

HOW ARE WE CALLED TO BE SPIRITUALLY BOLD?



franciscan mission service

Day 1: Imaginative Reflection

SPIRITUAL BOLDNESS:

courageously striving to live the Gospel call.

How have FMS missionaries witnessed models of spiritual boldness?

Where are we called to be spiritually bold in today's world?

Honoring our Franciscan identity, we reflect upon spiritual boldness within the context of **care for creation** and **environmental justice**. We invite you to join us in a 6-day mini retreat on care for creation, using this reflection booklet as a prayer guide and journal. As you enter into this prayer experience, you will be guided by photos, prayers, and reflections offered by our missionaries in Bolivia, Guatemala, and Jamaica, and our volunteers and staff in Washington, DC.

As one of only two annual appeals, we also invite you to help us reach our **summer appeal goals** of gaining **50 new monthly donors** and raising **\$20,000**.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



Imagine yourself in your favorite place in nature...

God saw ALL
that God had
made, and it was
VERY GOOD.

genesis 1:31

...Now imagine if that place no longer existed.

Day 2: Scripture Reading



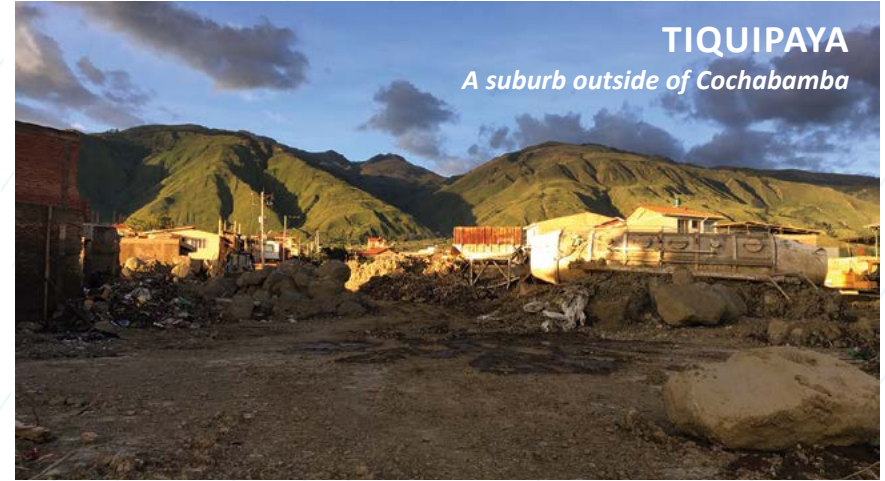
Photos taken by missionary Cindy Mizes, Jamaica.

Psalm 104: 24, 33-35

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly.
You made all things in wisdom;
I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing to my God as long as I exist.
May my words be pleasing to Him and I shall be glad in the Lord.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

What does it mean to be created in the “image of God”?

Day 3: Contemplative Prayer



After a historic drought, this region experienced torrential downpours in February that caused massive flooding and mudslides in and around people's homes.

“This picture [of my friend’s family home] is a **complex juxtaposition** to me. The breathtakingly beautiful and peaceful mountains in the backdrop with the horrific devastation of the aftermath of a natural disaster underneath it. Beauty and pain. Peace and turmoil.”

—SarahJane Cauzillo, Bolivia

How have you seen God in beauty and pain in your own life?



AT VALLEY OF THE ANGELS SCHOOL IN GUATEMALA, THE STUDENTS GROW THEIR FOOD IN THEIR OWN BACK YARD.

HOW CAN YOU CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND YOU—EVEN AS CLOSE AS YOUR OWN BACK YARD?



"JAMAICA IS KNOWN FOR ITS ABUNDANCE OF TROPICAL TREES..."



...BUT HOW LONG WILL THE TREES BE ABUNDANT IF THEY KEEP CUTTING THEM DOWN TO MAKE WIDER ROADS?"

—Tim Shelgren, Jamaica

Day 4: Rosary Meditation



Flowers growing through and beyond their fences in Brookland, Washington, DC.

Litany of Mary of Nazareth

...Mary, Queen of Peace, we entrust our lives to you. Shelter us from war, hatred and oppression. Teach us to live in peace, to educate ourselves for peace. Inspire us to act justly, to reverence all God has made. Root peace firmly in our hearts and in our world. Amen.

Pray a rosary for all God's creations that are restricted from growing due to external forces, that they may persevere.

Day 5: Care for Creation Examen

The Examen is a reflective prayer on the day; it calls us to be aware of God's presence in our lives and to listen to God's invitations. It invites us to see God in all people and parts of our day.

Recognize God's Presence. Invite God to be with you during this time of prayer. Ask God for the wisdom to see creation as God sees it.

Express Gratitude. Give thanks for the gifts God has showered upon you. Identify one or two gifts of creation for which you are particularly grateful today. Be specific. God is found in the details.

Review the Day. Walk back through your day moment by moment. Consider how the natural world has intersected with your day. Consider the impact of creation on your life and the lives of the most vulnerable in our world. What emotions arise as you ponder these?

Reflect on Choices. How have your choices today reflected your care for creation and desire to stand in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable? What joys did you experience? Where were you challenged? When you've fallen short, ask for the grace of conversion.

Look to Tomorrow. What is God's invitation? What commitment will you make to be in right relationship with God, creation, and our vulnerable sisters and brothers?

Day 6: Praise and Thanksgiving



Canticle of the Sun

O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,
to you belong praise, glory, honour and all blessing.
Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation
and especially for our Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light;
he is strong and shines magnificently
O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon, and for the stars
which you have set shining and lovely in the heavens...

**Reflect on the glorifying words of St. Francis, and then try writing
your own canticle, praising God for God's creation.**

Help our garden grow by helping us reach our
SUMMER APPEAL GOALS!

GOAL #1

10/50 new monthly donors
(gained from the World Care Benefit!)



 = 1 new monthly donor

GOAL #2

\$20,000 to be raised



 = \$1,000

Mail us your donation, or donate online at franciscanmissionservice.org/donate