



Celebrating the Season of Creation



Sunset Photo: JPIC USA Laudato Si Scavenger Hunt

It is the [Season of Creation](#), an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home, and the Bon Secours community has a lot to celebrate! We established a vermiculture project and bio gardens in Peru, hosted an eco-spirituality prayer service near the re-wilding gardens in Ireland, reduced food waste in France, and advocated for policies to protect people and the environment with corporations and the US government. We taught students how to upcycle, making trinkets and even clothing with recycled materials. Communities formed book clubs and hosted workshops on integral ecology and ecological spirituality. We even hosted a Laudato Si Scavenger Hunt using all the senses to experience nature. We grew in knowledge, faith and appreciation for the gift of God's creation.

Still, we know there is more work to do. "Creation is groaning" (Romans 8:22). Daily, weekly, and monthly we see, sense, and hear about Creation's suffering. Humanity extracts and uses the resources of our Mother, the Earth, primarily for human greed rather than human needs, and with too little regard for the impact on all creatures and biodiversity. These unsustainable actions have led to the current climate crisis and loss of biodiversity while increasing human suffering.

One clear example is the impact of fossil fuel extraction and use on the climate. Whether it is the smoke of burning forests, the unrelenting impact of superstorms in the Pacific Ocean, or the years-long drought in the Horn of Africa, the Earth, and the bounty it produces is diminishing due to massive changes in our climate. It's estimated that thirty percent of the greenhouse gases that are impacting the climate are created by fossil fuel extraction and use. [The Season of Creation celebration guide](#) empowers communities to do something about climate change at a local level and prepares us for action at the global level.

JPIC Days of Remembrance

September 1- October 4

[The Season of Creation](#)

September 21

[International Day of Peace](#)

October 4

[Feast of St. Francis of Assisi/World Animal Day](#)

October 11

[International Day of the Girl Child](#)

October 16

[World Food Day](#)

October 17

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)



St. Francis of Assisi CNS Photo: Gregory A Shemitz



Re-wilding Garden, Choc Muir, Ireland

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation: September 1, 2024

[Read Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#)

- Where do you find hope in creation?
- How has your faith inspired you to hope and act with creation?
- What personal experiences have influenced your awareness of integral ecology, and how have they motivated you to act?

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty



This year the Season of Creation encourages people of faith to engage with the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) (FFNPT). The Treaty brings together nations, civil society, and faith groups to reduce fossil fuel use. It is a global effort to foster international cooperation to accelerate a transition to renewable energy for everyone, end the expansion of coal, oil, and gas, and equitably phase out existing production in keeping with what science shows is needed to address the climate crisis.

Hope for Creation

For every good gift in creation, for creation's diversity and dignity and glory:

We give you thanks.

For threatened species and habitats, for all creatures on the brink:

We ask your grace and protection.

For seeking to live without limits, and failing to see how our lives affect all in the community of creation:

We ask your forgiveness and correction.

For every opportunity to do good, to share abundantly, and to live more in tune with your whole-hearted hospitality:

We give you thanks.

For all those who struggle and are weary, who suffer and are oppressed:

We ask for your grace and protection.

For the indifference or ignorance or busyness that stops us responding with mercy and justice to our brothers and sisters in need:

We ask for your forgiveness and correction.

Lord Jesus Christ, God our Loving Father, Holy Spirit, through grace you have given us eternal comfort and hope. Comfort our hearts and strengthen them in every good work and every good word.

Amen.

Ben Thurley, Adapted

Global Day of Action: September 21

September 21 is the global day of action for individuals, communities, organizations, and all levels of government to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. All signatures will be used to influence decision-makers at the next UN conference on climate change, COP29, scheduled for November 2024 in Azerbaijan.

Faith leaders, Church communities and individuals can endorse the FFNPT through [the Faith Letter of support for the FFNPT](#). It is easy and only takes a few minutes to do. See the [Season of Creation Advocacy Activity Guidelines](#) for the range of actions you can take to support the global phase-out of fossil fuels. It all makes a difference. Your actions can help keep global warming at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius, preserve biodiversity, and honor God's Creation.

Thank you, Congregation Team for caring for all of creation. Prayers for Chapter 24!



Sr. Rosa Elena, Sr. Rose Marie, Sr. Elaine, Sr. Eileen, Sr. Noelia, Cnoc Muir, Ireland

Save the Date: Monday, October 21

Bon Secours JPIC

Webinar!

Sustainable Gifts for the Holidays:

Gift Giving that Supports Workers and the Environment

Monday, October 21, 9am Eastern

English, French and Spanish

All are welcome!