

**Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation:
Love the Lord, Love His Kingdom
Conclusion of the Season of Creation
Feast Day of Saint Francis
October 2023**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

May the Lord Give You Peace. As we draw near to the end of the Season of Creation and prepare to celebrate the feast day of our beloved Saint Francis, may we commit ourselves to honor all of God's creation in the year ahead. I would like to draw your attention to the Laudato Si Action Platform <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/> . There you will find many wonderful articles, resources, and prayers for our environment. You will also find a link to enroll in the platform, joining your name and voice to the others around the planet who wish to witness to the beauty of our Lord's creation and commit to intentional acts in our daily lives to honor the earth that our Lord created.

The platform has named seven goals to assist us in our planning for ourselves, our families, and our fraternities. There are suggested actions for each goal on the website. You may wish to write out a plan, incorporating some or all of the goals into your personal plan. You may decide to focus on just a few of the goals or do one or two things under each goal. As we individualize our plans, we pray for God's guidance.

May we approach this with the joy our Saint calls us to - joy in all things. In my own plan, I included songs, prayers, photography, and nature walks, as well as more "heady" tasks of learning more about our city's climate action plan, studying more deeply the effects of climate disruption on the poor, and searching out more eco-friendly products for daily use. May we include in our daily prayers a prayer for our earth. The following is adapted from the concluding prayer of Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.

"All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. Pour out upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty. Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey toward your infinite light. We ask for this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

Peace and All Good,

Patricia Grace, OFS
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