

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Season of Creation



September, 2017
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Creation is a gift, it is the marvelous gift that God has given us, so that we will take care of it and harness it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.
(Pope Francis)

In instituting the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, Pope Francis expressed the hope that it would "offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

Last year, Pope Francis announced that the Roman Catholic Church would also participate in the **Season of Creation**, which begins on September 1 and extends to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. As Sisters of Bon Secours who profess to be "women of healing...defending and caring for all creation", these commemorative days offer all of us an opportunity to immerse ourselves in nature, to experience its beauty and to re-commit ourselves to promote ecological health – always and in all ways.

Allow this issue of JPIC News to immerse you in beauty and lead to you prayer and reflection on God's gift of creation.

God's Grandeur

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ



Indigo Lunch, Ocean Grove, NJ



Butterfly Bush, Marriottsville, MD

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 -17
Clean Up the World Weekend
<http://www.cleanuptheworld.org/en/>

September 16
International Day for the
Preservation of the Ozone
Layer
<http://www.un.org/en/events/ozoneday/>

September 18
World Water Monitoring Day

September 21
International Day of Peace
<http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>

September 26
World Environmental Health
Day



Sunrise, Marriottsville, MD

From panoramic vistas
to the tiniest living form,
nature is a constant source of
wonder and awe.
It is also a continuing revelation
of the divine.

Pope Francis, LS#85

Take time during this Season of Creation
to notice the panoramic vistas God
puts before you and be filled with awe.



Waterfall, Zion National Park, Utah



Moonrise at Sunset, Old Lyme, CT

Reflecting on Laudato Si' During the Season of Creation

The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good. LS#84

*What places in nature hold significance for you? How has God revealed God's Self to you in those special places?
Revisit the memories of those places and notice the good they do for you.*

Every creature is thus the object of the Father's tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of his love, and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with his affection. LS#77

*As you encounter creatures of other species this month pause to recall that they are the objects of God's love and affection.
Notice if they are the object of your love and affection. If not, how might you begin to look at these creatures differently?*

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

*Pause and take time to be aware of creation (water, sun, breeze, chirping birds) as you go about your daily routine this month.
What slowing down can you practice that will allow you to experience and to be grateful for these gifts of God?*

Ecological Conversion



Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare, Ireland

In June the Congregation Team enthusiastically approved the International JPIC recommendation that the Congregation respond to Pope Francis' challenge to undergo an "ecological conversion". In these next months the JPIC committee will develop a process and materials that we will make available to our sisters, Associates and the extended Bon Secours family that will enable us to accept this challenge that Pope Francis offered to us. On September 7th, the JPIC Committee and some members of the Congregation Team will participate in a phone conference with input on ecological conversion from Sister Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ, Director of the SSJ Earth Center. In preparation for this conference call, committee members are reflecting on the questions below. We invite you to reflect on these questions, too, and to share your responses with others.

Reflection and Sharing

- A conversion is a *turning toward* something which requires a *turning from* something else. What do you hope an "ecological conversion" will enable you/Congregation to turn towards and turn from?
- What do you need personally to enter into a process of ecological conversion? (eg. time, commitment, discipline, willingness, openness, perseverance, consistency, etc.)

During this Season of Creation each of us can pray for the grace of "radical availability" to enter into this process of ecological conversion for the sake of Earth, our common home.

An Invitation from the Global Catholic Climate Movement

The photographs in this JPIC News represent my amateur attempts at capturing the beauty of creation over these past few months. During this **Season of Creation**, the Global Catholic Climate Movement is inviting all of us to spend time in nature and to share images that have captured our attention and drawn us to experience wonder and awe at God's magnificent gift of creation. The Global Catholic Climate Movement invites you to:

- Take a photo of something in the natural world that inspires you --the view from your front door, a flower in the sidewalk, an awe-inspiring view from your travels . . . the more creative, the better!
- Post it on Facebook using the hashtag [#beautyofcreation](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/beautyofcreation) and tagging [@globalcatholicclimatemovement](https://www.facebook.com/globalcatholicclimatemovement). You can also email the photo to hello@catholicclimatemovement.global. Be sure to pass on this project to all the tech savvy people you know -- especially those in the younger generations.

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Fran Gorsuch, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Co-chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack, CBS (USA) Chair
- Sr. Noelia Lara Núñez, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Marguerite Provost, CBS (France)
- Sr. Alice Talone, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)