



Season of Creation

September 1 - October 4

The Season of Creation spans five weeks between the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (September 1) and the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4). In Pope Leo XIV's message for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, the Holy Father invites us "to contemplate the gift of life and to cherish the earth that sustains it, for they are tangible ways of offering praise to our Creator."

Pope Francis instituted the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in 2015, noting that this time for creation offers "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." Below are some ways to live out these three dimensions of Pope Francis' call, both as individuals and as a community.

1. Reaffirm Our Vocation as Stewards of Creation

As individuals and families: *Integral Ecology in the Life of the Family*

Adopting sustainable behaviors within the family can be the right path to address current environmental challenges and promote the integral development of each person. Read this document from the Holy See, *Integral ecology in the life of the family*, which offers ideas and guidance for embarking on this path.

As a community: *Educational Program*

There are many educational programs available to help you or your family reflect on how best to be good stewards of creation. One example could be a resource such as "All of Creation Sings" from the Catholic Climate Covenant which calls all of us to be instruments of God's peace and commit to climate actions as a way to avoid climate despair and sow climate hope. [Click here](#) to access this resource.



2. Thank God for His Wonderful Handiwork

As individuals and families: *Meal Prayer*

Before and after meals, say a short prayer of thanksgiving for the lifegiving food that sustains and nourishes us. Briefly consider how all nourishment ultimately comes from the earth, and give thanks for all the human hands that helped bring this food to your table. May we recognize, as *Laudato Si'* has taught us, that this "moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life" (no. 227).

As a community: *Eucharistic Adoration*

One of the most meaningful ways we give thanks as Christians is through the sacrament of the Eucharist, a word which means "thanksgiving." As *Laudato Si'* proclaims, through the Eucharist, "the whole cosmos gives thanks to God" (no. 236). To celebrate this sacred reality during the Season of Creation, we recommend hosting a one-hour, care for creation-themed Eucharistic adoration in your parish.



3. Implore God's Help and Ask His Pardon

As individuals and families: *Confession*

In calling for a deep "ecological conversion," Pope Francis has emphasized the importance of examining one's own conscience, of recognizing one's sins against creation, however great or small. Seeing the interconnectedness of our world leads to an understanding that "[e]very violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment" (*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 51). We invite you to bring these sins to confession and to perform a spiritual work of mercy for our common home, such as an act of "grateful contemplation of God's world" (*Laudato Si'*, no. 214).

As a community: *Mass for the Care of Creation*

The Holy See's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the English and Spanish translations of the Mass "For the Care of Creation" to be used in the United States. The new formulary was first added to the Roman Missal in 2025 and celebrated by Pope Leo XIV at Borgo Laudato Si'.



"The creative intelligence of humanity is a gift that can alleviate suffering and open up new possibilities, but it must remain ordered toward the common good, justice, the care of the vulnerable and creation."

- Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica Humanitas*, no. 129

Examples of *Laudato Si'* in Action

Laudato Si' Leadership Cohort

The USCCB's Laudato Si' Leadership Cohort prepares diocesan leaders to create achievable Laudato Si' action plans to transform their communities. Cohort members are given the tools, expertise, and accompaniment to make concrete plans for their dioceses to respond to this call. Examples of Laudato Si' action plans include Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Davenport, Lexington, Kansas City-St. Joseph, San Diego, San Jose, and Seattle.

Formation and Advocacy on *Laudato Si'*

Many dioceses use the USCCB guide to introduce Catholics to this important encyclical. The Minnesota Catholic Conference created a localized study guide and materials to help Catholics in Minnesota consider how their faith calls them to care for our common home. Catholics can participate in federal advocacy to care for creation. Local advocacy is also important. As part of their Laudato Si' action plan, the Diocese of Kansas City-St Joseph is supplementing prayer and education efforts with opportunities for Catholics to advocate with the Missouri Catholic Conference.



Collaborate with CCHD, Catholic Charities and CRS

Dioceses can work with organizations funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, such as the South Baltimore Community Land Trust (Archdiocese of Baltimore) which creates quality, zero waste affordable housing. Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens implements community gardening. The CRS chapter in the Diocese of San Diego helps Catholics advocate and support our brothers and sisters around the world facing poverty and environmental challenges.