



Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development

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WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/JPHD

MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops
From: Richard Coll, Executive Director for Justice, Peace, and Integral Human Development
Re: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and the Season of Creation
Date: September 23, 2020

Since 2015, Pope Francis has encouraged the Catholic faithful to participate in the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, celebrated annually on the first day of September. The celebration of this Day also marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, a month-long ecumenical initiative supported by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development that concludes on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on the fourth of October. Attached please find a letter from this Dicastery providing further guidance on this topic, along with an unofficial English translation.

The theme for the 2020 Season of Creation is *Jubilee for the Earth* ([link](#)), where the Holy Father invites us to renew our faith in God the Creator and observe the Sabbath principles. In a statement for the 2020 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, respective chairmen of the USCCB's Committees on Domestic Justice and Human Development and International Justice and Peace, encouraged "every Catholic and all people of good will who care for our common home in the United States to increase efforts towards ecological conversion during this Season of Creation" ([link](#)).

Please consider extending an invitation to the faithful in your diocese to observe this Season, which coincides with the [Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year](#) and offers a distinct opportunity to celebrate God's creation with renewed vigor. The participation of your diocese will indicate solidarity with the Holy Father, the Catholic Church around the world, and our Christian brothers and sisters.

If you wish to promote the Season of Creation, the following resources may be useful:

- USCCB resources for responding to the moral and spiritual challenges of the ecological crisis: <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>.
- Catholic resources for the Season of Creation: <https://seasonofcreation.org/catholic/>.
- Special reflections on *Aqua Fons Vitae* from the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences: https://mumbaiaoe.webs.com/AFV%20for%20SoC2020_AOE_final.pdf.
- Season of Creation from the Catholic Climate Covenant: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/season-creation-2020>.

Enclosures



DICASTERO PER IL SERVIZIO
DELLO SVILUPPO UMANO INTEGRALE
Il Prefetto

Prot. N. 1319/2020

Dal Vaticano, 9 settembre 2020

Eminenza Reverendissima,
Eccellenza Reverendissima,

il primo settembre, come da ricorrenza, si è tenuta la Giornata Mondiale di Preghiera per la Cura del Creato. Tale Giornata, inaugurata già da numerosi anni dal Patriarcato Ortodosso Ecumenico, è stata poi adottata, dal 2015, dalla Chiesa Cattolica e da altre denominazioni cristiane al fine di riunirsi nella preghiera per il bene del Creato e dell'Umanità.

Anche quest'anno, per l'occasione, il Santo Padre ha rilasciato il suo Messaggio, qui disponibile in varie lingue ([link](#)), in base al tema scelto ecumenicamente: **il Giubileo per la Terra. «Dichiarerete santo il cinquantesimo anno e proclamerete la liberazione nella terra per tutti i suoi abitanti. Sarà per voi un giubileo» (Lv 25,10)**. In tale modo si intende evocare un risposo per la natura e la prefigurazione del *Sabato* eterno al quale tutti sono chiamati (cf. *Ebr* 3,18-19), il ricordo del disegno di Dio per la Terra, il bisogno di pentimento e di riparazione per gli abusi commessi, l'allegria e la speranza per un riscatto, per una liberazione.

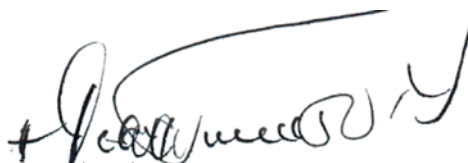
Il 1° settembre, come spiega Papa Francesco nel suo messaggio, inizia la Stagione o «Tempo del Creato, che si conclude il 4 ottobre, nel ricordo di san Francesco di Assisi. In questo periodo, i cristiani rinnovano in tutto il mondo la fede nel Dio creatore e si uniscono in modo speciale nella preghiera e nell'azione per la salvaguardia della casa comune».

Con l'invito a celebrare questo Tempo secondo le indicazioni della Chiesa nei vari Paesi, ben volentieri diffondo il sussidio elaborato dall'Ufficio per lo Sviluppo Umano della Federazione delle Conferenze Episcopali d'Asia (disponibile in inglese al [link](#)). Tale sussidio, che vuole essere un esempio, si ispira ad un documento recentemente pubblicato dal Dicastero per il Servizio dello Sviluppo Umano Integrabile, intitolato *Aqua fons vitae* (disponibile in varie lingue [link](#)). Altri sussidi sono disponibili sul sito ecumenico dedicato alla Stagione del Creato ([link](#)).

Tali materiali possono beninteso essere adattati e modificati a seconda delle esigenze locali.

Con i miei migliori auguri per un buon apostolato in questa particolare stagione, e con le mie preghiere affinché l'Onnipotente Creatore vi benedica e vi accompagni.

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Cardinale Peter K. A. TURKSON
Prefetto

A tutte le Conferenze Episcopali

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Prot. N. 1319/2020

From the Vatican, September 9, 2020

Most Reverend Eminence,
Most Reverend Excellency,

On September 1, as per the established custom, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was held. This Day, inaugurated many years ago by the Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarchate, was later adopted in 2015 by the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations in order to gather together in prayer for the good of Creation and of Humanity.

Also this year, for the occasion, the Holy Father has released his Message, here available in various languages ([link](#)), according to the ecumenically chosen theme: **Jubilee for the Earth. "You will declare the fiftieth year holy and proclaim liberation in the earth for all its inhabitants. It will be a Jubilee for you" (Lv 25:10).** In this manner it is intended to evoke a repose for nature and the foreshadowing of the eternal Sabbath to which all are called (cf. Heb 3:18-19), the remembrance of God's plan for the Earth, the need for repentance and reparation for the abuses committed, joy and hope for redemption, for a liberation.

On September 1, as Pope Francis explains in his message, begins the Time or "Season of Creation, which concludes on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on the fourth of October. During this period, Christians worldwide renew their faith in the God of creation and join in prayer and work for the care of our common home."

With the invitation to celebrate this Season according to the indications of the Church in various countries, I gladly share the guide elaborated by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences Office for Human Development (available in English at this [link](#)). This guide, which is intended as an example, is inspired by a document recently published by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, entitled *Aqua fons vitae* (available in various languages at this [link](#)). Other guides are available on the ecumenical site dedicated to the Season of Creation ([link](#)).

These materials can of course be adapted and modified according to local needs.

With my best wishes for a good apostolate in this particular season, and with my prayers that the Almighty Creator will bless you and accompany you.

Cardinal Peter K. A. TURKSON
Prefect

To all Episcopal Conferences

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (U.S.C.C.B.)