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Poem That Inspired Ecology Encyclical

English translation of Saint Francis' "Canticle of the Sun" (written in the Umbrian dialect), from which Pope Francis took the title for his encyclical "Laudato Si."

06/16/2015

English translation of "Canticle of the Sun"

Most high, all powerful, all good
Lord!

All praise is Yours, all glory, all
honor, and all blessing

To You, alone, Most High, do they
belong.

No mortal lips are worthy to
pronounce Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all Your
creatures,

especially through my lord Brother
Sun,

who brings the day; and You give
light through him.

And he is beautiful and radiant in all
his splendor!

Of You, Most High, he bears the
likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister
Moon and the stars;

in the heavens You have made them
bright, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through
Brothers Wind and Air,

and clouds and storms, and all the
weather,

through which You give Your
creatures sustenance.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister
Water;

she is very useful, and humble, and
precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother
Fire,

through whom You brighten the
night.

He is beautiful and cheerful, and
powerful and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, through our
sister Mother Earth,

who feeds us and rules us,

and produces various fruits with
colored flowers and herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, through those
who forgive for love of You;

through those who endure sickness
and trial.

Happy those who endure in peace,

for by You, Most High, they will be
crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our
sister Bodily Death,

from whose embrace no living
person can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin!

Happy those she finds doing Your
most holy will.

The second death can do no harm to
them.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give
thanks,

and serve Him with great humility.

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