

Season of Creation

There is a remarkable story behind this special annual event that celebrates the goodness, beauty, gift and sacredness of creation. Even more, this season invites us to conversion and a deeper commitment to the care of our common home and to our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.

The first public recognition that we need to care for creation came from Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios way back in 1989, when he proclaimed September 1st as a day of Prayer for Creation for the Orthodox church.

The World Council of Churches listened and later extended this time into a season which begins September 1 and continues until October 4, engaging Christians globally in this season of prayer and action for creation. ⁱ

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, subtitled *On Care for our Common Home*. In it he expressed his concern over climate change, pollution of land and water, global inequality and the decline in the quality of human life and the breakdown of society. He linked the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor as one cry to which he calls us all to respond. The chapter on the Gospel of Creation is remarkably inspiring. But he does more than inspire. He calls us to look at the reality that it is we humans who have caused this crisis through industrialization, globalization and misuse of technology. Then he gives us an understanding of integral ecology, empowering us to see the interconnectedness of all, the need to act for the common good and the call to seek justice for all, including our common home and our non-human relatives. ⁱⁱ

Catholic theologian, Elizabeth Johnson CSJ, spoke of *Laudato Si'* as one of the most significant and transformative encyclicals ever written. It is most transformative for us when we respond to the call to ecological conversion and take the necessary steps to transform our lives in ways that reveal the beauty and goodness of creation while making every possible effort to protect, care for and restore creation's life and vitality. It will require vision, hope, and action achieving zero waste, transitioning from fossil fuels and plastics and consumerism. The Season of Creation returns annually but our transformation needs to be daily.

ⁱ <https://seasonofcreation.org/about>

ⁱⁱ Encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* of the Holy Father Francis *On Care for Our Common Home*, Vatican Press