

Homily071617

## JUST AS THE RAINS COME DOWN...

Thus says the Lord: “Just as the rains come down from the heavens and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful—so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth.” As I thought about that sentence many questions entered my mind. Just follow along for a few minutes please.

How does water get up into the atmosphere? Does water evaporate from our oceans? Yes.

Does the salt evaporate with the water? No.

So the evaporated water from the salt water of the ocean is then fresh water? Yes.

What happens to the evaporated water? It falls to the earth again as precipitation.

Do plants, trees, and animals give off water? Yes. As a form of what is called Transpiration.

How much of the water in the atmosphere above earth is from this process of transpiration? About 10%.

How does transpiration work? Plants absorb water through their roots & then give off water vapor from their leaves.

How much water comes through transpiration? An acre of corn can give off 3,000/4,000 gallons per day.

A large oak tree can give off 40,000 gallons a year.

Let's go back to the oceans for a moment. Do the oceans perform a cleansing function for the earth? Yes.

What follows I taken from a science blog.

The sea bed is always pretty clean. You won't see any fish skeletons or rotting seaweed. It is surprisingly clean considering the amount of waste, natural and man-made, that gets washed into the oceans from every river on the planet. How does the ocean do it? We can imagine the world's oceans as the heart, blood, kidney and liver of our planet, and in a way the lungs as well.

The sea currents that pump vast quantities of water from the equator to the poles and then back again can be thought of as the circulatory system of the earth. The water movement dilutes and distributes any pollutants, transporting nutrients from the polar waters to the equatorial seas.

In 2010, the world's first, comprehensive census of marine life was published. It showed that we know substantially less about life in the sea than we thought. For example, in the 1950's marine biologists predicted that there were about 100,000 microbes per liter of sea water. The 2010 census has shown that the number is greater than a billion microbes per liter. A liter is a little more than a quart. A billion microbes in a quart—bacteria and viruses.

These microbes act as the kidneys, liver and lungs of the planet by converting all the waste into useable molecules, which are then precipitated to the ocean floor, which in turn cleans and purifies the water.

Although not all microbes help to clean up the ocean, they are all essential to maintaining the sustainable food web that marine life inhabit. The micro-organisms can all be grouped into three distinct categories, 'The Decomposers', 'The Producers' and 'The Consumers'. Many of them have dual functions. Basically they break things down, consume them and transform them into something beneficial. Natural process of recycling.

Evidence shows that it was microbes that converted the hostile, poisonous earth that was created a few billion years ago into the rather comfortable home we now know it to be. They may also be the salvation of the planet from global warming

One of my common expressions in preaching is that there is always much more going on in the world than we ever know or are ever aware of. But God knows because God designed the system. God

has a game plan for all of creation. But all of creation, not just human beings, has been negatively impacted by sin. That is what Saint Paul meant in his epistle to the Christians at Rome in the middle of the first century. He said that “all cr4eation groans and is in agony, groaning in labor pains to bring forth the new creation, the new baby, born from the firstborn of the dead. When we think of Christ we think in terms of human beings and our salvation, about his teaching and how we are to live on this earth. We think of the kingdom of heaven that he revealed.

But the new creation is not just for human beings it is for all living things. And if it is not clear to you that this earth is very much a living thing, I assure you it very much is. And so is our solar system and so is our universe—all negatively impacted by sin, by the misuse of the powers entrusted to us. All disease has resulted from the negative effects on human life. All natural disasters are also the result of the negative impact of the misuse of freedom—by the pure spirits and by us as human beings. God’s design is orderly and harmonious. Those other things are not part of the original design, the original innocence.

What God has done is to begin anew, to regenerate the face of the earth. God has done this by incarnating his Son, by his own Word taking on our flesh, damaged as it is and renewing it from within, from the inside. And all of God’s creation knows this even if some of us do not know this. Jesus is the seed sown. Sown everywhere. Sown for everyone and for everything. There is a divine interconnectivity of things. And Jesus is the heling presence wherever there is damage, wherever sin remains. The network, the grid, the organism that we are personally and the organism we are one of the cells of, is to be healed and rejuvenated by Christ.

You and me? We are better when we know this. We are better when we live in harmony with what Jesus has revealed. We are renewed when the truth lives in us and we begin to recognize that we are part of something of God, something truly amazing but also something very simple—as simple as the rain falling from the sky and the oceans cleaning up the earth. Let us pray this Eucharist with a view to becoming one with each other and with all that is—as part of God’s design.