

September 28, 2025



Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

A SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“The world, this palpable world, which we are wont to treat with the boredom and disrespect with which we habitually regard places with no sacred association for us, is in truth a holy place, and we did not know it. Venite adoremus.”

PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN

Reflection

When I was about eight or nine, my parents purchased a coffee table book, “Around the World in 2,000 Pictures.” Eventually the book made its way into my bedroom where it settled nicely next to the World Atlas and microscope prominently centered on my desk. For hours at a time, I would go back and forth between the photos of places around the globe and the Atlas to locate

where the spots of inquiry were on the planet. This was no doubt my beginnings as a geographer.

“Geography is the study of earth as the home of people,” states my hero geographer Yi-Fu Tuan. While a simple notion, it is equally profound in that it implies a heartfelt and spiritual connection and relationship. The idea of “home” perhaps surfaces thoughts or images of comfort, protection from the elements, safety, family and friends, and a place to hang your hat.

Earth as home offers air, water, soil to grow food, and other resources necessary for life. The earth as home also suggests a responsibility of upkeep and care by those who reside on it. As we wind down the Season of Creation, let us call to mind the sacred gift of home called Earth, and the generous Creator who bequeathed it to our care.



Photo by Mikhail Nilov

For Pondering

- How do you envision the gift of creation?
 - What do you consider your responsibility in caring for and sustaining this sacred gift?
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For Prayer

*Mighty God, Father of all,
Compassionate God, Mother of all,
Bless every person I met,
every face I have seen,
every voice I have heard,
especially those most dear;
bless every city, town and
street that I have known,
bless every sight I have seen,
every sound I have heard,
every object I have touched.*

*In some mysterious way these have all fashioned my life:
all that I am,
I have received.
Great God, bless the world.*

JOHN J. MORRIS, SJ

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