



Season of Creation – “Repent and Modify”

Reflection #4: September 18 – 24

“The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion.”
(Laudato Si #217)

READ: 4th part of Pope Francis’ letter for the 2022 Season of Creation (*below*)

REFLECTION: Listening to the Voice of Creation leads us to the realization that we humans have to *change*. The repentance called forth in the Gospel entails that we enter into a *different* relationship with Creation. Pope Francis calls us to *modify* our lifestyles and destructive systems. What might a different relationship with Creation look like? What if the most we left behind were only footprints?



The Pope recognizes that we cannot continue to take and take from Creation... and not give back. We are called to convert our lifestyles and perspectives into a relationship that is *mutually-enhancing* between human and Earth. Can we imagine *that* degree of mutuality? Perhaps as individuals and as a community we are only limited by our imaginations...

ACTION: Seek out an “*ecological vocation director*”. We each need assistance and support in our journeys toward making substantial lifestyle changes and fulfilling our ecological vocation. Speak up from the heart about Creation while in communal settings to evoke broader repentance and ecological conversion.

“To achieve such reconciliation, we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God’s creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart.” (LS #218)

Resources for September 18 - 24

Pope Francis' letter for the 2022 Season of Creation

(Excerpt 4 of 7)

4 Listening to these anguished cries, we must repent and modify our lifestyles and destructive systems. From its very first pages, the Gospel calls us to “repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near” (*Mt 3:2*); it summons us to a new relationship with God, and also entails a different relationship with others and with creation. The present state of decay of our common home merits the same attention as other global challenges such as grave health crises and wars. “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience” (*Laudato Si’, 217*).

As persons of faith, we feel ourselves even more responsible for acting each day in accordance with the summons to conversion. Nor is that summons simply individual: “the ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion” (*ibid.*, 219). In this regard, commitment and action, in a spirit of maximum cooperation, is likewise demanded of the community of nations, especially in the meetings of the United Nations devoted to the environmental question.

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: Joel 2: 12 - 17