



AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE, WE BELIEVE: WE GROAN IN HOPE WITH ALL CREATION FOR GOD'S REDEMPTION.



"Creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God" — Romans 8:19

REFLECTION:

Creation is longing for the day when God's plan for humanity is fully realized. Creation is anxiously awaiting for the moment when God's children, are fully revealed in their glorified state, when creation will be renewed and freed from the effects of sin and human degradation.

*"At the end of time, the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness. After the universal judgment, the righteous will reign forever with Christ, glorified in body and soul. The universe itself will be renewed."*¹

This mysterious renewal, which will transform humanity and the world, into a "new heavens and a new earth" will be the "realization of God's plan to bring . . . all things in [Christ], things in heaven and things on earth".² In this new universe, the heavenly Jerusalem, God will have his dwelling among men, "he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more".³ The world distorted by sin, is passing away, but God is "preparing a new dwelling and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" and "happiness will fill and surpass all the desire for peace arising in the hearts of men".⁴ Hope can be seen as the possibility of remaining steadfast amid adversity, of not losing heart in times of tribulation or in the face of human evil. Christian hope does not disappoint, nor does it deceive.⁵ The "expectancy of this new earth should spur us on"⁶ and our progress on earth should focus on bettering the ordering of human society. In the passage of time, we are not exempt from pain and suffering. In this suffering, we express our longing and desire and trust in God's love and promises. We share with creation, in the expectation of the bodily resurrection to which we are predestined in Christ the Lord. As **Pilgrims of Hope**, we must listen to the groans of creation, of which we are a part. Caring for our common home, we unite with creation giving voice to our reliance on God's merciful as well as commanding presence in our midst. We work with patient hope, as we look forward to the fulfillment of his plan which is joy, love, and peace in the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How are you and your family, nurturing creation and using wisely the fruits of God's creation around us?
2. How can my family and my parish be good neighbors? How can we simplify our lives by consuming less and conserving more of the earth's resources?
3. As we await the day when God wipes away our tears and renews creation, there are many of us who are suffering. How are you encouraged to continue to work towards peace and justice in your community? How are you helping others who are suffering to trust in God's love?

SHARE YOUR
REFLECTIONS
& DISCUSSION
NOTES HERE:



¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1042 | ² Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1043 | ³ Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1044; Rev. 21:4 |

⁴ Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1048 | ⁵ Message for World Day of Creation 2024, Pope Francis, October 1, 2024 | ⁶ Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1049