

Dorothy Stang Novena: Day 3 – Thursday, February 6



Blessed are the lowly: they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5

"We need to be poor with the poor and re-appropriate a kind and tender relationship with Mother-Earth. Then we will know how to act." — Sister Dorothy Stang

Dorothy, your kind and tender relationship with the earth was engendered in you by your father who taught you to love the earth, smell its warm, rich soil and rejoice in what it produced. From your mother, you learned love and generosity for those who have less. We give thanks for Christian parents who model faith and generosity in their children and encourage the path to their state in life. Your wisdom of sustainable farming has gone far from the land of Ohio, to the richness of the Amazon.

Prayer:

We pray that those who work with the land--from the Ohio Valley, to the fertile fields of California, Florida and Brazil--be treated justly and with respect.

Action:

Today, plant something; a seed or hope in someone's heart. Enjoy a delicious fruit given to you by "Mother Earth who is so tender and kind."

In the middle of the winter here in New England, it's sometimes hard to remember the land and living things all around us. The land is in need of our protection. The vital resources of the earth are a gift from God. Do we sometimes misuse or misappropriate these resources? Perhaps something as simple as recycling or using less water when we get ready in the morning for work can help remind us that we are one with the earth.

Also, are our own hearts fertile ground so that God's word can be planted, take root, and grow and flourish? Or perhaps do we need to do some "weeding" or cleansing to create more openness within us. It's difficult to be one with the earth if we are not one with ourselves first.