

Canticle of the Creatures (A play by Pauline Clarkin, of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Cornwall, PE)

Characters:

Mother Earth, Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Sister Water, Brother Wind, Brother Fire, Sister Death

Mother Earth: Well, hello out there! Everyone in the whole universe calls me Mother Earth because I keep spinning around and around just to keep an eye on all the universe out there in the darkness. You know, somebody has to look out for all God's creatures. It's very scary and gloomy out there sometimes in that vast emptiness.

Today, I'm going to do a big check-in with some of my celestial children just to see how everything is going. I am going to call each one into my office to have a chat with them – just to hear their concerns. I'll butter them up, too, to keep them in good humour!

Well, here I go. I guess I'll give a shout to Brother Sun now and invite him in -

Brother Sun, come on in!

Well, hello, my bright and radiant lad, do you have any problems with your work out there?

Brother Sun: (with much bravado) Oh yes, Mother Earth, one problem – you are turning too fast for my liking! Can you slow down, Mother Earth? I can't keep up with you!

Mother Earth: Yes, yes, I'll try.... Anything else now, Brother Sun?

Brother Sun: Yes, Yes, I'd just like to say that I'm so proud of me!! (Beats chest). Can anyone give more warmth and light than me? Hurray for me! I love to warm up your lovely earth! ... and I do much, much more! I'm so brilliant!!

Mother Earth: Thank you, thank you, Brother Sun! Remember the gift of humility!

Brother Sun: (ahem....)

Mother Earth: You are wonderful, keep up the good work! Thank you, Brother Sun. You may go now.

Mother Earth: Now I will call in lovely Sister Moon. Come in, Sister Moon. It's your turn now. Don't be afraid! You are very precious and fair. So-oo---very precious! You are a doing a good job! Do you have any problems with your work?

Sister Moon: Oh, Mother Earth, whatever can I do? I feel as though I can't shine as bright as Brother Sun. (sniffing) Brother Sun shines so very bright all day...Maybe I can ask the stars and others for more help? Maybe with their help I will be able to shine much brighter. That would make me very happy! The night sky will be brighter then, won't it?

Mother Earth: Yes, yes, I understand, Sister Moon. Yes, you can ask the stars and others to help. You are so very humble, Sister Moon. Keep up the good work! You can go now, Sister Moon. I'll be watching for you tonight! I'm sure you will shine brighter!

Mother Earth: Now I will call in Sister Water. Well, good afternoon, Sister Water! Sister Water, you are so very useful and pure – the earth really needs you! Do you have any challenges?

Sister Water: Thank you, thank you, Mother Earth, for the chance to talk to you, for I'm all confused today. I don't know what to do because some of your creatures on earth complain I send down too much of my beautiful sweet droplets and others are complaining that the earth is too dry – that their flowers aren't blooming. (Aside) Oh, by the way, I feel there are a lot of late bloomers in your audience today 😊 All I get is complaints from everywhere. Whatever shall I do, Mother Earth?

Mother Earth: Oh, Sister Water, don't feel too bad! Don't you worry, Sister Water, I'll talk to them. You are wonderful, Sister Water. (And yes, I agree, there are a lot of late bloomers in our audience today 😊) Go now, Brother Water!

Mother Earth: Who's up next? Of course, it's Brother Wind! Good day to you, Brother Wind! You're just blowin' around as usual, I see.

Brother Wind: Oh, yes, Mother Earth. I just love blowin' around to check things out, you know?

Mother Earth: Yes, you've been very busy all over checking up on my creatures all over. Are you happy with your work, Brother Wind?

Brother Wind: Oh yes, Mother Earth. I love my work here – I'm just so very strong and powerful! You know? My power can blow strong, stormy weather all around! How exciting is that?

Mother Earth: mmm...I understand, Brother Wind. But take it easy on my children, ok? You may go, now Brother Wind. (aside) mmm... he's pretty impressive....

Mother Earth: Let's see now...ah... Brother Fire. Come in, Brother Fire, how are you today?

Brother Fire: I'm just great! Robust and strong as ever! Full of fire!

Mother Earth: Are you having any problems with the earth and your job? ...if so, how can I help?

Brother Fire: I'm pretty happy with most things. However...Sometimes your earth can be dark and dreary so I like to brighten up the sky, you know? I like to be joyful and playful. I can be destructive at times, too, if I'm in the mood.

Mother Earth: I know you can be beautiful and robust and you can do good things. Be careful of your strength in nature not to be too destructive.

Brother Fire: Yes, yes, Mother Earth. I will try to do a good job!

Mother Earth: Thank you, thank you, Brother Fire. You may go now. Carry on. Bye.

Mother Earth: Ah... our dear friend, Sister Death is here. Come in, my dear Sister Death. You meet my dear children at the end of their lives and give all the beautiful gift of peace. Thank you, thank you, Sister Death.

Sister Death: You are most welcome, Mother Earth. When your children's lives are nearing the end, I welcome and embrace them all so very joyfully so they will not be afraid of their parting from their earthly lives.

Mother Earth: Thank you and may peace and blessings from our good and gracious God be with you always. Good night, Sister Death.

Mother Earth: I am very tired now ...it's been a busy day meeting with my special celestial children. They try their best and I am so proud of them! May they always be faithful to our great and glorious God. What a great bunch! Good night and peace to all!!

Cast sings "Canticle of the Creatures" (to the tune of "You are my Sunshine")

1. O Brother Sunshine, so radiant and bright,
You shine in the daytime to our delight,
You warm the earth up for life to grow
You are precious and we need you so.

Stars and moonlight in the sky above
You brighten the darkness and fill it with love.
Creation needs you so never stray
Please don't take our moonlight away.

O Sister Water so useful and grand
You are so precious as you water the land.
You fill our streams up and oceans too
Oh, we really, really need you.

O Brother Wind, so breezy and strong
From different directions, you blow all around
You blow from East, North and from West,
But the wind from South we love the best.

O Brother Fire, with your flames so high
You jump and dance in the dark night sky,
Oh, with your strength and your power, too
There are times when we really do need you.

O Mother Earth, God's home to all
Through the Father's love, you have answered the call.
Thanks and praise through God above
May our hearts overflow with your love.

Slowly.....

Dear Sister Death, with your welcoming call,
When the journey's over, you'll embrace us all.
We'll meet in praise, in glory and love
To give thanks to the Father above.