

Online Resource - Lenten Reflections

The Grace of Oceans

GOD REVEALING, GOD INSPIRING, GOD CHALLENGING

"Our Earth is talking to us and we must listen to it and decipher its message if we want to survive" Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 2007

Week 2 - Oceans

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."*
Matt 17:5

God Revealing.....

Getting to know Oceans

Scientists think that oceans began soon after the origin of the Earth about 4.6 billion years ago. We are the watery planet with over 70% of the watery surface providing the largest habitat for life, including the oldest living organisms. The species which inhabit oceans are adapted to life in the water. Humans are not. The oceans contain the highest mountains and the deepest canyons in which are the minerals from which the Earth evolved. Oceans help regulate land temperature. Oceans are the largest and most important carbon sink. Though coral reefs are small in area, more than 90 per cent of marine species are directly or indirectly dependent on them.
www.savethesea.org

Reflection

In Matthew's Gospel, God's voice comes from a cloud, Pope Benedict XVI spoke about listening to what the Earth is telling us. The Earth is a prophet now.

Think about how interconnected the atmosphere (cloud), mountains (land) and oceans are.

What we do on land affects the oceans.

Where have you seen God revealed in the oceans?

"there was darkness over the deep and God's spirit hovered over the waters."
Gen 1: 1 (Jerusalem bible).

When we speak the language of ocean science we enter a mystery of nature, partly revealing but leaving much hidden.

How do you interpret Gen. Ch1 in the light of current scientific knowledge about creation and life?

We pray in gratitude for oceans where life on Earth began and where about eighty percent of life still exists. We pray for forgiveness for over-fishing.

God Inspiring.....

Meditation

"We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea, whether it is to sail or to watch – we are going back from whence we came..." John F. Kennedy

The ebb and flow of oceanic tides are a metaphor for the rhythms of life. Ocean currents are life-giving, generating life cycles around the Earth. Reflect on the mysteries of the deep: currents and corals, deep sea thermal vents, unusual creatures, nutrient flows nourishing small fish and great, mangrove fish nurseries and Antarctic krill to nourish the mother whale and her calf.

Watch the video "Midway".
www.midwayfilm.com

Reflect on the sentence: *"From a distant shore a call is sounding"*. What is the call?

God Challenging.....

The impact of climate change on the oceans is very serious: acid waters dissolving the shells of crustaceans, rising sea temperatures spawning stronger cyclones, the sea becoming an over-loaded nitrogen sink struggling to absorb atmospheric gases, pollution choking sea life, rising sea levels taking over the island nations of

Kiribati and Tuvalu. www.actionbioscience.org

Find out how your lifestyle contributes to these problems? Cut down on your plastic use, chemical use.



Image source: Pixabay.com

Responding to God's call

1. Find out where your storm water goes and what impact you can have on keeping it pollution free.
2. Find a local program that removes pollution before it enters the ocean. Eg Take 3 www.take3.org.au

"God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things." Laudato Si' #76



"And God saw that it was good." Gen 1



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