



## Season of Creation – “Loss of Biodiversity”

Reflection #6: October 2 - 3

***“For human beings...to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation; for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate...these are sins.”***  
(Laudato Si #8)

READ: 6<sup>th</sup> part of Pope Francis’ letter for the 2022 Season of Creation (*below*)

REFLECTION: Pope Francis now calls our prayerful attention to a different gathering: this December’s **COP15 Summit** in Canada on the **loss of biodiversity**. Tell me, what is more interesting? A monocrop cornfield...or a meadow teeming with life?



Creation’s strength lies in its *diversity*. We can’t expect that the natural world will be functional if we cause chunks of it to disappear...and it all starts to look the same. Can we imagine a natural world that would look as operationally uniform and ecologically sterile as say...a big-box store? Please, God, no. Let us protect Earth’s biodiversity!

ACTION: Promote biodiversity! Learn which species are endangered in the region of life where you are. How might we assist these species? Receive inspiration by praying with Jan Novotka and her song “*May All I Do Today*” at [All I Do Today - YouTube](#)

***“Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever...for reasons related to human activity...we have no such right.”*** (LS #33)

## Resources for October 2 - 3

### **Pope Francis' 2022 letter for the *Season of Creation***

*(Excerpt 6 of 7)*

6 For its part, the COP15 summit on biodiversity, to be held in Canada in December, will offer to the goodwill of governments a significant opportunity to adopt a new multilateral agreement to halt the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of species. According to the ancient wisdom of the Jubilee, we need to “remember, return, rest and restore”. In order to halt the further collapse of biodiversity, our God-given “network of life”, let us pray and urge nations to reach agreement on four key principles: 1. to construct a clear ethical basis for the changes needed to save biodiversity; 2. to combat the loss of biodiversity, to support conservation and cooperation, and to satisfy people’s needs in a sustainable way; 3. to promote global solidarity in light of the fact that biodiversity is a global common good demanding a shared commitment; and 4. to give priority to people in situations of vulnerability, including those most affected by the loss of biodiversity, such as indigenous peoples, the elderly and the young.

Let me repeat: “In the name of God, I ask the great extractive industries – mining, oil, forestry, real estate, agribusiness – to stop destroying forests, wetlands, and mountains, to stop polluting rivers and seas, to stop poisoning food and people”.

How can we fail to acknowledge the existence of an “ecological debt” (*Laudato Si'*, 51) incurred by the economically richer countries, who have polluted most in the last two centuries; this demands that they take more ambitious steps at COP27 and at COP15. In addition to determined action within their borders, this means keeping their promises of financial and technical support for the economically poorer nations, which are already experiencing most of the burden of the climate crisis. It would also be fitting to give urgent consideration to further financial support for the conservation of

**biodiversity. Even the economically less wealthy countries have significant albeit “diversified” responsibilities (cf. *ibid.*, 52) in this regard; delay on the part of others can never justify our own failure to act. It is necessary for all of us to act decisively. For we are reaching “a breaking point” (cf. *ibid.*, 61).**

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: Hosea 2: 20 - 23**