

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Season of Creation

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"The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change." (LS 13)

Pope Francis

The **Season of Creation**, which runs annually from September 1 through October 4, unites the global Christian family around one shared purpose: caring for our common home. We celebrate 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.

This year, at the conclusion of the Season of Creation, the Congregation of Bon Secours will joyfully announce our participation in the Laudato Si' Action Platform – a commitment to a seven year journey towards living more sustainably -- initiated by the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development. Over these seven years we hope to design actions that will enable us, Sisters of Bon Secours, to meet the goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform:

- Respond to the cry of Earth and the cry of the poor,
- Adopt a more sustainable lifestyle
- Engage in and foster ecological education
- Develop an ecological spirituality
- Embrace ecological economics

Advocate for public policies that protect our common home and all those who share it.

We invite you, our Bon Secours Family, to join us in this exciting and transformative initiative that will enable us to more deeply live our mission focus: "to defend and care for all creation."



Every creature belongs to the Earth community and the entire community belongs to our Creator. A Greek word for this Earth community is **oikos**.... Our common home, the Earth belongs to God, and each beloved creature belongs to this common oikos.

Use this quote for prayer each day this month.

Reflection and Action

The Season of Creation is a relevant time to reflect on how our lifestyles affect the environment and to make a commitment to more sustainable ways of living. Consider what you can do over these next 34 days to "defend and care for all creation" in the spirit of Bon Secours.

Recommit to Meatless Mondays

or go the extra mile and gradually limit or fast from meat on one or two other days each week.

Give up one single-use plastic forever this month (plastic bags, straws, etc.)

Break a negative environmental habit that you've been meaning to address.

September
JPIC Days of Remembrance

September 1
World Day of Prayer for the
Care of Creation

September 1 – October 4
Season of Creation
2021 Theme:
A Home for All
Renewing the Oikos of God



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



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

Season of Creation – The Laudato Si’ Action Platform

In the May issue of the JPIC Newsletter, you read about the invitation from the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development to participate in a seven-year journey to sustainability in the spirit of Pope Francis’s landmark encyclical, Laudato Si’, called the **Laudato Si’ Action Platform** (LSAP) This invitation was extended to the universal Church – families, parishes and dioceses, educational and healthcare institutions, organizations and Congregations of Women and Men Religious – so that together we can take concrete steps toward a sustainable future for our planet to fulfill the vision of Laudato Si’. All of us collectively are invited to embark on this common journey toward the realization of God’s dream for our common home: that we, in the words of Bon Secours, “defend and care for all creation” and reverence all beings on this beautiful planet as members of God’s beloved community.

As Sister Rosie Jasinski shared in the Congregation Team report in July, the Congregation of Bon Secours will be among the first cohort of Congregations of Women Religious who will join the Laudato Si’ Action Platform on October 4, 2021. With all we have done in the past six years to engage Laudato Si’, we feel we are poised to commit ourselves to respond to Pope Francis invitation to embrace an “ecological conversion” in a deeper way through our public commitment to embark on this seven-year mission toward sustainability. We will pack lightly for this journey. All we really need is a listening heart to hear deeply the cries of God’s poor people and the cries of Earth and the willingness to respond whole-heartedly in love and with Gospel hope to what we hear. Our destination is nothing short of personal and communal transformation toward the vision of integral ecology that Pope Francis describes so eloquently in Laudato Si’. He reminds us that, “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.” (Laudato Si’, 139).

Over these next seven years the Congregation of Bon Secours hopes to be part of the critical mass needed to create a global paradigm shift which is nothing short of a transformation of our relationship with Earth and all who share our common home. In the coming year, with input from the Bon Secours Family, we will assess what we are already doing to address the goals of Laudato Si’, dream of what more could be possible and design a plan that will enable us to more fully realize this vision of Pope Francis’ encyclical over the next seven years.

For Sisters of Bon Secours: Two optional Congregation Zoom meetings have been scheduled for you to learn more about the Laudato Si’ Action Platform. Your Area Leader will be requesting that you let her know which meeting you will attend, if interested.

Tuesday, September 14: 10:00 – 11:30 Peru; 11:00 – 12:30 USA; 4:00 – 5:30 Ireland/DRC; 5:00 – 6:30 France

Thursday, September 23: 8:00 – 9:30 Peru; 9:00 – 10:30 USA; 2:00 – 3:30 Ireland/DRC; 3:00- 4:30 France



Take Action: Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition

At the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in October, world leaders can set meaningful targets to protect creation. In November, at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), countries will announce their plans to meet the goals of the Paris agreement. Ahead of those meetings, we have an opportunity to urge world leaders to acknowledge the need for ambitious, integrated, and transformative action that responds to both the cry of Earth and the cry of the poor by signing the Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition. Take action and sign this petition.

EN: <https://thecatholicpetition.org/>

SP: <https://thecatholicpetition.org/es/home-es/>

FR: <https://thecatholicpetition.org/fr/home-fr/>

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS (Peru)
- Eileen Fernandini, CBS Associate (USA)
- Sr. Fran Gorsuch, CBS (USA)
- Camille Grippon (USA; France Liaison)
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS (Peru) Co-chair
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)



Celebrating the Season of Creation as the Bon Secours Family

WEEK 1: SEPTEMBER 1-4

*"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 prepare to participate in the Laudato Si' Action Platform on October 4th.
- 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.
- September 4: For all people of faith that they may see care of creation as an essential part of a life of faith.

LEARN:

Read about the Laudato Si' Action Platform: EN: <https://laudatosi-actionplatform.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 5-11

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 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.
- September 11: For sanitation workers.

LEARN:

Watch a short video on plastics: EN: 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 12-18

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 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.
September 18: For the millions of people worldwide who lack access to proper sanitation facilities.

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 19-25

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 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.
September 25: In thanks for your favorite vegetable.

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 26- 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 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 begin designing our Laudato Si' Action Plan. Let the words of this encyclical find a place in your heart and let them be your teacher.

Season of Creation 2021 Prayer

Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life.

With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house "even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young." We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth.

But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits. Our consumption is out of harmony and rhythm with Earth's capacity to heal herself. Habitats are left barren or lost. Species are lost and systems fail. Where reefs and burrows, mountaintops and ocean depths once teemed with life and relationships, wet and dry deserts lie empty, as if uncreated. Human families are displaced by insecurity and conflict, migrating in search of peace. Animals flee fires, deforestation and famine, wandering in search of a new place to find a home to lay their young and live.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all.

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

Amen.