



Beginning the 2022 Season of Creation – “Listen to the Voice of Creation”

Reflection #1: September 1 - 3

“Nature is filled with words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise, interminable and nerve-wracking distractions, or the cult of appearances? Many people today sense a profound imbalance which drives them to frenetic activity and makes them feel busy, in a constant hurry which in turn leads them to ride rough-shod over everything around them. This too affects how they treat the environment.” (Laudato Si #225)

READ: 1st part of Pope Francis’ letter for the 2022 Season of Creation (*below*)



REFLECTION: Perhaps the best way we can enter prayer *for* Creation is by quieting our voice, our perspective, our thoughts...and deeply listen to what Creation is telling us. What effect could this listening have upon us? What effect could this listening have upon our prayer? Through listening and allowing Creation to come into our consciousness, we cannot help but be changed. We make connections as to how we (*as individuals and as a human species*) are complicit in Creation’s suffering. We cannot then comfortably settle back into former ways. Through listening to the voice of Creation we intentionally cultivate our “ecological conversion”.

ACTION: Begin to “Listen to the Voice of Creation” by first according a voice to it. Listen to an aspect of Creation you have not let yourself previously hear. Take in this voice more deeply by keeping a Season of Creation journal. Don’t let yourself settle back into former ways of thinking, acting and being.

“...the meaning of this (ecological) conversion...that each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us...that Christ is intimately present to each being...that God created the world, writing into it...a dynamism that human beings have no right to ignore... I ask all Christians to recognize and to live fully this dimension of their conversion.” (LS #221)

Resources for September 1 - 3

Pope Francis' letter for the 2022 Season of Creation

(Excerpt 1 of 7)

1 September 2022

Dear brothers and sisters!

“Listen to the voice of creation” is the theme and invitation of this year’s Season of Creation. The ecumenical phase begins on 1 September with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and concludes on 4 October with the feast of Saint Francis. It is a special time for all Christians to pray and work together to care for our common home. Originally inspired by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, this Season is an opportunity to cultivate our “ecological conversion”, a conversion encouraged by Saint John Paul II as a response to the “ecological catastrophe” predicted by Saint Paul VI back in 1970.

If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home.

From [Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - Season of Creation](#)

Pray with Scripture: Job 12: 7 - 8

Additional reading: (Re-)read Maurice’s recent short reflection entitled *“May We Humbly and Heartfully Hear”* at [Social Justice Initiatives - Presentation Sisters \(pbvunion.org\)](#)

Other helpful links:

[Ecological Conversion Definition | Universe of Faith](#)

[What is an ecological conversion? - YouTube](#)