

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours

Season of Creation



Creation is a gift, it is the marvelous gift that God has given us, so that we will take care of it and harness it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.

(Pope Francis)

The **Season of Creation** is an annual, worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home that begins on September 1 and ends on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This year, the theme for the season is "walking together".

Throughout these past eleven months the Sisters of Bon Secours have been "walking together" toward an ecological conversion at the invitation of Pope Francis in the hopes of doing our small part in securing a future for life on our planet. At the same time, we have been walking with many other people of good will throughout the world who are, with us, defending and caring for all creation. This issue of JPIC News highlights two global efforts on behalf of the Catholic community that offer hope for our planet. There are links for you to read more about both these efforts. Finally, there is an "Ecological Examen" that all of us can use as a daily prayer practice during this Season of Creation.

International Conference Commemorating the 3rd Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*

"*Saving Our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth*", was held in the Vatican on July 5-6, 2018. Our friend, Cardinal Pedro Ricardo Barreto Jimeno, Archbishop of Huancaayo, Perú, was one of the speakers at this conference. The outcome of this conference resulted in four specific proposals for making progress in achieving Pope Francis' vision of integral ecology:

- Renew the commitment for an urgent radical ecological conversion.
- Raise ambition at COP24 for avoiding warming above 1.5 degrees.
- Deepen action among young and indigenous people.
- Encourage financial institutions to support investments with positive social and environmental impact.

In what ways can you/the Bon Secours Family support these efforts?

Read Pope Francis' address to the conference:
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2018/july/documents/papa-francesco_20180706_terzoanniversario-laudatosi.html

Read more about the conference:
English: <http://laudato-si-conference.com/>



Children's Ceremony, *Laudato Si'* Conference



Indigenous Amazonian Leaders,
Laudato Si' Conference

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September
JPIC Days of Remembrance

September 1
**World Day of Prayer for the
Care of Creation**

September 1 – October 4
Season of Creation

September 15
World Clean Up Day

September 16
**International Day for the
Preservation of the Ozone
Layer**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/ozoneday/>

September 18
World Water Monitoring Day

September 21
International Day of Peace
<http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>

September 26
**World Environmental Health
Day**



Defending and Caring
for All Creation



Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity: Ecological Examen in the Spirit of Laudato Si'

Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and to reconcile our relationship with God, creation and one another. Borrowing from the great Ignatian tradition of examens, this Ecological Examen asks you to reflect on your personal relationship with creation, to acknowledge and amend your ways and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm. Developed by St. Ignatius Loyola, the Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us.

You are invited to use this examen daily during this Season of Creation – and beyond.

Begin the Examen by placing yourself in a posture that allows you to be open to the ways God's Spirit is working in you. There are six steps in the Examen:

GRATITUDE: I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made.
Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?

AWARENESS: I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering.
Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of Earth and people who are poor?

UNDERSTANDING: I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and those who are poor and vulnerable.
*What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation?
How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and people who are poor?*

CONVERSION: I ask for the grace of **conversion towards ecological justice** and reconciliation.
*Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters?
How do I ask for a conversion of heart?*

RECONCILIATION: I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation, and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions.
*How can I repair my relationship with creation
and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?*

PRAYER: I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.



Sowing Hope for the Planet

The International Union of Superiors' General has created several resources in English, French and Spanish that can be used to celebrate the Season of Creation. You are encouraged to view these resources and use them to celebrate the Season of Creation in your country.

Sowing Hope for the Planet - Resources

Resources: <https://www.ipicroma.org/single-post/2018/08/03/2018-SEASON-OF-CREATION>

Video

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHwXtBU9g8&feature=youtu.be>

French: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnX1TG6L3lg&feature=youtu.be>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ7IFPWaKa>

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