

January 30, 2025

Daily Reflections



INSTRUMENTS OF GOD

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.”

POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATO SI, 14

Reflection

A brief return to the Sahara for an introduction: at the time of our journey in 1978, the region we were traveling through was undergoing significant environmental changes. Of significance was the advancing desertification into the Sahel, a transition zone between the Sahara and the tropical Savannah. Nearly fifty years ago, the impact of what we now call climate change was already being realized, resulting in deteriorating agricultural and grazing lands, thirst and hunger, and displacement of people. One of the most impacted communities were the Tuareg, a nomadic people known for their navigating

skills along Saharan trade routes. Over time, climate shifts, the oil industry and resulting industrialization and colonialism all helped to rupture the social and structural support of the Tuareg.

Coming back to the present, during the catastrophic wind event that fueled the recent fires and disaster in Southern California, while passing by one of the weather stations in my home, I was startled by the relative humidity reading, 2 percent. Incredulous, this level of moisture in the air is comparable to Atacama and Sahara Deserts. Never recalling numbers that low, and anticipating another round of Santa Ana winds tomorrow as I write this reflection, it is clear that something significant has changed.

Where do we go from here? What is our responsibility to care for creation? And, in the face of weather-related disaster after disaster, how are we called to care for one another and all living creatures? “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up.... What need does the earth have of us?” (*Laudato Sí*, 160)



Green Grasses on Sahara Desert

Photo by Greg Gulik

For Pondering

- How do you feel called to care for creation?
 - What help can God provide you to follow that call?
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For Prayer

Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who have been devastated by recent natural disasters. We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly. We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief and loss. Bring them consolation and comfort. Surround them with our prayer for strength.

Bless those who have survived and heal their memories of trauma and devastation. May they have the courage to face the long road of rebuilding ahead.

We ask your blessing on all those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their security and their hope. Bless the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance. May their work be guided by the grace and strength that comes from You alone.

Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, in aid to the best of our abilities. Keep our hearts focused on the needs of those affected, even after the crisis is over. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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