



PRAYER LETTER 58

This is the first prayer letter of 2023 proposed by the Swiss Committee of the ACO, a branch of the Missionary Department: www.dmr.ch

Introduction to the prayer

"As long as the earth lasts, sowing and harvesting, heat and cold, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." God's promise to Noah after the flood affirms the permanence of God's covenant with the earth and the humans who live there.

Faith in this promise is being undermined in Europe where climate change is deeply affecting young people who no longer see a future for our world. A form of despair sets in for many. They can no longer project themselves into the future and many say they cannot give birth to children in this world. We are thus experiencing a double crisis, an environmental crisis caused by our lack of respect for creation and a crisis of hope that comes from a lack of faith in God and his promises. This crisis is very strong among 15-30 year olds who should be steeped in dreams and hope.

Prayer

Be praised Lord, for our earth and its beauty. Be praised for this blue planet which seems lost in infinite space but over which you watch with passion and fidelity. Be praised for the seas, the landmasses, the airs and all the creatures that live there. Be praised for the diverse landscapes and climates in Europe and the Middle East. Be praised for the white mountains, green pastures and sandy deserts. Be praised for all the balances that allow humans and animals of all species to live and transmit life.

Lord, do not let us ransack your creation and destroy these subtle balances which allow the miracle of life. Help your Church everywhere on earth to become aware of the issues and to defend life. Help us to choose the safeguard of your creation rather than our immediate comfort or temporary savings.

Lord, do not let us either forget your promises of all time and sink into discouragement. Renew the faith and hope of Christians. Allow young people in the Church to be a light in their generation and to give an account of the hope that dwells in them. We ask you that the generation of 15-30 year olds be able to raise their heads while looking at you who, at Christmas, gave birth to your Son. We ask you to rekindle in them the desire to bring children into the world.

Amen !