

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation: Love the Lord, Love His Kingdom

The Season of Creation: 2023 “Let Justice and Peace Flow”

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ and in St. Francis,

This newsletter will be reaching you just as we begin the Season of Creation in our Holy Catholic Church. The season spans 34 days, beginning on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and concludes on October 4, the feast day of our Beloved Saint Francis, patron saint of ecology. The theme for this year’s ecumenical Season of Creation is “Let Justice and Peace Flow.” The symbol for the season is a mighty river flowing.

I have been reflecting prayerfully on how I intend to honor this beautiful season. As I started to do some research, I found that there are so many great ideas on the Catholic Climate Covenant website, <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>, on Earthbeat from the National Catholic Reporter, <https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat>, on the Season of Creation website, <https://seasonofcreation.org/>, among others, that I became overwhelmed. So I paused and prayed, trusting that the Lord will reveal what is mine to do in His Holy time. And, as He does, I will follow.

For now, I share with you, sisters and brothers, that I plan to focus each of the five weeks on one aspect of creation. In week one, I will honor and practice ecological spirituality, touching the earth and putting my prayers into each step. Week two will be devoted to learning more about the effects of climate disruption on the poor, who are disproportionately affected. In week three I intend to pay extra attention to my lifestyle choices to bring them even more into harmony with my deepest beliefs about our common home. Week four will focus on the animal kingdom and what we can do as a human family to provide needed safeguards for their existence. Finally, in week five I will seek God’s guidance on how to serve Him as a worthy witness and energetic servant as we move through this year.

I invite you, sisters and brothers, to join me on this journey. May we open our eyes to the beauty of all of creation. May we awaken and nurture in our hearts awareness of the sacredness in all things. May we attune our ears to hear the cry of the earth. May we join our collective Franciscan voices to pray for our earth and all of creation. May we join our compassionate actions to others around the world and do our part to safeguard and protect our Common Home. May we remember the words of the prophet Amos who inspired the title of this year’s Season of Creation, “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (5:24).

Peace and All Good,
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St. Francis Region



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24