

## The Mysticism of Laudato Si' 24

### THE PASSION OF SISTER EARTH TODAY (1)

**The Foot Washing:** 'Lord, what went on in your passion touches all time and space, all matter and every person. So let me now learn to link your passion with the present passion of humankind and of creation, so that Easter joy may finally dawn upon us all. After washing the feet of the disciples, you said, 'I have set you an example; do as I have done'. But what can I do now to ease the world's pain? The pope says: *'The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world's poorest'* (13). Lord, I can serve at least one needy person, protect some corner of the earth. Let me do so, in companionship with you.'

**The Garden:** 'Dear Lord, let me spend time with you in the Garden of Gethsemane. There you endured the agony of the world. Help me to endure with a loving eye the agony today of the garden of nature entrusted to our care. The pope says: *'The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth'* (21). *Who turned the wonder-world of the seas into underwater cemeteries bereft of colour and life?* (41). Let my distress translate into loving action against local garbage.'

**The Arrest:** 'Lord, soldiers came and dragged you off to the authorities. We in our times take nature by force and betray her kindness to us. The pope says: *'Our Sister, Mother Earth, now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. Our violence is reflected in the sickness of soil, water, air and in all forms of life'* (2). Let me never again abuse the kindness of nature.'

**The Crowning with Thorns:** 'Dear Lord, innocent though you were, you were scourged, mocked, forced to wear a crown of thorns. I find people forced to wear crowns of thorns today--children whose eyes are without tears, without dreams, as they starve to death in the arms of their helpless parents. Pope Francis says: *'We fail to see that some people are mired in desperate poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions... These consider themselves more human than others, as if born with greater rights'*

(90). Teach me to respect and love the despised and to serve them in whatever ways I can.'