

## Newspaper Poem and Reflection

Yolanda Park

I feel as though time is running out to care for our Common Home. We should have started trying to clean our air a long time ago, and now we're almost at the point where it is too late. Although our state of California has made great progress, it feels like the rest of the world hasn't, and now we have leadership we can't seem to trust. Those leaders are not making the progress to care for our environment like we need them to.

Industry is affecting the environment with their pollution, and this affects our life. If the air is polluted, then we can't breathe. It makes me angry that my family and I have to breathe polluted air, and these big companies don't really care at all, even if they say they do. They just want profit. My neighbors also suffer, and even the plants and animals do too, so all of life is outraged by this injustice.

But I have to remember that persistence overcomes power, like the parable of the widow continuing everyday to harass the judge to give her a favorable verdict (Luke 18:1-8). Even though the judge never feared God or people, he gave in to her because he was afraid she would attack him. So we must be persistent too in our endeavor for environmental justice. We have to do it together, and together, we'll receive graces and blessings, as the Lord promised he would give to those who are gathered in His name (Matthew 18:20).

Earth turns to the sun  
Industrial clouds rising  
difficult to breathe



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