

Contemplative Reflection for the Month of October

“There is a growing sensitivity to the environment and the need to protect nature, along with a growing concern, both genuine and distressing for what is happening to our planet...Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it”. **Laudato Si #19**

“Yahweh God shaped man from the soil of the ground and blew the breath of life into his nostrils and man became a living being.” **Genesis 2:7**

Call to Contemplation:

[This Pretty Planet](#) by Tom Chapin

<https://youtu.be/DCwAbfRkJ4E>

Leader: The earth will not continue to offer its harvest except with faithful stewardship.

Response: We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations. (Pope John Paul II)

Reflection: The recent report from the United Nations warned that the global temperature is at a critical threshold which scientists say is irreversible causing changes in our ecosystems which will put millions of people at risk. Faith leaders say religious communities need to find hope in taking action on this. The article below suggests ways to do that.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/earths-climate-outlook-grim-not-hopeless-faith-leaders-say>

Considerations:

In *Laudato Si* (p.11 #9), Pope Francis asks us to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing, and asceticism which “entails learning to give, and not simply to give up...”

How can I/we move gradually away from what I want to what God’s world needs?

Do you believe that as Christians, we are also called to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbors on a global scale? How can I/we do this?

How can I/we make concrete what Pope Francis is asking?