



Season of Creation 2021 Prayer-Reflection Guide 6

This prayer is about *connection* - connection to creation and connection to all efforts for ecological justice.

In the following quote from Laudato Si' ponder and/or discuss what might be meant by 'ecological virtues'?

"The Spirit of Life dwells in every living creature and calls us to enter into relationship with God. Discovering this presence leads us to cultivate the ecological virtues" (Laudato Si' # 88)

The Season of Creation closes on Oct 4th, Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment. Francis of Assisi stands out for his loving sense of connection and blessing of fellow creatures.

As St Francis recognised centuries ago, we human and non-human, are interrelated as members of God's family of creation. We are interconnected with all of creation.

Job reminds us, "the creeping things of the earth will give you lessons, and the fishes of the sea will tell you all; there is not one such creature but will know this state of things is all of God's own making..." (Job 12:8)



Massimo Cruciani Glass Paintings

Question for reflection:

The beasts, birds, plants, and fish show us ecologically sound ways to build a relationship with all other species on the earth.

How do I understand my connection to all of creation?

"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. 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. Anyone who has grown up in the hills or used to sit by the spring to drink or played outdoors in the neighbourhood square; going back to these places is a chance to recover something of their true selves." (Laudato Si' #84)

Remember...

Close your eyes and think of a place you feel a strong connection with and / or love of nature, - a place where you have felt the caress of God. Where were you? What did it look like? What did it feel like? What did it smell like?

As you continue to reflect on your experience of this place and time, consider what contributed to the love you were feeling. Was it the air, the trees, the earth, the view?

Take some time to reflect in silence.

Bring it to a prayer of gratitude for creation.

Read and share...

Read and share the urgent appeal for the future of the planet in an ecumenical joint letter from Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, and Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. Link below:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2021/09/07/0543/01167.html>

Learn about...

This year's "Season of Creation" precedes the important United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow Scotland. This is scheduled to take place from October 31 to November 12. Pope Francis is planning to attend along with many other world leaders.



Find out information about this important conference and share it in your community, in your ministry and keep it in your prayers.

Listen to... ['Our Common Home'](#) in English and Japanese

Pope Francis calls on all of us to take courageous action:

"Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combatting poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time to protecting nature." (*Laudato Si' # 139*)



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