



## Season of Creation 2020

Sept. 1 – Oct. 4

The Season of Creation is a celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. The celebration is promoted by the ecumenical Season of Creation Steering Committee and includes Christians from faith traditions around the world (<https://seasonofcreation.org/>).

This year the theme is “Jubilee for the Earth” and occurs five years after the publication of the papal encyclical *Laudato Si*.

The Committee on Integral Ecology, Diocese of St Augustine, encourages each parish to embrace the Season of Creation with some or all of the following activities.

1. Form a Season of Creation/Laudato Si/ Integral Ecology committee at the parish level to plan activities dedicated to improving the environment. The Cathedral Basilica’s Laudato Si Committee is a model <https://laudatosi-sa.org>
2. Start a study group using *Catholic Teaching on the Environment* as the text (USCCB 2020) or join existing lecture series
  - a. Live Zoom Webinars – *Tending the Garden: Covenant & Creation in the Bible*. A three-part online series that explores the Creation stories in the book of Genesis, Psalms poetry and Wisdom Literature of the Bible, and the connection between Covenant and Creation. This introductory program highlights the connection between God, God’s creation, and human beings. It draws on the work of modern biblical scholars, the rich tradition of the Catholic Church, and the reflections on Creation by Popes St. John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis. Led by John Daniels, ThD., professor of Old Testament for the diocesan Ministry Formation Program, and adjunct instructor in religion at Flagler College. **Thursdays, Sept. 3, 10, 17, from 7 to 8 p.m. Connect to webinar by going to [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_OjYTQGQISzO\\_u9o9BRchwQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OjYTQGQISzO_u9o9BRchwQ)**
  - b. Online Lecture – *Saint Francis and Creation* lecture featuring Dr. Timothy J. Johnson, Distinguished Professor of Religion at Flagler College, and Craig and Audrey Thorn. On the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi, Timothy J. Johnson, Ph.D., offers a compelling lecture on the topic of Saint Francis and Creation. A noted Franciscan scholar who has published extensively on both Saints Francis and Bonaventure, Johnson will plumb the extraordinary life of Saint Francis and his conversion that led to a radical approach of experiencing “the book of Creation.” Beloved by Christians around the world, the Patron Saint of Ecology embodied a sublime path toward an integral ecological conversion for all the faithful to aspire to. **Sunday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. Connecto to the online lecture by going to [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_5yTzhI5kQQWQ11rZL0nB\\_Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5yTzhI5kQQWQ11rZL0nB_Q)**

3. Join the Pilgrimage for the Planet activity <https://sites.google.com/view/laudato-si-of-saint-augustine-/events/pilgrimage-for-the-planet>. Walk, reflect and pray in nature alone or a small group. Use the journey to help clean up litter. Help to promote such activities by posting your personal journey.
  
4. Encourage everyone to sign the St Francis Pledge  
 I/We Pledge to:
  - PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God’s Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
  - LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
  - ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations can contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
  - ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
  - ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

(<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/ecology-resource-all.pdf>)
  
5. Integrate care for creation into weekly liturgies
  - a. The Season of Creation 2020 Celebration guide has specific suggestions <https://seasonofcreation.org/celebration-guide/>
  - b. Sept. 1: World Day of Prayer for Creation (Creation Day)
  - c. Sept. 21: International Coastal Cleanup Day
  - d. Oct. 4: Feast of St Francis of Assisi
  - e. Prayers of the Faithful could include intentions for environmental healing, preservation, and care of the Earth’s resources for generations to come:
    - “O Lord, grant us the grace to respect and care for Your creation.
    - O Lord, bless all of Your creature as a sign of Your wondrous love.
    - O Lord, help us to end the suffering of the poor and bring healing to all of Your creation.
    - O Lord, help us to use our technological inventiveness to undo the damage we have done to Your creation and to sustain Your gift of nature. “(USCCB 2020)
  - f. The Global Catholic Climate Movement is a good source of ideas <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>
  
6. Organize a neighborhood, river, or beach clean-up event
  
7. Plant a community garden
  
8. Reduce the use of disposable materials (paper plates, plastic and Styrofoam cups, plastic flatware) at parish and school events and daily.
  
9. Adopt the World Council of Churches (WCC) Roadmap (<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc->

[programmes/diakonia/economy-of-life/roadmap-for-congregations-communities-and-churches-for-an-economy-of-life-and-ecological-justice](#))

10. Develop an annual parish plan for prayer for the Earth, reduction of waste and consumption, and advocacy for environmental justice as called for by the Holy Father.

For more information about any of these initiatives, email Mike Day at [mday@dosafll.com](mailto:mday@dosafll.com) or call (904) 262-3200, ext. 156. Or email Lee Ann Clements, Ph.D. at [lclemen@ju.edu](mailto:lclemen@ju.edu).