

WINGED CREDO

A Call to Contemplation and Action with Respect to Pollinator Declines

AND TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO THE LEGACY OF RACHEL CARSON ON THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH, APRIL 14TH, 2014



WE BELIEVE that our sacred duty to care for creation extends to all creatures great and small, including monarch butterflies, bees and other pollinators who work incessantly to help bring us our daily bread.

WE BELIEVE that because of inadvertent or neglectful human actions, monarch butterflies, honey bees and bumblebees may have now reached their lowest populations ever during our lifetimes, and that we have the responsibility to reverse such trends.

WE BELIEVE that butterflies (and monarchs in particular) have become symbols of spiritual metamorphosis, personal transformation, renewal of faith, or rebirth to people of many cultures and religions in the world, and that the biological loss of these wellsprings of hope in our lives would impoverish us all.

WE BELIEVE we have a blessed role to serve as temporary caretakers, gardeners, farmers and beekeepers on this earth, and that this obligates us to protect pollinators from undo harm from climatic disruption, inappropriate or untargeted herbicide use and habitat degradation.

WE BELIEVE that some farms and farmers in the U.S. have both become poorer and less able to cope with super-weeds and the rising cost of herbicides to control these crop competitors, so much so that their own livelihoods may now be at risk.

WE BELIEVE that our practice of prayer or contemplation in our faiths offer us a deepened capacity to bring diverse constituencies together, out of conflict and into collaboration, to solve the problems facing imperiled milkweeds and monarchs, bees and wildflowers, in ways that also help farmers and farm workers, whose health and well-being are also necessary for our food security.

WE RECOGNIZE that on February 19, 2014, President Obama of the U.S., President Peña Nieto of Mexico, and Prime Minister Harper signed an historic agreement in Toluca to protect monarch butterflies along their corridor, but they will require considerable public engagement and international good will to actualize that goal in time to keep monarchs from further decline.

WE REMEMBER and honor the legacy of scientist and literary naturalist Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, “matron saint” of environmental protection and herself a cancer victim, as we approach the fiftieth anniversary of her death on April 14, 2014.

WE THEREFORE AFFIRM our willingness to participate in a day of contemplation and action for endangered pollinators, especially for monarch butterflies, among people of all faiths from dusk on “Palm Sunday” April 13, 2014 to dusk on Monday, April 14, 2014, as a collective prayer that future generations may experience the wonder and beauty of pollinators as integral parts of creation.