2026 Season of Creation

Reflection #7: September 27 – October 3

"Because Christ's promises appeal to our imagination:
they help us to imagine in a new way our lives, our history and the future of humanity."
-Pope Francis in an Audience, 5/27/23

READ: 7th part of Pope Leo's letter for the 2026 Season of Creation- *next page* ***in green***

REFLECTION: ***"…God does not leave us without the means of healing and transformation."*** Along with this assurance, Pope Leo encourages us in our call to safeguard ecosystems…and, he also challenges us to imagine.

Safeguarding and *imagining*.

Safeguarding requires God's gift of strength. Imagining is plainly counter-cultural.

As we near the end of this Season of Creation:

-What "ecosystem" are you actively **safeguarding**?

-Devote *at least* twice as much time to **imagining** as you currently do!

ACTION: Leo links the imagining of a world beyond war with our faith in the coming of God's kingdom. Author Philip José Farmer once said *"Imagination is like a muscle"*. Strengthen your ability to imagine & envision! Here are some exercises!

Resources for September 27 – October 3

Pope Leo's letter for the 2026 *Season of Creation*

(Excerpt 7 of 9)

Although the challenges before us are enormous, God does not leave us without the means of healing and transformation. In place of the weapons of war, the God of peace grants us the strength to heal, to reconcile and to build a civilization of love. In this way, we are called to safeguard the many "ecosystems" entrusted to us: the ecosystems of creation, of human relationships and of the human heart itself.

Let us imagine a world in which the energies currently invested in war are directed toward integral human development, to overcoming poverty, protecting human dignity and reconciling divided peoples. Such a vision reflects faith in the coming of God's Kingdom.

From https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/creation/documents/20260815-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html

Pray with Scripture: Ephesians 3: 14 - 21

Image: ***I once imagined a hands-on component for the Franciscan Sisters' ministry of ecojustice. They approved that imagining and it became the "Franciscan Farm" near De Soto, Missouri. Harvesting watermelons with young people from the Albert Pujols Family Foundation.***

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

-Albert Einstein