

2023 Season of Creation

Transforming Our Hearts

Reflection Three: September 10-16

“There needs to be a distinctive way of looking at things... (to) generate resistance to the assault of the technocratic paradigm.” ~Laudato Si #111

READ: Fourth part of Pope Francis' letter for the 2023 Season of Creation (on page 2)

REFLECT: How do we see creation? As something beneath us? As resource? As object to be exploited?

Pope Francis makes clear that if we wish to contribute to the **mighty river of justice and peace**, if we wish to heal our common home, then we *first* need to transform our hearts to see creation as sacred and as gift.

Our ways of seeing, our perceptions, in fact, drive our actions. The cries of both Earth and those made poor call us to allow our hearts to be transformed.

How do you perceive creation? Where does your vision need to be deepened

ACT: God is not finished with us yet! Isn't that fact full of wonder? Open yourself to ecological conversion this week by embracing your inner-mystic! Venture outside into “*the great cathedral of creation*” and allow your perceptions to be deepened. Challenge yourself to see as the “great Artist” sees. This is transformation of heart.

PRAY: Sirach 27: 1, 8 and Matthew 20: 29 – 34

“Only by cultivating sound virtues will people be able to make a selfless ecological commitment.”
~Laudato Si #211



Resources for September 10-16

Pope Francis' letter for the 2023 Season of Creation (Excerpt 4 of 8)

4 How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? We must do this by resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies.

First, let us join the mighty river by transforming our hearts. This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that “ecological conversion” which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator.

Furthermore, we should realize that an integral approach to respect for the environment involves four relationships: with God, with our brothers and sisters of today and tomorrow, with all of nature, and with ourselves.

As to the first of these relationships, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the urgent need to recognize that creation and redemption are inseparably linked: “The Redeemer is the Creator and if we do not proclaim God in his full grandeur – as Creator and as Redeemer – we also diminish the value of the redemption” (3). Creation refers both to God’s mysterious, magnificent act of creating this majestic, beautiful planet and universe out of nothing and to the continuing result of that act, which we experience as an inexhaustible gift. During the liturgy and personal prayer in “the great cathedral of creation” (4), let us recall the great Artist who creates such beauty and reflect on the mystery of that loving decision to create the cosmos.

[3] Conversation at the Cathedral of Bressanone, 6 August 2008.

[4] Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 21 July 2022

From: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2023/documents/20230513-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

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