

# Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

## Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



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I now establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you  
and with every living creature on Earth.  
I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of a covenant between Me and the Earth.  
(Genesis 9:13)

The **Season of Creation** is the time of year 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. The Season of Creation unites the global Christian family around one shared purpose: the care of Earth. During this season several global efforts to address the critical needs of Earth will take place including the U.N. Climate Summit, a Global Climate Strike and preparation for the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region convened by Pope Francis that will take place in October.

This year the Season of Creation will coincide with the Bon Secours General Chapter with the theme "Welcoming the Future with Audacious Hope". While world leaders gather at the U.N. and people of good will around the globe gather in the streets, we, "Women of Healing...defending and caring for all creation" will gather at Marriottsville to listen attentively to God's Spirit directing our lives – for the life of the world – for the next five years. Whether physically present or not, as the Bon Secours Family, we pray as one, "Come, Holy Spirit...fill our hearts...and renew the face of the Earth."

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

### Welcoming the Future with Audacious Hope Chapter 2019

Five years ago the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours made a commitment to **promote the integrity of the environment and ecological health**. Since that time Pope Francis issued *Laudato Si'* and the International JPIC Committee has provided many resources to assist us in living out this commitment. As you prepare for Chapter 2019:

**How has this Chapter commitment affected you and challenged you personally?**  
**What lifestyle changes have you adopted that promote ecological health?**  
**From your perspective, how well has the Congregation lived out this Chapter commitment?**

**What "next steps" in living this commitment can you suggest so that we can welcome the future with audacious hope for our planet?**



Climate change is the defining issue of our time and now is the defining moment to do something about it. There is still time to tackle climate change, but it will require an unprecedented effort from all sectors of society. To boost ambition and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will host the 2019 Climate Action Summit on September 23 to meet the climate challenge. Learn more about Climate Action Summit:

[www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml) (Eng)

[www.un.org/es/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml](http://www.un.org/es/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml) (Es)

[www.un.org/fr/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml](http://www.un.org/fr/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml) (Fr)

Source: United Nations

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

# Protecting the Web of Life ++ Season of Creation ++ September 1 – October 4



## Reflection

"Nature is like a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. The entire universe speaks of God's love. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs." *Laudato Si'*

**Do any phrases or sentences from this excerpt evoke awe and wonder? Why?**

"I want you to panic...

and act as if the house is on fire. Because it is."

Greta Thunberg, Environmental Activist

**Global Climate Strike:** This September 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, millions of people will walk out of their workplaces and homes to join young climate strikers on the streets and demand an end to the age of fossil fuels. What started as a one-person protest by Greta Thunberg has grown to a movement of millions sacrificing their #FridaysForFuture in over 160 countries in at least 2,000 locations.

**How can you raise your voice and/or give public witness in defense of Earth during this Season of Creation?**



## What is your ecological footprint?



We need food, shelter and heating (in some locations) to survive. Our planet's ecological resources help fulfill these needs. But how many resources do we consume? This question can be answered using the Ecological Footprint.

Just as a bank statement tracks income against expenditures, Ecological Footprint accounting measures a population's demand for and ecosystems' supply of resources and services. This month calculate your ecological footprint. When you click on the link go to the top right of the screen to select your language. <http://www.footprintcalculator.org/signup> Source: Global Footprint Network



Throughout human history, migration and climate have always been connected, but in the modern era, the impacts of the human-made climate crisis are likely to extensively change the patterns of human settlement. The U.N. is beginning to use the term "homelessness" in its documents for the first time, and is part of the broader conversation around climate change and homelessness. UNANIMA currently has a renewed focus on homelessness which often is linked to trafficking, joblessness, lack of education, etc. Climate change is a rapidly growing contributor to global homelessness. Read more about homelessness on the U.N. website. Then, let us know what you/we can do about it.

*The Sisters of Bon Secours are members of UNANIMA International, an NGO at the U.N., focused primarily on issues dealing with women and children.*

## What We Can Do as the Bon Secours Family

The Season of Creation is a wonderful time to reflect on how our lifestyles affect the environment and to make a commitment to more sustainable ways of living. The good news is that making more sustainable lifestyle choices in just a few areas adds up to a big difference overall.

### 1) Eliminate single-use plastics:

- o Switch to using a reusable coffee cup
- o Carry a reusable water bottle with you and refill it at home or work
- o Cut down on plastic packaging by buying fruit and vegetables loose.
- o Refuse the use of straws in restaurants.
- o Use soap and shampoo bars instead of liquid products in plastic bottles.

### 2) Reduce your carbon footprint

- o Make a concrete lifestyle change commitment in one of the three high impact areas of transportation, diet, and energy.

Source: Global Catholic Climate Movement

## International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

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