

11 The Amazon Project

Check in

Grace: I ask for the grace to know the real effects of my way of consuming and make me passionate for Jesus' simple way of life.

Hymn: M Jackson *Heal the World* (youtube)

Scripture: Luke 18: 9-14

⁹ Jesus also told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everybody else. ¹⁰ "Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. ¹² I fast two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all my income.' ¹³ But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you," said Jesus, "the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great."

Prayer: Having read the text from Luke, for the next 10 minutes, I place myself in the temple scene to see what happens there, the characters, their thoughts and attitudes.

Explanation: We are particularly aware of the pressing need to work for justice through a preferential option for the poor and a simple life style, which expresses our freedom and solidarity with them. (General Principles 4 - Our Charism)

Because we hold and seek to further develop our sensitivity for the concern of creation, we find it necessary to understand the reality of people who need to survive and as well as our consumer patterns that generate the demand for raw materials that come from distant regions in our planet. We know little or nothing of how the goods we consume are produced.

Faced with the concern of creation, do I feel more in the attitude of the Pharisee or that of the publican? I take careful note of what happens in my heart, in my thoughts and movements within me.

Prayer Exercise: *self-reflection of myself as consumer and as producer*

For a moment, I will use all my senses to contemplate my life, my daily life, as follows:

I as a Consumer: I look at my life, I notice my body, the way that I dress today. I notice the things I use daily: goods, products that I normally use, eat, frequent ... why do I use these products? Do I know where they come from?

I as a Producer: Now I think for a moment what is the fruit of my daily work, the exercise of my profession or what I do to earn an income. I also think of the waste I generate daily. Do I see the impact? Who is affected? How I can reduce it?

Sharing

Final Prayer: We take a few minutes to reflect. I glean in a personal and communal way the answer to the question: What is the Lord inviting me / us to do in this meeting? Pray spontaneously for the help you need to get what you want.

Ongoing practice: *I as Maker:* Look around your home or place of work the materials with which you can make a creative work: crayons, sheets of white or coloured paper, vinyl, putty, wool or yarn, craft sticks, etc. Now, take yourself to a quiet place and start creating a work of yours that expresses who you are, a unique creation that no one else can reproduce, which cannot be standardized or adopted for a whole group of people. It could be a painting, poem, object, sport, dance, musical composition, etc. Let your creative self flow...

An/or

I take a few minutes of my day or week to check what is happening in the Amazon, with special attention to what relates to the exploitation of raw materials, on the news, newspapers or the Internet. I review what is happening in the Church initiatives aimed at communities that live in this territory and the actions being undertaken by the Ecclesial PanAmazonian Network – REPAM

And read the **Explanation** prior to the next meeting

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