

Season of Creation, 2024

The Season of Creation begins on September 1st with the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* and ends on October 4th with the feast of St. Francis. It is an ecumenical, world-wide event, with many opportunities to participate. Pope Francis has issued his message, and a prayer (links below.) Perhaps it is time to initiate a new fraternity apostolate, or get more involved at the parish level. It's never too late to start. This year's theme is "Hope and Act with Creation." It's been said that the US Catholic Church has been slow to act in response to *Laudato Si* and *Laudate Deum*. There are clear signs that is changing, and thankfully we have Franciscans to show the way:



The Children are Asking, by Mary Southard

Carolyn Townes' [Season of Creation](https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Season-of-Caring-for-Creation-1.pdf) is a beautiful collection of prayers, readings, and opportunities for reflection: <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Season-of-Caring-for-Creation-1.pdf>



The **Catholic Climate Covenant** has been very busy preparing materials for parish and school use. Their [web site](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/season-of-creation-2024/) is a rich and essential resource :

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/season-of-creation-2024/>

They also have a nice Liturgical Banner in different formats, languages, etc. at:

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/season-creation-liturgical-banner/>



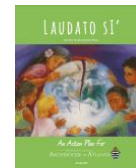
St. Gabriel Publishing has free downloadable banners, posters, etc:

<https://www.stgabrielpublishing.com/collections/all-part-of-gods-planet>

Holy See: The [Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation \[1st September 2024\] is at this link](#) (In eight languages.) There is also an [Information flyer about the Pope's statement](#) which would make a nice bulletin insert.



Diocese of Atlanta: For a good example of a diocesan *Laudato Si* action plan, check out the Diocese of Atlanta's plan here: <https://godsplanet.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/09/laudato-si-action-plan-final-enlinks.pdf>



Prayer:

O Lord, you sent the Seraph to mark St Francis
 With Jesus' wounds, a visible sign of your love for us
 In the mystery of the cross.
 May your Church today, through our lives and actions
 Be a visible sign of healing and renewal
 For all the world.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 Who showed to us the meaning of mercy.
 Amen



Stigmata by Bicci di Lorenzo