

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Season of Creation

"The Season of Creation is an opportunity to reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork entrusted to our care, and to implore God's help for the protection of creation."

Pope Francis

The Season of Creation, celebrated between September 1 and October 4 is a global Christian event celebrating the bonds we share with each other and with every living creature on Earth. The Christian family celebrates this season by spending time in prayer, considering ways to inhabit our common home more sustainably, and lifting our voices in the public sphere on behalf of Earth.

The theme for the Season of Creation 2020 is "Jubilee for Earth." Jubilee is a time to renounce overconsumption and economic systems based on constant economic growth at the cost of Earth and those who are poor. Jubilee is a time when those who have consumed the most try to make restitution to those who have suffered the most. Jubilee is a time of rest for the land from constant exploitation, to restore ecosystems and people. During the Season of Creation we invite you to join us in appreciating the beauty of God's handiwork and "defending and caring for creation" in all the ways you can in the spirit of Bon Secours.

Season of Creation

"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 colored flowers and herbs." (LS #1)

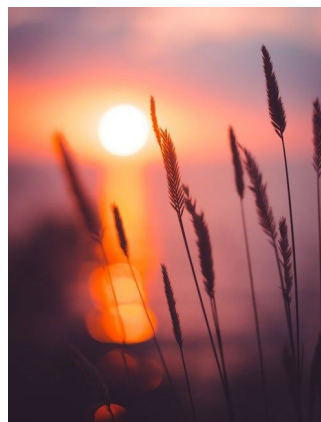
Reflection

Reflect on these words from *Laudato Si'* as you notice the beauty of God's handiwork during this Season of Creation.

Visualize planet Earth as a mother who nourishes you physically through the abundance of her crops.

Pause frequently to notice how Mother Earth tends to your spirit through the natural world: sunny days, the smell of flowers, a beautiful sunset or the song of the birds.

**What gifts of Mother Earth do you most appreciate?
How can you deepen your appreciation for the natural world during this Season of Creation?**



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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

September 18
World Water Monitoring Day

September 21
International Day of Peace

September 26
World Environmental Health Day

Sisters of Bon Secours...Women of healing...defending and caring for all creation (Mission focus)



Season of Creation – Sowing Hope for the Planet

Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. Yet we are called to be instruments of God so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness. Sister Earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, cries out, pleading that we take another course. (LS #53)

As you listen to the cries of Earth, what course(s) of action are you inspired to take on her behalf during this Season of Creation?

Since March the Congregation of Bon Secours has been committed to addressing climate change by joining the Meatless Monday movement. One day a week, we go without meat. This past month we reached the **Meatless Monday Milestone** of 25 weeks without Monday meats. If you haven't yet joined us in this adventure, the Season of Creation is a good time to start!

Season of Creation – Eliminating/Reducing Use of Plastics

Each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive, from homes and businesses, from construction and demolition sites, from clinical, electronic and industrial sources. The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. (LS #21)

The Sisters of Bon Secours have made a commitment to eliminate single use plastics and to reduce other forms of plastic as a way of caring for creation. We invite all those in the Bon Secours Family to join us in this effort.

- This month notice how you participate in the "throwaway" culture.
 - What paper and plastic items do you use once and throw away?
 - What alternative products can you begin using instead?
 - What personal commitment will you make this month to decrease or eliminate plastic?
- Take a walk in your neighborhood on trash day. When we say we are throwing something away remember there is no "away" to throw anything. Remind yourself that most of your trash will end up in a landfill somewhere.



My Commitment to decrease and/or eliminate plastic this month: _____

Peruvian Sisters Show Their Creative Musical Talents to Encourage Less Use of Plastics

JPIC Committee members, Sisters Teresa Margot Benites, Yolanda Morales Valiente and Maria Pintado Peña held a song contest for the Sisters in Peru to raise awareness of the harm plastics cause. They have shared these very creative videos of the Sisters encouraging all of us to eliminate and/or reduce our plastic use. While the translations of the lyrics are not yet available, let's give a round of applause for the fantastic job these Sisters have done! We think they are ready to audition for "Peru's Got Talent"!



1st Place Winner: Song "Less Plastic, More Life" by Los Ranchos Community: Sisters Teresa Mijahuanga Campoverde, Gumerinda Córdova Córdova, Yovana Margarita Castillo Segura and Neumi Yovana Carbajal Martínez https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AaMeXkgZovb1DEWnJdFCWab5_LxPJJay/view

2nd Place Winner: Song "Somos Un Instante" by Angelique Geay Community: Sisters Angelita Jave Ruiz, Amabilia Arriaga García, Diana Elizabeth Rivera Guerrero, Ana Melba Castillo López and Sara Gálvez Ríos. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GZF0v0X5oVcTK-iY2Q2QW-rPvsqnU8WF/view>

3rd Place Winner: Song "Grite Hermanos" by Siloe Community: Yolanda Elizabeth Morales Valiente, Leonila Vega Rodríguez and Rosa Sánchez Chigne. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U8happleb2w95Kjy8ikolofyoUhpPFdki/view>

A Hopeful Solution: Masks from banana-tree species could cut COVID-19 plastic waste!

Fiber from a relative of the banana tree could replace plastic in millions of face masks and hospital gowns the world is making to fight the coronavirus. Abaca – a fiber from the Philippines – is as durable as polyester but will decompose within two months.



Drying of Abaca fibers. (Bloomberg)

Global efforts to ban single-use plastics have slowed as nations prioritized hygiene over the environment for packaging and medical supplies, creating an opportunity for chemical companies to thrive. Sales of disposable face masks are set to rise more than 200-fold worldwide this year to \$166 billion, according to a United Nations trade article, citing Grand View Research. Abaca fiber is rapidly gaining popularity as governments and manufacturers all around the world scamper to produce more reusable and safe medical garments for healthcare professionals.

(Source: Bloomberg)

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

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 Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS (Peru)
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 Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, CBS (Peru)
 Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)