 Moment of silence and reflection

**Guide** - We repeat with each invocation: *Praised be you, my Lord.*

- Lord help to take care of our common house and to understand that we are “guardians” of your creation. *Let’s pray...*
- Help us, Lord, to pray with creation and let the beauty of your creation amaze our minds and hearts. *Let’s pray...*
- Lord, make us realize that the vocation to be custodians of your work is an essential part of a virtuous existence, not something optional or even a secondary aspect of the Christian experience. *Let’s pray...*
- Lord, give us tenderness, gratitude and gratuity to realise that the world in which we live is a gift that we received from your love! *Let’s pray...*

**Guide n.** - Let’s turn to the Lord with the words that Jesus Christ taught us

### Our Father ...

**Let us pray** - “Almighty God, who are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures, You who surround everything that exists with your tenderness, pour into us the power of your love so that we may care for life and beauty. Shower us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters without harming anyone. O God of the poor, help us to redeem the abandoned and the forgotten of this earth”, as our holy Foundress did, through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*



 **Song to St. Jeanne Antide**


## ARTISANS OF FRATERNITY

With the “Yes” uttered by Jeanne Antide  
and our answer, we contribute to  
“Hope for the Earth,  
Hope for humanity”.



Prayer for the month of May 2023

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

 **Canto: Laudato Si’ of St. Francis**

**Guide n. 1: 23 May** is a significant date for our religious family, because it’s the day when we celebrate the liturgical solemnity of our Holy Mother St. Jeanne Antide who was canonised in 1934.

**Guide n. 2:** For the last 8 years, the Church invites us to celebrate the “Laudato Si’ Week”, regarding the anniversary of the publication of the Encyclical of Pope Francis, which was written on **24 May 2015**.

**Guide n. 1:** The text “Laudato Si’” is a social Encyclical with a strong ecological connotation that invites all men of good will to take care of God’s creation and to protect it, as “*good administrators*”, by enjoying adequately the natural resources of what we call the Common House.

**Guide n. 2:** With the “Laudato Si’ Week” we want to open our eyes and our ears to listen to the cry of the Earth and of the poor, to see their misery and to launch processes, paths and new ways which permit us to face the climatic crisis with synergy and contemplative action - “*contemplation*”.



**Guide n. 1:** “I am daughter of the Church. Be that also with me...”, encouraged us Jeanne Antide. How can we fail to participate in the week of creation which will be held from **21 to 28 May 2023 with the motto: “Hope for the Earth. Hope for humanity”?**

**Guide n. 2:** “Together with the men and women of good will, we are always more aware of the essential transition towards an integral ecology and a more supportive, sustainable and inclusive economy” (Orientation General Chapter 2021).

**Guide n. 1:** Chapter 6 *Laudato Si'* describes the steps of the process of ecological conversion, such as prayer and contemplation, the learning from nature, the change of the lifestyle, the refusal of the culture of waster... The suggestions of this section are surely useful to harmonise the spirituality with the sensitivity of the environment.

**Guide n. 2:** Jeanne Antide is a “*contemplative*” woman. Disciple of St. Vincent de Paul, she has united in her life, the two aspects of spirituality and apostolate. When she was young, she learned to live at the rhythm of the seasons, to look for fresh grass for the animals, to enjoy the beauty of the forest of la Baume, of Einsiedeln, of France and of Switzerland. Later, she contemplated and led her daughters to collect medicinal plants and fruits. While in Rome she managed to contemplate and to narrate the visit made to the Vatican gardens. In Naples she contemplated and admired the “*smoking mountain*” from the terrace of Regina Coeli. She even prayed with the psalms and contemplated the contents.



### Let's sing Psalm 8

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honour.  
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:

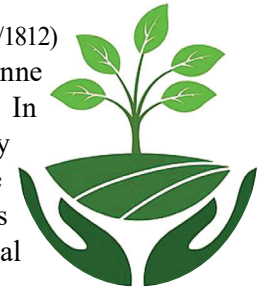
all flocks and herds,  
and the animals of the wild,  
the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!



**Guide n. 1:** Jeanne Antide has been an active woman both by temperament and mission. Contemplative life led her “*to sustain and to sanctify active life*” (MPT). She experienced **human ecology in the sense that she gave** the women, the possibility to serve the Church and to be useful in their social context. When she returned to France, after the Revolution, she dedicated herself fully to the mission entrusted to her: she prepared a copper for the soup of the poor, she opened a school and a pharmacy, she instructed the young women who had joined her, she gave them lessons to know and to prepare remedies for the sick with the medicinal plants.

**Guide n. 2:** “Treasure the good wheat” (Circ. 28/12/1812) to give it to the others. in an almost natural way, Jeanne Antide has experienced **the sustainable economy**. In Bellevaux, she provided work and dignity, money and support to the inmates. The organizations of the workshops indicates the importance of the small steps and their positive impact on the organisation of the social dynamic.



**Guide n. 3:** Jeanne Antide didn't neglect the spiritual aspect of the integral ecology. She understood that serving the poor doesn't mean helping them in their material needs, but it means leading them to their encounter with the Lord, precisely as she wrote: “*teaching the poor, the sick and even children to know and to serve God, to do in part what the Saviour of the world came to do on earth*”.

### Reading: What does *Laudato Si'* say about the poor?

The encyclical “*Laudato Si'*” helps us understand that the efforts made to change the climatic change and to help poor people, shouldn't be opposed to each other, but they should be carried out in a unified project: “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.” (LS 139).

It is estimated that the countries with a low income, will suffer the worst effects from the climatic changes and will need financial assistance to pass to sustainable practices (LS 25). “A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings” (LS 91).