

CULTIVATE, NURTURE, PRESERVE, TOGETHER

October 16 World Food Day

Introduction

Today's pandemic has led us in some way to rediscover simpler and more sustainable lifestyles. The crisis, in a certain sense, has given us the opportunity to develop new ways of life. It was possible to see how the Earth is able to recover if we let it rest: the air has become cleaner, the waters more transparent, the animal species have returned to many places from where they had disappeared. The pandemic has led us to a crossroads. We need to take advantage of this decisive moment to end superfluous and destructive activities and purposes, and to cultivate values, bonds and generative projects. We must examine our habits in energy use, consumption, transport and food. Non-essential and harmful aspects need to be removed from our economies and fruitful forms of trade, production and transport of goods created. **Pope Francis, VI World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.**

HISTORICAL ORIGIN AND LEMA 2020

Every 16th October since 1979 marks World Food Day, a celebration promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (*FAO*), *with the* clear objective of reducing hunger in the world, a purpose also sought *by the 2030 Agenda with its zero-hunger target.*

This year 2020 a global call is made to solidarity to ensure that healthy foods reach all corners of the planet, especially the most disadvantaged places that have been most damaged by the COVID crisis-19. We also want to pay tribute to food *heroes* around the world who plant, grow, fish or transport food. Therefore, the motto of 2020 is "*Cultivate, nurture, preserve, Together.*"

Food is the essence of life and the cornerstone of our cultures, and communities. Preserving access to innocuous and nutritious food is, and will continue to be, an essential part of the response to coronavirus disease (COVID-19), especially for the world's poorest and most vulnerable, who have suffered the most from the impact of the pandemic and will be most affected by the economic shocks arising.

World Food Day gives us a call to solidarity to help people who lack the bread needed to lead a healthy life.

Atmosphere

Place on a table, a piece of cloth, Bible, a candle. A dish with simple food and the field of the place and an empty dish. It can also be set with photos that help us share the pain of many of our brethren who suffer from lack of food.

Find a proper song.

BIBLICAL READING

The Gospel speaks of those who are hungry and thirsty, and how Christians care for them, as if they were Jesus himself: **Mt 25,31 – 46**

SAN ANTONIO MARIA CLARET

"They will love the virtue of poverty, looking at her as their mother and friend, and to this end they will do well to deprive themselves sometimes of what is necessary, in imitation of Jesus, who for us became poor and needy, was born poor, lived very poor, and died very poor and still naked." (Religious in their homes or the Daughters of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Barcelona 1850 p. 121. Ed Critical Madrid 1990, p. 173)

MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

Appreciate the food received today. Thank God, who sowed him, planted, watered, milked. fed the hen, whom he preserved the water.... Bless the person who transported, who he bought it from, and cooked, the people with whom you shared it. If you have been fortunate enough to actively participate with your hands in this process you can feel in communion with so many other people in our world who care for, cultivate, nurture and preserve it.

It brings to heart and memory the face and name of a person or family that does not have the food necessary for life. Bless your daily quest and struggle to barely get what's right for you.

"Whether believers or not, we are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone." (Laudato Si, no. 93).

Commitment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQQrt4G9Zb8>

TELL ME HOW TO BE SALOME ARRICIBITA BREAD

We are in the ninth celebration of St Anthony Mary Claret, it is time of grace that asks us for a commitment at the personal and community level of poverty, commitment to the poor, to cultivate-care-preserve together, with others. We leave a time for dialogue to concretize these commitments.

Petitions

Let us present to the Lord our prayers with the simple and confident attitude of the child who presented to Jesus all that had his five loaves and two fishes, as food for his neighbour.

- Let us pray for the Church, for Pope Francis, that we are increasingly a poor church that shares the table and life with the most disadvantaged. Let us pray to the Lord. **Listen to us Father**
- For all those who do not have what is necessary to feed themselves in refugee camps, on the margins of cities, children and the elderly, the victims of wars... may we be sensitive to their sufferings and go out to meet them Let us pray to the Lord.

- For those who accumulate wealth and food, for those who destroy the earth, for those who are satisfied, who hear the cry of the poor, and the Lord convert their hearts. Let us pray to the Lord
- For all those people and social entities who work for justice and for a distribution of land assets by landless peasants, popular pots in neighborhoods, food banks, social canteens, agricultural cooperatives that the Lord blesses and multiplies so much solidarity in our world.
- For all humanity as the Pope in Fratelli Tutti says it is "A human and fraternal society capable of worrying to ensure in an efficient and stable way that everyone is accompanied in the journey of their lives, not only to ensure their basic needs, but so that they can give their best, even if their performance is not the best, even if they are slow, even if their efficiency is not outstanding." Let us pray to the Lord
- For all the members of the Claretian Family today especially for those who promote the causes of the hungry, of the last of society who deny them even in food; who feel accompanied in their mission to feed, "cultivate, nurture, and preserve together." Let us pray to the Lord

FINAL PRAYER

"Reflection with our Father in coronavirus times". By José Antonio Pagola

Respond:

Lord comfort and relief from the afflicted listen to us.

OUR FATHER WHO IS IN THE SKY You are our Father, remember that we are all your sons and daughters. You're in heaven because you're everyone's. You are not bound to any temple, nor to any sacred place on earth. You don't belong in a town or a privileged race. You're not owned by any religion. You're not just one of the good guys. We can all summon you as Father.

Lord comfort and relief from the afflicted listen to us.

SANCTIFIED BE YOUR NAME It is our first desire in these painful moments for all mankind. May your father's name be recognized and respected. Don't let anyone despise you by hurting your sons and daughters. May we not lose our trust in You. May the names of all the gods and idols that dehumanize us be banished. The money that divides us and does not allow us to be brothers; the violence that fuels our wars; the power that leads us to despise the weak.

Lord comfort and relief from the afflicted listen to us.

COME YOUR KINGDOM If You reign among us, justice, equality and peace will reign on earth. We can face the planet's problems together. United as brothers and sisters we will overcome pandemics that can afflict humanity. May the rich not reign over the poor; that powerful peoples do not abuse the weak; that men don't dominate women. May your kingdom come and the fraternity reign on earth.

Lord comfort and relief from the afflicted listen to us.

THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN That your will be done and not ours. The coronavirus is discovering to us that everything is unfinished on earth, we live it all in half. It is not hard to accept that we are fragile and vulnerable beings, that we cannot attain here the fullness we all crave. Father, we can only trust your Goodness. Let not what we want done, moved by selfishness, consumerism and our well-being. May what You want be done, for you will always seek the good of all.

Lord comfort and relief from the afflicted listen to us.

GIVE US TODAY OUR BREAD OF EVERY DAY That in these times so hard for the world, no one lacks the bread. We don't ask for money or welfare, we don't want wealth to accumulate. We only ask you for all the bread of every day. May this coronavirus pandemic remind us forever that the first thing in life is: that the hungry can eat, that the poor stop crying, that welfare countries welcome migrants and refugees so that they can survive and have a home.

Lord comfort and relief from the afflicted listen to us.

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS Father, forgive our debts: our indifference, our disbelief, our resistance to trust in You. We have become more critical, but also less consistent. More indifferent to anything other than our well-being, but more vulnerable than ever to any crisis. It's not easy for us to believe, but it's going to be hard for us not to believe in anything. Father, forgive us and awaken our inner life.

Lord comfort and relief from the afflicted listen to us.

AS WE ALSO FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS At a time when we are overwhelmed to discover the helplessness, we all feel at this inevitable limit of death, we too want to forgive each other, each other. We don't want to feed rejections or resentments against anyone. We want to live this hard experience as sisters and brothers.

Lord comfort and relief from the afflicted listen to us.

DO NOT DROP US IN THE TEMPTATION We are weak and limited. We're experiencing it now more than ever. We are always exposed to making decisions and making mistakes that can ruin our lives and that of others. Therefore, do not let us fall into the temptation to forget and reject You, Father. Awaken confidence in your goodness in us. We need you more than ever. You can open paths to meet each of us: believers and non-believers, atheists or agnostics. May we all feel your strength quiet but effective within us.

Lord comfort and relief from the afflicted listen to us.

And DELIVER US FROM EVIL We are responsible for our mistakes, but also victims. Evil and injustice are not alone in our people. They are also in structures and institutions, in policies and religions. For this reason, we end our prayer with a cry: Father, deliver us from evil! One day, that full happiness that we all aspiration will come true. Everything will be transformed into full happiness. There will be no more death or pain. No one will be sad, no one will have to cry... **ALL AMEN.**

IMAGES TO SET

