

# **EARTH DAY PRAYER**

*April 22, 2009*

*Welcome to our Earth Day Celebration!*



**LEADER:** *Holy, Magnificent, Creator God, we praise YOU in all that is before us, hoping to become more AWARE of the wholeness and holiness of Earth. Earth is indeed a sacred space of ever-sacred life to be celebrated and in need of our love and prayers. Bless us as we pray invoking the fullness of your SPIRIT, turning to Earth's Directions and in proclaiming of our SISTERS OF CHARITY OF CINCINNATI EARTH BELIEF STATEMENT.*

*And so we begin by INVOKING THE SPIRIT - alternating sides:*

**SIDE ONE:** *Come, O Spirit of harmony  
Come, O fiery power*

**SIDE TWO:** *Come, O Spirit of Earth  
Come, O reconciling Spirit*

**SIDE ONE:** *Come, O sustaining Spirit of Love  
Come, O Great Spirit of Unity*

**SIDE TWO:** *Come, O refreshing Spirit  
Come, O Spirit of harmony and balance*

**SIDE ONE:** *Come O Spirit of Life and Energy  
Come, O Consciousness within*

**SIDE TWO:** *Come, O Spirit of diversity  
Come, O Spirit of new life!*

**ALL:** *O come Holy Spirit!!! O come Holy Spirit!!!*

**LEADER:** *We receive and bless now Creation in the Seven Directions – East, South, West & North – Above, Below and Center. As we pray facing the Direction being addressed...let us take deep breaths and know the power-strength of that direction:*

O Great Spirit of the EAST, we turn to you where the sun comes up, from where the power of light and refreshment come. Let your warm breeze open us to the miracle of birth and fill us with new hopes and dreams. Let your light, the color of fresh rising in our life, be glory to you. *Breathe deeply! x3*

O Great Spirit of the SOUTH, spirit of all that is warm and gentle and refreshing, we ask you to give us this spirit of growth, of fertility, of gentleness. Give us seeds that the flowers, trees and fruits of the earth may grow. Give us the warmth of good friendships. O Spirit of the South, send the warmth and the growth of your blessings. *Breathe deeply! x3*

O Great Spirit of the WEST, where the sun goes down each day to come up the next, we turn to you in praise of sunsets and in thanksgiving for changes. You are the great colored sunset of red which illuminates us. You are the powerful cycle which pulls us to transformation. Keep us open to life's changes. *Breathe deeply! x3*

O Great Spirit of the NORTH, we come to you and ask for the strength and the power to bear what is cold and harsh in life. Whatever is cold and uncertain in our life, we ask you to give us the strength to bear it. Of Spirit of Life and Spirit of the North, we ask you for clarity as bright as the North Star, and for strength and warmth. *Breathe deeply! x3*

O Great Spirit of all that is ABOVE, of everything that soars, of all high visions, we honor you and glorify you for the power that you are. Lift our minds and our hearts above the earth so that they may never be afraid of great heights. O Spirit of All that is Above, put us on the wings of spirit travel so that we may know this world. *Breathe deeply! x3*

O Spirit of all that is BELOW, of all that pulls us to deeper places, to the depths of ourselves, we turn to you in the memory of all that goes down. We ask you to give us the strength and the courage to face deaths in our lives. When we experience losses and change let us see them as your revelation. O Spirit of All that is Below, purify us. *Breathe deeply!*

O Great Spirit of everything that is CENTER we come to you with gratitude. We thank you for calling us to be centered within ourselves. Remind us that it is only from this Center that we reach out to others. Breathe through us that Your work of justice may be done. O Great Spirit of everything of the heart and everything that is mystery, send us forth to walk a way of beauty and holiness, caring, and hope. Let us never forget that You are the Center. *Breathe deeply! x3*

*Out of this Center we now proclaim our*

***SISTERS OF CHARITY EARTH BELIEF STATEMENT***

**All:**

We affirm our Sisters of Charity Vision statement to choose to live simply in a complex world committed to the healing of our global home.

We believe that God continues to create the universe in the present moment and calls us to be life-giving and creative participants in the ongoing life of Earth.

We believe Earth is our teacher.

We believe in safeguarding Earth's regenerative capacities. We are called:

In humility to reverence the beauty and gifts of Earth,

In simplicity to recognize our kinship with Earth,

In charity to sustainably protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems.



Allowing loving trust to shape all of our relationships, we dare to risk a caring response.

Some principles flowing from this Belief Statement are:

Invest time and resources in care of our land.

Use our land for spiritual nourishment for ourselves and others.

Accept our responsibility to preserve the web of life and protect our land for future generations.

Learn from our relationships with each other how to be one with Earth.

**ALL:** *With this Proclamation we commit ourselves to make these beliefs visible by the way we live!*

**Leader:** Clap with joy, celebrate with radiant smiles, and wave PEACE to each other!

Let us go forth in all directions of the Universe to bless and to embrace, to resist, and to heal.

Let us go forth in the name of our Loving God to transform the world!

And now in song:

**Canticle of the Sun**

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and all creation is shouting for joy. Come dance in the forest, come play in the field, and sing, sing to the glory of our God!

Praise for the sun, the bringer of day, he carries the light of our God in his rays; the moon and the stars who light up the way unto our God!

Praise for the wind, that blows through the trees, the seas' might storms, the gentlest breeze; they blow where they will, they blow where they please to please our God!

Praise for the rain that waters our fields, and blesses our crops so all the earth yields; from death unto life her mystery revealed springs forth in joy.

Praise for the fire who gives us her light, the warmth of the sun to brighten our night; she dances with joy, her spirit so bright, she sings of You.

Praise for the earth who makes life to grow, the creatures you made to let your life show; the flowers and trees that help us to know the heart of love.

***Amen. Blessed be. Let it be so!!!***