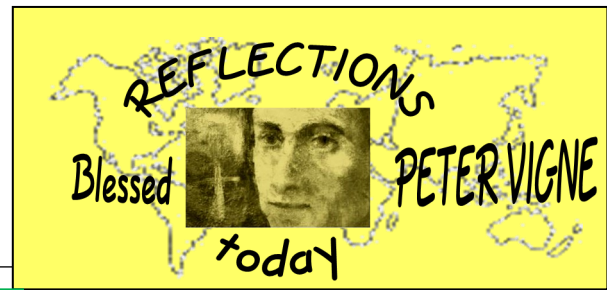


Message of Pope Francis for OCTOBER: For the month of October 2019, I have asked that the whole Church revive her missionary awareness and commitment as we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). Its farsighted and prophetic vision the apostolate has made me realize once again the importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again. **Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World.** Celebrating this month will help us first to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism. Our filial relationship with God is not something simply private, but always in relation to the Church. Through our communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we, together with so many of our other brothers and sisters, are born to new life. This divine life is not a product for sale – we do not practise proselytism – but a treasure to be given, communicated and proclaimed: that is the meaning of mission. We received this gift freely and we share it freely (cf. Mt 10:8), without excluding anyone.



N° 09. 10—2019



Pope Francis' message is in keeping with the great desire of Bl. Peter Vigne: *"To do our best to make God known loved and served by everyone.....The love we have for God.....moves us to make Him known"*

A PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH>>>



We entrust the Church's mission to Mary our Mother. In union with her Son, from the moment of the Incarnation the Blessed Virgin set out on her pilgrim way. She was fully involved in the mission of Jesus, a mission that became her own at the foot of the Cross.....

Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations" and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church. Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world. Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Summer is almost a distant memory and we are now reaching the end of the Autumn season, depending on which calendar one follows. Each season has a unique message for us, if only we would stop to consider it. And if we did so, how much wiser we would be! Summer was dominated by the terrible images of wildfires that burned in many parts of the world. The top media stories covered the Amazon fire, various demonstrations, the meeting of the G7 leaders and many other events! In other places we heard of devastating floods and natural disasters sometimes due to a lack of respect for nature and its laws. *"Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. Yet we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness"*

Pope Francis Laudato Si 53.

What did Peter Vigne say about Creation? He, who took time to ponder its beauty would certainly insist that it is GOOD to listen to it.

Caring for CREATION

When you look up, surrounding you on every side, you see the Heavens the Lord has made. Isn't it saying this to you: look at me?

*All your wondrous works O Lord tell us that we too are created for great things. The Infinite number of stars in the firmament of heaven, God has created for man alone. The Spirits have no need of them. All those bright and beautiful stars which enlighten us are made for this purpose only: their orderly movement and pattern are for the benefit of man. All those beautiful creatures of the earth exist only to serve him. That being so, is it possible that such great things were created solely for a person who must finally perish? Who could possibly accept such an outrageous and absurd idea! **The earth and all that it contains is continually telling us: for you I have been created. So***



love the one who sustains me, love him who cares for you. Everything I produce is for your benefit. Love him who is constantly at work in me, for your good".

PBL Vol 1. 210, 236

Vigne missionnaire

Creation, Peter Vigne...and us?

We simply cannot leave it to a few heads of States who come together for their annual summit meeting to decide on what should be done to save our planet. We are concerned about climate change and the challenges we are now facing. But when practical decisions are made, everyone leaves thinking of the votes he will gain or lose.....much more than the common good. Votes and financial gain remain high on the priority list!



To make a difference and save our planet people have set up associations, taken part in demonstrations and protests against climate change...YES, that's good, BUT....You and me, **what can we do that will make a difference?** Can we defend what we ignore on a daily basis? And can we ask others to do the same?

"Look at me"...., yes look at nature, said Peter Vigne, he who could step back to commune deeply with the seasons and enjoy their changing beauty. Several books in his library show his willingness to cultivate his admiration for the beautiful world God made. Thus he develops *"the art of seeing, loving and praising God in all his works"* He listens and can hear the song of Creation."...***The earth and all it contains is continually telling us: For you have I been created, love the one who sustains me, love him who cares for you!***

He invites his "dear Christians" to take a critical look at their own behaviour.

"Ask yourselves what damage have you done....to the city or the countryside.....Did you abuse or inflict suffering on any animals by throwing stones at them or making them work too hard? Did you cause damage to forests, vineyards or the land? Did you draw more than your fair share of water from the common well, leaving others short?"

"Examine yourself" repeats Peter Vigne and you will see how close the bond is between respect for nature and respect for family, friends and others.

We may well wonder and question when we see the horrible number of murders currently committed especially against women and children. Emergency phones are not enough to safeguard the dignity of the person and, as Benedict XVI pointed out, ***"it is only through an encounter with God are we able to see in the other something more than just another creature, to recognize in him the image of God"***

What can you do? Admire and respect the work of God in nature and in **every person who in God's eyes is of infinite value.** Then, as the song goes in our "common home" ***"Everything is beautiful in its own way"*** and life will be good for all!

BR



HUMAN ECOLOGY:

The Church has a responsibility towards creation and she must assert this responsibility in the public sphere. In so doing, she must defend not only earth, water and air as gifts of creation that belong to everyone, but she must above all protect mankind from self-destruction.It is contradictory to insist that future generations respect the natural environment when our educational systems and laws do not help them to respect themselves. **The book of nature is one and indivisible:** it takes in not only the environment but also life, sexuality, marriage, the family, social relations: in a word, integral human development. **Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person,** considered in himself and in relation to others. **It would be wrong to uphold one set of duties while trampling on the other.**

Benedict XVI. Caritas in veritate. 51

A PRAYER OF PRAISE

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God,

You are very great!

You are clothed majesty,
covering Yourself with light
as with a garment.

O LORD, how manifold
are Your works!

In wisdom You made them all
the earth is full of Your creatures
Glory to you LORD forever;
may the LORD rejoice in His works.

I will sing unto the LORD
as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I
have my being.

May my meditation
be pleasing to Him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Praise the LORD!

Psalm 104



THE UNIVERSE: A PRECIOUS BOOK

84. Our insistence that each human being is an **image of God** should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. **The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us.** Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good. Anyone who has grown up in the hills or used to sit by the spring to drink, or played outdoors in the neighbourhood square; going back to these places is a chance to recover something of their true selves.

85. God has written a precious book, **"whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe"**. The Canadian bishops rightly pointed out that no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: ***"From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine"***. The bishops of Japan, for their part, made a thought-provoking observation: ***"To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope"***

Francis. Laudato Si.