

# BLESSING OF GARDENS AND GARDENERS

**Opening Song:** *Celtic Alleluia*

**Reflection:** After God created the world and all who dwell upon it, God said, "It is good." All is good. All is holy because God made it so. Because all is holy, all of nature speaks to us of God's beauty and goodness. As we garden, we enter into this holy relationship ever more deeply.

**Reading 1:** (Laudato Si, #217, Pope Francis)

Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

**Reading 2:** (Genesis 1:11-12)

Then God said, "Let the Earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it. And it was so. And God saw that it was good."

**Garden Blessing:** *(All extend your arms over the garden area. With an evergreen sprig and bowl of water, sprinkle the garden while the litany is being prayed)*

God bless this garden, through which your glory shines.

**ALL:** May we see in its beauty, the wonder of your love.

God bless this soil, rich and teeming with life.

**ALL:** May we see in its fertility, the promise of a new creation.

God bless each seed, that takes root and grows.

**ALL:** May we see in their flourishing, the hope of transformation.

God bless the rains, that water our efforts to bring forth life.

**ALL:** May we see in their constancy, God's faithful care.

God of the harvest, abundant and bountiful in season.

**ALL:** May we see in God's generosity, our need to share.

*(Extend your arms over the gardeners. bless the gardeners with sprig and water)*

God bless these gardeners, as you bless all creation with your love.

**ALL:** May we see in their labor, your call to be good stewards. Amen.

**Closing Song:** *Celtic Alleluia*

*when one prays, we all pray*



## FROM A TINY ACORN, THE MIGHTY OAK TREE GROWS.



On this feast day of St. Isidore the Farmer, our Earth calls to us more loudly and urgently than ever before. As Presentation people the oak tree has stood as a reminder of how magnificently Nano's vision of being of service throughout the world has come to fruition.

This vision did not become a reality by itself. Many years of tending, pruning, nourishing and caring for the growth of the vision was tended by women of courage, strength, determination and conviction. Their faith in Nano's vision and their love of God and desire to share the Gospel wherever they were called is their legacy, their gift to us.

On this feast of St. Isidore the Farmer, let us remember those sisters who tilled the soil, who planted their food, who gathered the fruit from the trees, and who spent hours in the sun planting seeds that yielded colorful, sweet-smelling spring, summer and autumn flowers in our convent yards. How they cared for our Earth!

Today the matters are far more serious and necessary. Can we restore Earth to its natural beauty? We see this beauty in photos of the Nagle home. We can see the rolling fields in which Nano played, and hear the clear, refreshing waters of the Black River embraced on both sides by tall, luscious green trees.

As women and men of faith, we are doing our part in various ways throughout the globe. We hear and do what we can, to respond to both Pope Francis' call in *Laudato Si'* and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Ponder for a moment what your community has done: building irrigation system; planting trees and gardens; advocating for clean water; rallying to stop pollution; installing solar panels; challenging politicians in their ability to effect change; participating in environmental groups; participating in the United Nations Zoom programs on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Reflect now on how conscious you have become regarding environmental issues. Perhaps you have always been mindful of the destruction happening in the world. However, have you noticed a change in your attitude? What or who has helped you become more aware? Have you developed a passion for a single environmental issue? What would you find helpful in furthering your active participation in protecting Earth?

*when one prays, we all pray*



# ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER

**MAY 15**

Almighty God and Father of all, you give to us the opportunity to harvest the good things of your creation and build up your kingdom.

By the prayers and holy example of St. Isidore, inspire us to be diligent in our laboring and to have trustful hearts that rely totally on your loving providence.

Help us to care for creation and use it for its highest good; to bring true charity to those around us. Through the intercession of your faithful servant St. Isidore, help all who sow and reap to abound in rich harvests. May all who work the land be treated fairly and be allowed to share in the fruits of their labor.

We ask this in the name of Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen



*When one prays, we all pray*