

PLEDGE TO MOTHER EARTH

Dear Mother Earth

Today, all around the world we think of You and Your unceasing service. You are here for us each and every day, You are the foundation of our being, You feed and nourish us without pause. How do we thank You for this?

Humanity takes You and Your service for granted. You get only little respect and gratitude. Is this the reason why we are taking even more from You, ripping You off for centuries? And this is not all. Our "return services" are polluted air, contaminated water and radioactive waste with which we are poisoning Your precious body. You are maltreated and trampled on by us – even though we are a part of You and consequently damage ourselves, too. But, unfortunately, we have become blind and spiritually dull so that we do not realise what are we causing. Many even regard You as an enemy who has to be fought and not as the Mother who nourishes us. It seems that since the beginning of industrialisation we have gradually been losing respect for You. And from this time our world has increasingly fallen out of balance.

You suffer because of us, yet despite all adversity You continue unceasingly and, again and again, You keep presenting us with a breathtaking variety and beauty of flowers, with trees and many other plants. Even when we are sick, there is a way for healing because of You and thanks to You.

And what would the world be without the many different animals, without the birds, butterflies and reptiles? They all have their place, their function and meaning in Creation, and when a species dies off, a part of the whole is now missing and we have to bear the consequences and, whether we like it or not, also assume full responsibility for this. We, the humans, need You, but do You need us?

Two thirds of Your garment is covered with mighty oceans, in which an even greater number and variety of creatures live than onshore. They give us a great part of the oxygen which we need to breathe, and they provide for us fresh water by the rain. And what is humanity doing to the seas? We pollute them, fill them with plastic and overfish them.

Dear Mother Earth, I am aware of the current grievances; I will do everything in my power to correct them. I will not cease until You are bestowed the honour You deserve for Your service to humanity and to all life. This I pledge to You!

(written by The Very Reverend Dean Paul Probst, SF em. European President of The World Foundation for Natural Science)