

Social Action Commission focus for September

Care for God's Creation

Focus: Season of Creation

September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi)

ENCYCLICAL LETTER

LAUDATO SI'

OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

1. "LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs".

2. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

(These are the first two paragraphs of the encyclical. The full text can be accessed below.)

Full text of Laudato Si

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Summary of Laudato Si

<https://laudatosimovement.org/news/whats-the-best-2-page-summary-youve-seen-of-laudato-si/>



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

The Season of Creation, was introduced in 1989 by the late Ecumenical Patriarch, Demetrios I, from the Eastern Orthodox church. It starts on September 1, the first day of the Orthodox church year and ends on October 4, St Francis day on October 4, showing that it is a shared idea between Western and Eastern Christianity. Churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to our shared responsibility for the Earth. Each year, a new theme and resources are created by a group of churches from around the world.

Living Water

The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is living water, based on Ezekiel 47:1-12. God's life-giving water flows from the temple of God, growing deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems.

The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnect-edness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

Laudato Si Action Platform:

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

Video; The Letter

s a 2022 documentary film released on YouTube Originals that centers on Pope Francis's 2015 environmental encyclical, [Laudato Si
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BIl&t=4743s>

What can we do?

A Prayer For Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Laudato Si, #246

Canticle of Creation (Canticle of the Sun)



*Praised be You, my Lord,
with all your creatures.*

Full text of prayer can be found here.

<https://www.stanthony.org/the-canticle-of-the-creatures/>

Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 11th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/creation/documents/20260815-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html

Catholic Climate Network Resources

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/season-of-creation-2026/>

Davenport Diocese Season of Creation

<https://davenportdiocese.org/season-of-creation>

Local Activities

Monarch Butterfly Program and Tagging, Sept. 19

<https://pella-ia.whofi.com/calendar/event/5721120>

Home Activities

Take a family walk in a state or local park and make lists or take photos of the plants and animals you see. When you return home say prayers of thanks to God for what you have seen.

LAUDATO SI' GOALS



In the spirit of integral ecology, hope for the Earth and the Poor.