

JUBILEE FOR THE EARTH

Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church

CARE OF CREATION

Each year ... the first day of September is celebrated by the Christian family as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the Season of Creation, which concludes with the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on the fourth of October. During this period, Christians worldwide renew their faith in the God of creation and join in prayer and work for the care of our common home.

“SACRED TIME”

I am very pleased that the theme chosen by the ecumenical family for the celebration of the 2020 Season of Creation is *Jubilee for the Earth*, precisely in this year that marks the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day. In the holy Scriptures, a Jubilee is a sacred time to remember, return, rest, restore, and rejoice.

“COMMUNITY OF LOVE”

A Jubilee is indeed a time of grace to remember creation’s original vocation to exist and flourish as a community of love. We exist only in relationships: with God the Creator, with our brothers and sisters as members of a common family, and with all of God’s creatures within our common home.



“WAKEUP CALL”

Today we hear the voice of creation admonishing us to return to our rightful place in the natural created order — to remember that we are part of this interconnected web of life, not its masters. The disintegration of biodiversity, spiralling climate disasters, and unjust impact of the current pandemic on the poor and the vulnerable: all these are a wakeup call in the face of our rampant greed and consumption.

AT A CROSSROADS

The pandemic has brought us to a crossroads. We must use this decisive moment to end our superfluous and destructive goals and activities, and to cultivate values, connections and activities that are life-giving. We must examine our habits of energy usage, consumption, transportation, and diet. We must eliminate the superfluous and destructive aspects of our economies, and nurture life-giving ways to trade, produce, and transport goods.

“COMING TOGETHER”

We rejoice ... that faith communities are coming together to create a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. We are particularly happy that the Season of Creation is becoming a truly ecumenical effort. Let us continue to grow in the awareness that we all live in a common home as members of a single family.

RENEWED BY THE SPIRIT

Let us all rejoice that our loving Creator sustains our humble efforts to care for the earth, which is also God’s home where His word “became flesh and lived among us” (Jn 1:14) and which is constantly being renewed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. “Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth” (cf. Ps 104:30).

(Source: Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 9/1/20)

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