

## April 19<sup>th</sup> Prayer for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Honoring Earth Day, Creation, and the power of collaboration - Giving thanks for Jubilee Farm, the Laudato Si Platform, Involvement in Synod 2021-2023, the Dominican Alliance, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Dominican Sisters Conference, and Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Dominican Sisters

**Leader:** Sometimes the call to mission requires a relocation of the body and sometimes a relocation of the heart. From the beginning, our Community moved to the call and rhythm of Dominican itinerancy. The journey from Kentucky to independence in Jacksonville was a kaleidoscope of promises, dreams, calls, impasses, ministries, and collaboration. For eighteen years – with energy and creative imagination – during devastating illness, as well as during sweet blessings – our pioneer Sisters ministered in Jacksonville. Then the search to find suitable land for needed expansion commenced. In the Spring of 1891, Mr. Routt found a site in Springfield which Father Hickey agreed was an answer to prayer. It was the Dubois property.

**All:** God of those who move from place to place, from home to home with a spirit of itinerancy, bless us as we remember and give thanks for all the women who lived and worked, celebrated and flourished on the Dubois property for 132 years.

**Leader:** It was there, past the city limits, beyond Camp Yates, in a beautiful wooded grove two blocks long and one block wide where stately oak and maple, spruce, and pine trees grew in abundance along side of a tiny rivulet that the agreement to change location for the sake of the mission was made.

**All:** Creating God, you still fill our hearts with wonder at the beauty that surrounds us. Instill in us the gifts of foresight, wisdom, and discretion as we seek to care for the Earth. Bless this land where we have laughed and cried, prayed and shared, grown and died for so many years.

Leader: Trusting the grace of Holy Mystery, we stretched into understanding evolutionary consciousness and its implications for the cosmos. We give thanks for the founding and flourishing of **Jubilee Farm**. For over forty years our Sisters and friends have preserved the integrity, stability, and beauty of the Earth and shared the gift of the land.

All: Creating God, “With profound gratitude and deep interior purpose, we choose to live sustainably in order to further the mission and to cultivate right relationships with all creation.”

Leader: Personal experience and common goals, our Dominican values and Gospel preaching, open us to be in communion with all creation. We strive to study, choose, and live the **Laudato Si** platform “Cry of Earth, Cry of the Poor”.

All: Creating God, we know that this ongoing process and transformation requires our prayers, study, sacrifices, reflection, and personal commitment. Give us the desire and ability to work and pray in solidarity with the entire Earth community.

Leader: Once again we are answering the call for study and relationships, for dialogue and collaboration as we enter into the collaborative process of the **2021-2023 Synod**.

All: Creating God, we strive to form and grow a welcoming, missionary Church that believes in a preferential option for the young, the women, the elderly, and the excluded ones. Help us to enlarge our tent, embracing others with all their diversities, fears, resistance, or passivity.

Leader: The question: “How are we in communion with the Earth and all others?” remind us of our long history of collaboration and partnership with the **Dominican Alliance, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Project Irene, Dominican Sisters Conference, and Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Dominican Sisters**. Through those connections and ongoing commitments, we want to acknowledge and continue to respond to the call to change

comfortable thought patterns, so that together we can claim the intersectionality of the elements and beings of Earth.

All: Creating God, be with us in our circle of hope. With these other religious women and Associates may we use our resources to solve problems of poverty, violence, and relationships. Be with us as we ponder what we might be ready and willing to commit to in a collective way.

Leader: God of Leaders and Healers, the unknown is often called a place of potential and possibility. May we continue to be in right relationships with and give thanks for all those who believe in collaboration for the life of the world. As we celebrate 150 years of our “Dominican Life and Mission” may we continue to be blessed by the ongoing relational components of women religious and committed laity who unite in so many collaborative ventures.

Hymn:

