

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

Closing Reflection

As we come to the end of this Season of Creation, it should be clear that we human members of the full Earth community are standing at a critical, urgent, dangerous crisis point. Advancing and ever more destructive climate change is revealing Earth to be sliding quickly toward devastating ecological collapse.

Effective response to this situation cannot be a five-week focus on the issues annually that then turns to other issues and devotions. Pope Francis, the Vatican, and their collaborators are right in treating it as an “all-hands-on-deck” effort over many years committed to achieving full sustainability and a planet restored to health as a nurturing home for all its inhabitants.

A new vision of interconnected and interdependent “family relations” is beginning to emerge before our contemplative presence. It is inviting us to a new level of consciousness. And it demands a new level of global solidarity for Care of the Earth and all for whom it is home if humans are to have a place in its future evolution.

The Laudato Sí Action Platform Goals chart a clear and promising path forward. The Laudato Sí Action Platform Partners connect us to committed partners for the journey.

With the blessing of the Hope that Jesus Christ inspires, a few additional questions based on the Laudato Sí Action Platform Goals may help us to imagine paths to guide the Action with Creation unfolding before us.

Do our efforts to embrace Ecological Education and foster deeper Ecological Spiritualities help families, organizations, institutions, and communities to understand, care for, and protect the interdependent ecologies of Earth in these times? Do they help all of us grow in contemplative awe and gratitude before the revelation of God in Creation all around us?

Do our efforts and work for sustainability enable families, institutions, organizations and communities hear the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor? Are we who participate in them exploring and undertaking sustainable lifestyles in response to those cries? Alternative visions of the successful human life more in harmony with nature and Christ’s gospel vision of the Kin-dom?

Do our efforts help families, organizations, institutions, and local communities like parishes and dioceses become active in the larger civic communities, engaging in ways that promote public policies for responding

to the Cry of Earth and the Cry of the Poor? To promote alternative cultural values to help all people live more sustainably and justly in peace?

Are we promoting and nurturing an Ecological Spirituality of global solidarity so that the human community of Earth will become able to move effectively and urgently together for the healing and restoration of Earth as a nurturing ecology, a nurturing home for all its creatures?

Throughout the months and years,
the hopes and actions that lie ahead,

May the Renewing Spirit of God bring
to fulfillment the integral ecological
conversion beginning among us.

May God’s Spirit of Wisdom provide us all
the hope, wisdom, and courage we need
to restore the household of God on Earth,
making it once again a true Home for All.

May the prophetic Spirit of God bring
about just and loving global solidarity
in the human community

so that together in that Spirit

we may give birth to a great symphony of
beauty in the New Creation. Amen.