

## A Litany for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

**A**s we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, let us pause to reflect on Francis' love of the natural world and his passion for peace. In our global community of the 21st century, there are many places where the natural resources of the earth have become the focus of violent conflicts which have environmental impacts as well as environmental consequences. In the spirit of St. Francis, let us draw our attention to these places of conflict as we pray for peace and the healing of the earth.



*We pray to Christ, who modeled peace-making and healing for us, that through our prayers and advocacy, we may play a small part in healing the wounds of conflict and the wounds of the earth.*

For the people in Gaza where the water supply network and the sewage system has been badly damaged by bombing, causing contamination of the land and runoff of sewage into the Mediterranean Sea:

*We pray to Christ, who modeled peace-making and healing for us, that through our prayers and advocacy, we may play a small part in healing the wounds of conflict and the wounds of the earth.*

For the people in the West Bank, where the environmental consequences of the lack of adequate waste management infrastructures in the last 60 years has led to depletion of the soil, pollution of the air and contamination of the groundwater in this occupied area:

*We pray to Christ, who modeled peace-making and healing for us, that through our prayers and advocacy, we may play a small part in healing the wounds of conflict and the wounds of the earth.*

For the people in Iraq, where fragile agricultural soil has been depleted by heavy usage of military vehicles across the terrain; where extensive use of ozone-depleting substances, such as halons and freons in combat planes, the use of nitrogen compounds in ammunition, and the depleted uranium in anti-tank missiles contribute to large-scale environmental degradation, and where the contamination of groundwater reserves has serious consequences for the people dependent on it:

*We pray to Christ, who modeled peace-making and healing for us, that through our prayers and advocacy, we may play a small part in healing the wounds of conflict and the wounds of the earth.*

For the people in Afghanistan, where decades of conflict have resulted in toxic waste related to weapons, led to soil and water degradation, deforestation, and increased pollution in cities where people have fled to the countryside to escape the violence:

*We pray to Christ, who modeled peace-making and healing for us, that through our prayers and advocacy, we may play a small part in healing the wounds of conflict and the wounds of the earth.*

For the people in Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, where so much blood has been shed and so many natural resources have been torn from the earth to support corruption, greed and violence:

*We pray to Christ, who modeled peace-making and healing for us, that through our prayers and advocacy, we may play a small part in healing the wounds of conflict and the wounds of the earth.*

For the people in Somalia, in a region of frequent droughts, where local conflicts continue to arise over scarce water sources and wells, without a strong central government to intervene:

*We pray to Christ, who modeled peace-making and healing for us, that through our prayers and advocacy, we may play a small part in healing the wounds of conflict and the wounds of the earth.*

For the people of Sudan, and in particular in the Darfur region, where conflict over oil and the ongoing contamination of wells is used as a weapon of war to destroy access to sources of water, and where “scorched earth” policies destroy lives, villages and the local natural resources:

*We pray to Christ, who modeled peace-making and healing for us, that through our prayers and advocacy, we may play a small part in healing the wounds of conflict and the wounds of the earth.*

For all areas of our global community where the resources of the earth have become a cause of violence and source of conflict; where greed and economic incentives have led to loss of human life and destruction of the land, may our prayers and our advocacy bring healing to God’s Creation as well as to God’s people.