

*Dominican Sisters Delegation  
Vigil at Standing Rock*

*Friday, November 11, 2016  
Saturday, November 12, 2016*

*Pray in Solidarity with the Sisters*



*Three Adrian Dominican Sisters* – Kathleen Nolan, OP, Maurine Barzantni, OP, and Marilyn Winter, OP – are joining other Dominican Sisters November 11-12 to stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux in opposition of the construction the Dakota Access Pipeline.

According to the Global Catholic Climate Movement, the tribe's dispute is with the route of the pipeline, which is to cross under the Missouri River north of its reservation and is to cross land that the Sioux tribe considers sacred.

As communicated by the North American Dominican Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation, "Our Dominican witness and standing in solidarity with our Native Brothers and Sisters are consistent with our North American Dominican Justice Promoters call for justice in our world today. Engaging in issues using the pastoral model of see-judge-act, we address injustice in a spirit of respect, compassion, and solidarity with the whole Earth community."

We invite you to stand with us from afar this weekend by reflecting on the prayers for Mother Earth contained in this booklet.

## *Mother Earth*

O our Mother the Earth, blessed is your name.  
Blessed are your fields and flowers, your rocks and mountains,  
your grasses and trees and flowers,  
and every green and growing thing.

Blessed are your streams and lakes and rivers,  
the oceans where our life began,  
and all your waters that sustain our bodies and refresh our souls.

Blessed is the air we breathe,  
your atmosphere that surrounds us  
and binds us to every living thing.

Blessed are all creatures that walk along your surface  
or swim in your waters or fly through your air,  
for they are all our relatives.

Blessed are all people who share this planet,  
for we are all one family, and the same spirit moves through us all.

Blessed is the sun, our day star,  
bringer of morning and the heat of summer, giver of light and life.  
Blessed is the moon, our night lamp,  
ruler of the tides, protector of all women,  
and guardian of our dreams.

*Gratitude* to Mother Earth,  
sailing through the night and day —  
and to her soil: rich, rare and sweet

*In our minds so it be*

Gratitude to plants,  
the sun-facing light-changing leaf and fine root-hairs,  
standing still through wind and rain,  
their dance is in the flowing spiral grain

*In our minds so it be*

Gratitude to Wild Beings,  
our brother, teaching secrets, freedoms, and ways,  
who share with us their milk, self-complete, brave, and aware

*In our minds so it be*

Gratitude to Water clouds, lakes, rivers, glaciers, holding or  
releasing, steaming through all our bodies salty seas

*In our minds so it be*

Gratitude to the sun:  
blinding pulsing light through trunks of trees, through mists,  
warming caves where bears and snakes sleep — he who wakes us

*In our minds so it be*

Gratitude to the Great sky  
who holds billions of stars – and goes yet beyond that  
– beyond all powers, and thoughts, and yet within us –

*In our minds so it be*

*Gary Snyder (After a Mohawk Prayer)*

*We pray for our family at Standing Rock.*

We pray for Our Sister Water who is our life.

We pray for the healing and safety of the Water Protectors.

We pray for all those gathered at the Standing Rock camp.

We pray for those who are suffering from the trauma unleashed by the violence that occurred on 27 October.

We pray for traditional communities that have borne the brunt of generations of violence, even at times, turning that violence on themselves and each other.

We pray for healing for the police;  
for the healing for the pipeline workers;  
for the bankers who fund the pipeline.

We pray for the people who are so disconnected from their mother that they continue to injure her.  
We pray for those who are on the Forgiveness Walk on Sunday to the police station in Mandan, South Dakota.

We pray for healing for the hatred that was generated on 27 October.

We acknowledge the sins of our ancestors,  
the horrific acts perpetrated on our brothers and sisters as a result of the doctrine of discovery,  
we ask for forgiveness and healing from our sisters and brothers,  
we pray for unity and oneness for all creation.

Without this healing we can't think clearly, we can't act rightly,  
and we can't serve our Mother in the fullest manner.



*Blessed are the stars and the planets,*  
the time-keepers, who fill our nights with beauty  
and our hearts with awe.

O Great Spirit whose voice we hear in the wind  
and whose face we see in the morning sun,  
blessed is your name.

Help us to remember that you are everywhere,  
and teach us the way of peace.

*Helen Weaver, excerpt from Earth Prayers*

## *A Prayer for our Earth*

All-powerful God,  
you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace,  
that we may live as brothers and sisters,  
harming no one.  
O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.

*Pope Francis published this prayer in his Laudato Si' encyclical, and is meant for sharing with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator.*

