



Most Reverend Raymond J. Boland

Bishop Emeritus

Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph

The Catholic Church in the 21st Century God, Creation and the Environmental Crisis

Invocation of the

Most Reverend Raymond J. Boland, D.D.

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1.

Gracious and gentle God,
Giver of all good gifts,
Generous Provider for all your people.

In the beginning,
Your spirit hovered over the universe
and you filled our space
with light and darkness,
with sunshine and with shadow,
and you clothed the fertile land
with vegetation of every kind.
You enriched our world
with fish and birds and myriad animals
and for our benefit and enjoyment
You made us the beneficiaries and the stewards
of your wondrous creation.

2.

With sorrow and with shame
we must confess
that we have not always been the
good stewards
of the gifts you entrusted to our care.
Sometimes in the ignorance and often with selfishness
we have
scarred your landscape, poisoned your rivers,
polluted your oceans.
We have
filled your valleys with garbage,
shrouded our dwellings with smog
and compromised the lives of all living things
including ourselves
and our children.

3.

Lord,
while there is still time,
we come to you as prodigals
conscious of our wrongdoing,
aware of the gravity and the implications
of our misdeeds
and we beg you,
our always
Compassionate Father
to fill us with the courage and the resolve and the strength
to renew the face of the earth,
so that our generation may be judged
a little less unworthy
of the mantle of stewardship
which you have placed upon our shoulders.
Help us to restore our environment
so that it truly reflects
the beauty of your creation
and mirrors in some small way
the eternity we hope to share
In your presence forever.

AMEN