



**‘If the defacement of the poor is a defacement of God, in the same way a defacement of Earth is a defacement of God... From now on, caring for the environment has to be understood as being at the core of what mercy is, of what mercy asks us to do. ‘**

-Carmody Grey



**‘The degradation of Earth led to a three-layered emergency visible in global climate change, approaching tipping points of ecosystems (Amazon, Arctic, Australia, and Antarctic), and the unprecedented threat of biodiversity loss and habitat destruction.’**

-Elizabeth Davis rsm

**‘Young people, so aware of the environment and the importance of maintaining it, respecting it, and allowing the flora and fauna time to regenerate – Who will speak for the environment if you don’t?’**

-Gabrielle Scanlon,  
Our Lady of Mercy College,  
Parramatta



**‘Through these two aspects of living Mercy, the ‘practical-active’ and the ‘reflective-spiritual’, we can make a committed and integrated response to healing the degradation of Earth and its creatures and, in so doing, heal our human community.’**

-Adele Howard rsm

**‘I am uneasy with the statement that Earth is degraded. She has been “Good” for nearly 14 billion years, gracefully orbiting a benevolent star, open to whatever comes next. We are learning from birds and beasts, and presently an invisible virus, how to belong and behave here. Just maybe we will learn to live out the sacred song inside us — the same catchy tune that fills the violet and the tree frog with the will and un-degradable gift of being alive.’**

-Mary Bilderback rsm



**“‘We are in Need of Respirators Urgently!’ Thus Cry Out the Oceans of the World’**

-Margie Abbott rsm

**‘The impact on the planet as seen through the works of mercy – hunger of people and other species, water scarcity for many, washed clothing polluting oceans, housing a human right, the sickness that is COVID-19, imprisonment for climate justice, burial rituals during a pandemic, planetary health.’**

-Bridget Crisp rsm

**‘The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing.’**

(Hos 4:3)



# MERCY AND DEGRADATION OF EARTH

