



## Washing One Another's Feet

*An invitation to critically reflect on*

*JPIC*

This is the next reflection based on

*Washing One Another's Feet* from

*Being Artisans of Hope in our Blessed*

*and Broken World*

Chief Seattle - the following is an adaptation from a speech given in 1854

Every part of this earth is sacred.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.

The air is precious

For all of us share the same breath.

This we know, all things are connected;

Like the blood which unites one family.

Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.

For we did not weave the web of life:

We are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the web

We do to ourselves

General Chapter 1994

The beauty of our earth,

the ecological crisis,

the dignity and weight of human work

call us to live the Eucharist  
as a place of unifying and renewal of creation.  
Bread and wine transformed  
into the body and blood of Christ  
send us to our endangered earth to care for it  
and to make it liveable for all people without exception.

### Being artisans of hope in our blessed and broken world

The call to care for our common home, which is replete with diverse beauty, holds unprecedented urgency. Driven by an ethic of caring about the future of our planet we along with so many others responding to this call seek creative and effective ways to heed this urgency. In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis urges us to listen to “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (#49). It is always the poor who suffer most from the degradation of the earth.

### Laudato Si' – par. 67

Referring to the Genesis text Pope Francis writes of *tilling and keeping the garden of the world*:

“Tilling” refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while “keeping” means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.

### For reflection

What can I do to live more lightly on the planet?

When you celebrate the Eucharist, note how integral creation is to the celebration – prayers, readings, hymns; reflect on the processes that are involved in providing the bread and wine of the Eucharist.