

A PENITENTIAL LITANY

Leader: O Lord God, your peace demands justice for all and calls us to transform ourselves, our communities, our nation, and our world.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We confess, O Lord, as creatures privileged with the care and keeping of your creation, that we have abused your gifts of creation through arrogance, ignorance and greed.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We confess, O Lord, that we have risked permanent damage to your handiwork; we confess impoverishing creation's ability to bring you praise.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We confess, O Lord, that the races and cultures of the earth reflect the richness of your creation and that we have too often mistreated and inflicted injustices upon the poor, minorities, and the marginalized.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Lord, how long will it take before we awaken to what have done? How many waters must we pollute? How many forests must we destroy? How much soil must we erode and poison, O Lord? How long will we deny the cries of the poor?

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: How much of the earth's atmosphere must we contaminate? How many species must we abuse and extinguish? How many people must we degrade and kill with toxic wastes before we learn to love and respect our creation and our sisters and brothers? Before we learn to love and respect our fragile planet home?

Response: For our sins and failings, O God, We ask forgiveness.

Leader: In sorrow for what we have done, we repent. We ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sins and send your Spirit to renew us and the face of the earth. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Reprinted from *Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All Creation.*

Washington, DC: USCCB, 1995