

Celebration of Season of Creation 2021



Dear Sisters and Friends,

We are in the Season of Creation Month. Let us reflect- what is it all about- Season of Creation? How did it all come about? Can we make a difference to our ‘Common Home’? Each simple steps make a lot of difference in renewing the Oikos of God.

The season of creation is an ecumenical initiative wherein different groups of people have got together to praise and thank God for the gift of creation, to work for renewing of our relationship with the creator and for renewing our relationship with creation. The season starts from the 1st September and culminates on the 4th October on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Ecology, the model for us of integral ecology showing us the beautiful link between poverty of spirit; justice for the poor, devotion to God and love for the creation. It is the world day of prayer for the care of creation. Yes, this day was first instituted by the Orthodox Church in 1989. And in 2015, the Catholic Church officially joined the celebration of this day.

The Catholic Church has recently endorsed the Season of Creation and last year, the Vatican – directory for the integral Human Development set out in May, 2020, urging all Catholics to participate fully in this Month long celebration of this season. The FABC also reaffirmed this call and invited all Catholics too wholeheartedly to take part in this Season of Creation. Therefore we are in this venture to actively and joyfully celebrate. The theme for this year 2021, season of creation is: **‘A Home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God.’** This theme is based on the scriptural passage Psalm 24. The Psalmist proclaims “The Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it.” There are two statements of faith at the heart of this song. The first is that every creature belongs to the Earth community. The second is that the entire community belongs to the Creator. A Greek word for this Earth community is oikos. Oikos is the root of the word oikoumene, or ecumenical, which describes our ‘common home’, as Pope Francis calls it in ‘Laudato Si’. Our common home, the Earth belongs to God, and each beloved creature belongs to this common oikos.

During this liturgical Season of Creation, the ecumenical Christian family calls every household and society to repent and reshape our political, social and economic systems towards just, sustainable economies of life, which respect the life-giving ecological limits of our common home. We hope that this Season of Creation renews our ecumenical unity, in our baptismal call to care and sustain an ecological turning that will ensure all creatures can find their home to flourish, and participate in renewing the oikos of God.

We have planned a few activities around the above theme and we hope all of you will join with your small and significant contributions to renew the Oikos of God. With hope and prayers for this renewal.

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| Week 1 [1 - 7 September] | Nature Meditation |
| | Prayer/reflections and sharing on either animals/birds/medicinal plants |
| | Promote plants that give our oxygen at night |
| | Make a decision to live a day without Plastic - reflect on its harm and choose for greater good |
| Week 2 [8-14 September] | Pray for farmers, ecologists, environmentalists |
| | Plant saplings |
| | Make compost at home with home waste |
| Week 3 [15-21 September] | Spend time in silence with nature |
| | Lectio-Divina with the topic of Nature |
| | Cleanliness Drive |
| Week 4 [22-28 September] | Learn the uses of different medicinal plants |
| | Prepare a kitchen garden |
| | Organize plantation drive |

Sr. Deepti, JPICS RA Team