

# Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

## Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours

### Season of Creation



September, 2022

Vol. 8, Number 1



"The sweet song of creation invites us to practice an "ecological spirituality",  
attentive to God's presence in the natural world.

It is a summons to base our spirituality on the  
"loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures,  
but joined in a splendid universal communion."

Pope Francis, Message in Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

The Season of Creation is a liturgical season of prayer and action when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. It runs annually from September 1 through October 4.

This year, the theme for the Season of Creation is *Listen to the Voice of Creation*. During this season our common prayer and action can help us listen to the many and varied beautiful voices in the natural world as well as the voices of those who are silenced. These are the voices of those in marginalized communities who suffer disproportionately the impacts of climate change. These are the voices of the Indigenous Peoples who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land. These are the voices of a diminishing diversity of more-than-human species. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change and we re-commit ourselves to care for our common home.

For the Sisters of Bon Secours, this Season also marks our commitment to begin implementing the Goals and SMART Actions each Area has developed in response to the Laudato Si' Action Platform. You will be hearing about these exciting actions in the near future from your Area Leadership and the members of the JPIC Committee.



If we learn how to listen,  
we can hear in the voice of creation  
a kind of dissonance.

On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise  
of our beloved Creator;  
on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our  
mistreatment of this our common home.

Pope Francis,  
World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2022

During this Season of Creation  
make time to truly listen to creation –  
the human as well as the non-human voices --  
not only with your ears but with your heart.

Click on this link to access the Resource Guide with ideas  
for celebrating the Season of Creation

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

September  
JPIC Days of Remembrance

September 1  
World Day of Prayer for the  
Care of Creation

September 1 – October 4  
Season of Creation  
2022 Theme:  
*Listen to the Voice of Creation*



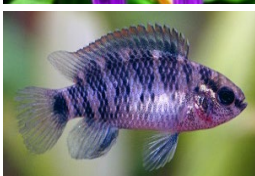
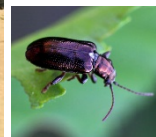
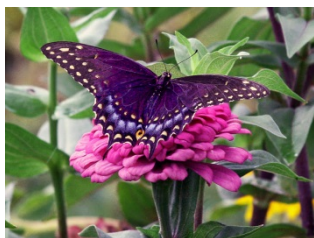
September 16  
International Day for the  
Preservation of the Ozone Layer

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)**



## Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) Update

In October 2021, the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris joyfully accepted Pope Francis' invitation to participate in the Laudato Si' Action Platform – a commitment to a seven year journey towards more sustainable living -- initiated by the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development. Since that time and after surveying the Congregation, holding many JPIC Committee and Area Team meetings and having conversations with Area and Congregational Leadership Teams, we have developed SMART goals that will help us address the seven LSAP goals for the year extending between September 2022 and September 2023. The LSAP goals each Area chose as priorities for 2022 – 2023 are:

**Congregation of Bon Secours:** Goal 6: Develop an Ecological Spirituality

**Bon Secours Ireland/Great Britain:** Goal 1: Respond to the Cry of Earth and Goal 2: Respond to the Cry of the Poor

**Bon Secours Peru:** Goals 1: Respond to the Cry of Earth; Goal 2: Respond to the Cry of the Poor;

Goal 4: Adopt a more Sustainable Lifestyle; Goal 5: Engage in and Foster Ecological Education

and Goal 7: Participate in Community Action for Systemic Change

**Bon Secours USA:** Goal 5: Engage in and Foster Ecological Education and Goal 6: Develop an Ecological Spirituality

Detailed SMART Actions for each of these Goals have been communicated to the Sisters and will be communicated to the members of the Bon Secours Family in the near future.

In this Season of Creation,  
we pray once more  
in the great cathedral of creation,  
and revel in the  
"grandiose cosmic choir"  
made up of countless creatures,  
all singing the praises of God.  
Pope Francis

### Reflection: Listening to the Voice of Creation

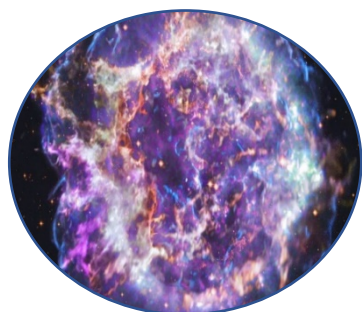
Find a place outdoors and become aware of God's presence.  
How do you experience God present in this place?

Consider that all the life you see exists in God.

How do you feel knowing that God's Spirit has filled this place with every plant, animal, organism and mineral for geological ages? How does God speak to you through creation?

How do you feel knowing that you, Earthling, belong to this place, are made of the same carbon, breathe the same air, are nurtured by the same cycles and life processes, and are enlivened by the same Spirit of the Creator?

Be awed by this reality and express your gratitude to God.



Source: NASA

### Season of Creation Prayer Calendar

Included in this Newsletter is a prayer calendar that you can use throughout the Season of Creation. According to the results of the Laudato Si' Action Platform Survey taken last Fall, about 20% of the Bon Secours Family used this calendar in 2021. Let's try to increase that percentage this year as we embrace an ecological spirituality in the spirit of the Sisters of Bon Secours to "defend and care for all creation".

### International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS  
Sr. Rosa Elena Lozada Escobar, CBS  
Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ - Chair  
Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS  
Rachel Moccia, Bon Secours Young Adult  
Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS - Co-chair  
Nicholas Stein  
Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS  
Sr. Chris Webb, CBS

### Read Pope Francis Message for the World Day of Prayer for Creation

English: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2022/documents/20220716-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

Spanish: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/messages/pont-messages/2022/documents/20220716-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

French: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/fr/messages/pont-messages/2022/documents/20220716-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>



# Listening to the Voice of Creation + Season of Creation 2022 + September 1 – October 4



Responding to the Cry of Earth  
and the Cry of the Poor

## Celebrating the Season of Creation as the Bon Secours Family

### WEEK 1: SEPTEMBER 1-3

*"Our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life  
and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us." Laudato Si', #1*



#### PRAY:

- September 1: That the Season of Creation will be a time of deepening ecological conversion for our Bon Secours Family as we implement the Laudato Si' Action Platform.  
September 2: For a place in nature that has been holy ground for you.  
September 3: For the health of the land, waters and all species on our planet especially in the places we call home: Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Peru and USA.

#### LEARN:

Read about the Laudato Si' Action Platform: EN: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>  
ES: <https://plataformadeaccionlaudatosi.org/> FR: <https://plate-formedactionlaudatosi.org/>

#### ACT:

Make a personal plan about how you want to celebrate the Season of Creation. What do you want to do, read, pray, reflect on, talk about? Who will be your conversation partners?

### WEEK 2: SEPTEMBER 4-10

*Our goal is to become painfully aware; to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it. LS #19*

#### PRAY:

- September 4: For all people of faith that they may see care of creation as an essential part of a life of faith.  
September 5: For healing from our cultural addiction to fossil fuels.  
September 6: For scientists who are developing non-petroleum-based energy sources.  
September 7: For marine life endangered by plastic waste.  
September 8: For the health of the land and waters of the Amazon.  
September 9: For children of the future who will suffer from our current selfishness.  
September 10: For subsistence fisher-folk who pull up nets full of rubbish.

#### LEARN:

Watch a short video on plastics: EN: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju\\_2NuK5O-E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju_2NuK5O-E)  
FR: <https://vimeo.com/238026371> SP: <https://vimeo.com/102275184>

#### ACT:

Refuse straws unless absolutely necessary. Use reusable bags when shopping. Eliminate at least one plastic item from your house. Buy cartons or glass versus plastic whenever possible. Use less plastic-packaged food. What commitment can you make to use less single-use items?

### WEEK 3: SEPTEMBER 11-17

*The entire material universe speaks of God's love, God's boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. Laudato Si', #84*

#### PRAY:

- September 11: For sanitation workers.  
September 12: For a body of water that has refreshed your spirit.  
September 13: In thanksgiving for the miracle of water.  
September 14: Every time you take a drink today, pray for those who do not have access to fresh water.  
September 15: For the health of wetlands, swamps, bogs, and marshes.  
September 16: For endangered marine species.  
September 17: For people who advocate for environmental protection.

#### LEARN:

EN: Watch the Ted Talk "Save That Drop": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n84KV1scsQY>  
FR: Ten Ways to Reduce Water Consumption:  
<https://www.apc-paris.com/actualite/10-gestes-pour-reduire-votre-consommation-deau-quotidien>  
SP: The World is Thirsty: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10150721619256405>

#### ACT:

Time your showers and reduce the time by a few minutes. Run a full dishwasher. Eliminate bottled water. Use the minimum amount of water when cooking. Put a dropped ice cube in a plant rather than down the sink. What action can you take to use water more wisely?

### WEEK 4: SEPTEMBER 18-24

*We require a new universal solidarity. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvement and talents. Laudato Si', #14*

#### PRAY:

- September 18: For the millions of people worldwide who lack access to proper sanitation facilities.  
September 19: In thanks for the pollinator bees that feed you.  
September 20: For migrant workers who harvest your food.  
September 21: International Peace Day - The military in the USA is a huge polluter. Pray for disarmament.  
September 22: For forgiveness for our wastefulness in a world of want.  
September 23: For cooks whose creativity delights our palates.  
September 24: For organic farmers and gardeners.

#### LEARN:

EN: Watch Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR1Y-ieyfjU>  
SP: <https://news.un.org/es/story/2018/10/1443382>  
FR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59FH0MkMxf4>

#### ACT:

Recommit to Meatless Mondays. Eat lower on the food chain. Eat less meat and more vegetables, grains, nuts.

### WEEK 5: September 25- October 4

*Everything is related...and woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth. Laudato Si', #92*

#### PRAY:

- September 25: In thanksgiving for your favorite vegetable.  
September 26: In thanksgiving for the ways in which creation nourishes your body and spirit.  
September 27: In repentance for treating other species as objects rather than neighbors in our common home.  
September 28: For all the Congregation of Bon Secours and the Bon Secours Family that we will deepen our commitment to "defend and care for all creation".  
September 29: In thanksgiving for the beauties of the seasons.  
September 30: For an animal companion who has enriched your life.  
October 1: In thanksgiving for St. Therese of Lisieux who reminds us that, "an integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness."  
October 2: In thanksgiving for Pope Francis and his world leadership in ecology.  
October 3: In thanksgiving for our celebration of the Season of Creation.  
October 4: In thanksgiving for St. Francis of Assisi who is our companion in faith in caring for creation.

#### LEARN:

Watch this video meditation on the beauties of creation:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXFuhEcS3Eo>

#### ACT:

Read an excerpt from Laudato Si' each week this year as we implement the Laudato Si' Action Platform. Let the words of this encyclical find a place in your heart and let them be your teacher.

## 2022 Season of Creation Prayer

Creator of All,  
From your communion of love your Word went forth to create a symphony of life that sings your praise.

By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationships with each creature so that we could listen to their voices and learn how to safeguard the conditions for life. But we turn in on ourselves and away from our co-creatures.

We close our ears to the counsel of our fellow creatures. We fail to listen to the cries of the poor and the needs of the most vulnerable. We silence the voices of those who hold the traditions that teach us to care for the Earth. We close our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the Scriptures.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats that will never speak again. We grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished. Creation cries out as forests crackle, and animals alike flee the fires of injustice that we have lit by our unwillingness to listen.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that you would call to us, as from the burning bush, with the sustaining fire of your Spirit. Breathe upon us. Open our ears and move our hearts. Turn us from our inward gaze. Teach us to contemplate your creation and listen for the voice of each creature declaring your glory. For "faith comes from hearing."

Give us hearts to listen for the good news of your promise to renew the face of the Earth. Enlighten us with the grace to follow the Way of Christ as we learn to walk lightly upon this holy ground. Fill us with the hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of your healing love that sustains our common home.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.