



The Season of Creation is a special time for reflection and action for creation that begins on September 1 with the World Day of Prayer for Creation and extends through October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a time to reflect upon our interconnectedness with all God's creation as we live our congregational and province <u>Laudato Si' commitments</u>. During the Season of Creation, the following petitions will be in the daily Prayer Requests.

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**Sept. 1** As we begin a new school year, let us pray for all educators that they teach what is good, true, and beautiful. "Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life." (Laudato Si #213) Let justice and peace flow!

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**Sept. 5** Please pray that humans take concrete actions, even as small as refusing plastic straws in restaurants and bags in stores, to help end the plastic pollution in Earth's oceans that is killing sea turtles, shorebirds, whales, and others through ingestion or entanglement. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 6** Just as Jesus expanded his reach to embrace more people and cultures, may our minds and hearts also grow beyond our comfort level to creatively speak out for our Earth in ways we have not done before. Let justice and peace flow to all.

**Sept. 7** On this International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, let us pray for all those suffering because of air pollution, one of the greatest environmental risks to human health. Let justice and peace flow.

**Sept. 8** Please pray for our fellow species: polar bears who are starving and drowning because of melting sea ice and penguins whose colonies have been lost or depleted by 50% because of melting snow and glaciers. May humans act and advocate to prevent climate change. Let justice and peace flow!

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**Sept. 11** Mourning the violence inflicted on our country, we pray the nations of the world collaborate as one body towards a cooperative peace that holds all of life as sacred; that acknowledges all of life is one. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 12** Thank you Creator God for all the fishes of the sea, especially dolphins on this World Dolphin Day. They not only bring us joy through their playfulness but "health" to the vitality of the ocean systems; however, they too, are victims of pollution. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 13** Recognizing that water is a universal right, please pray that humans stop the corporate depletion of aquifers for profit by refusing to buy bottled water and instead carrying a reusable bottle. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 14** Fill us with peace, that we may live on Earth more lightly and less violently in our food choices, in the products we purchase and in the energy we consume. Let justice and peace flow through us!

**Sept. 15** Prayers are needed for the Indigenous people of Oak Flat, AZ, that our government will not sell their Sacred Ceremonial Grounds, which is rightfully theirs, to a foreign mining company wanting what would be the largest copper mine in the U.S. Let justice and peace flow!

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**Sept. 18** Being National Migration Week, may we prayerfully reflect on the Pastoral Letter on migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States, "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope", to expand our hearts to be more compassionate toward all our sisters and brothers. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 19** O Holy One, our Earth suffers climatic chaos. In Jesus, we have been given the power to liberate. May our compassion extend to the oceans of the Earth being over-heated by human-caused climate change empowering us to advocate for them. Let justice and peace flow from within us!

**Sept. 20** Please pray that we and all humans commit to even small actions to address climate change, which is causing rising water temperatures and killing ocean corals and coral reefs that are home to 25% of marine life. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 21** Please pray that humans extend peace to all creatures by ending their support for the confinement of intelligent, self-aware, emotional, and social fellow species like captive orcas and dolphins held in unnatural and constricting venues solely for human entertainment. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 22** Let us pray for all peoples and beings of all species who suffer from droughts, floods, and an inequitable economic system, that world leaders elected to make decisions for the life of the planet, courageously consider the good of all. Let justice and peace flow to those decision-makers!

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**Sept. 25** Mindful of the deadly global heatwaves our world has been experiencing, may we call on the Holy Spirit to move our hearts to contact global leaders to agree on phasing out fossil fuels at the UN climate summit Cop28, which opens on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 26** Please pray that humans value justice for all creatures over special interests, especially for endangered species like the North Atlantic right whale, numbering under 340

because of speeding vessels, and the vaquita, Earth's smallest porpoise, with only 10 left in the population because of overfishing. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 27** O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth who are so precious in our eyes, that we may work for an economy which benefits all peoples and all species. Let justice and peace flow out equitably!

**Sept. 28** During this time of harvesting, we pray in gratitude for all those who provide us with our daily food, that they receive just wages for their labor. We also pray that corporate farms use methods that nourish the soil. Let justice and peace flow!

**Sept. 29** Please pray for the protection and restoration of floodplains and wetlands, especially along the Mississippi flyway, the migratory route of 325 species of birds and habitat for 40% of shorebirds and waterfowl. Give thanks for the restoration of 17,000 acres of wetlands in Louisiana. Let justice and peace flow!

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**Oct. 2** We grieve that a high percentage of species—bacteria, fungi, plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates—are dying out due to unsustainable human choices and that those effects are placing immense pressure on our planet. May justice and peace flow out to all!

**Oct. 3** "Give praise to the Beloved, all the Earth, all that swim in the deep, and all the winged ones of the air!" (*Psalm 148*) Today being "Butterfly and Hummingbird Day", let us pray for all our pollinators whose lives are threatened due to climate change. Let justice and peace flow!

**Oct. 4** On this feast of St. Francis, please pray that humans realize their kinship with other creatures, Sister Water, Brother Wolf, and all inhabitants of land, sea, and sky, acting with justice and compassion, remembering Earth is a "communion of subjects, not a collection of objects." Let justice and peace flow!