  
the redeemed and the freed, human beings in  
our own house, on our good, great, and  
bountiful Mother Earth. *Leonardo Boff*

### Prayer:

Holy Spirit, call us out of our sleep;  
awaken our hearts and minds  
to our choices and their impacts.  
Awaken us to the possibilities  
of a new way of living.  
Awaken us to be renewed with creation.  
Awaken us to the joy of enabling others  
to live life to the full.  
Holy Spirit, call us out of our sleep. Amen.



## PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

On behalf of Mercy World

December 9, 2015

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.

~ *Laudato Si'*