



DICASTERO PER IL SERVIZIO  
DELLO SVILUPPO UMANO INTEGRALE

23 May 2019

My brother in Christ:

Warm greetings to you from Rome.

On the occasion of the International Day of Biodiversity and in anticipation of the fourth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development invites you to prayerfully consider caring for creation as part of your pastoral leadership.

Caring for creation protects the inheritance the Creator has given us, an inheritance that is essential to our well-being. As Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si'*, "Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it." (LS 139) Protecting this inheritance is a way of fulfilling our role as the stewards of creation; as Pope Benedict XVI said in a meeting with the Diocese of Bolzano-Bressanone, "the task of 'subduing' it was never intended as an order to enslave it but rather as the task of being guardians of creation and developing its gifts."

In fulfillment of this role as the guardians of God's creation, **we extend a particular invitation to join the ecumenical family in celebrating the Season of Creation.** During the Season of Creation, which runs from September 1 to October 4 each year, Christians unite in praying and acting together to care for our common home.

September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, was proclaimed by the Patriarch Dimitrios I for the Orthodox in 1989 and endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015. The season that begins on that date and lasts until October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, is widely embraced. Cardinal Turkson, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and many others have supported this season.

An ecumenical steering committee provides resources to celebrate the Season of Creation, and proposes a theme for each year. The theme for 2019 is "the web of life," a theme that connects our role as the stewards of God's creation with the urgent need to protect biodiversity. This theme has important connections to this October's Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazonian region.

More information about the Season of Creation, its connection to the synod, and the wealth of resources available is in the attached overview. I encourage you to share this with all of your parishes.

I am praying for you and all those in your diocese, and I ask that you pray for me.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Msgr. Bruno Marie Duffé

Secretary

Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

## An invitation to join the Season of Creation



From September to October each year, the Christian community celebrates the Season of Creation by praying and acting together to protect our common home. The season is celebrated by tens of thousands of Christians around the world annually.

The Season of Creation begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation. **We invite you to plan your participation in the season**, and, as a first step, to visit [SeasonOfCreation.org](https://SeasonOfCreation.org). You'll find a wealth of resources and a registration form for your event.



The theme of this year's Season of Creation celebration is "the web of life." We Catholics are uniting with others in the Christian family to protect every creature in God's beautifully complex web of creation.

Protecting creation in all its glory coincides with another special event this year. In October, just after the Season of Creation closes, bishops from around the world will join His Holiness for a synod on the Amazon, an occasion for prayerful reflection on how we protect the Amazon and the people who share it.



The preparatory document for the synod calls us to listen "to indigenous peoples and to all the communities living in the Amazonia." In that spirit, we share with you a statement of spirituality from an indigenous community in the Amazon.



"Good living is abundance in life and harmony between brothers and sisters. Equilibrium in the world and protection of the forest. Having food that satisfies us and that gives us more strength, more life. Having health and living in a healthful way with the offerings of mother earth. Finding the light inside each human being."

The Season of Creation is an opportunity to celebrate the abundance of life and protect the light inside each member of God's creation.



As you plan your Season of Creation activities, we invite you to consider initiating the season with a Laudato Si' Mass on September 1. As we move through the season, let's continue to celebrate together.

A wealth of resources for implementing Laudato Si' in your community is available. These include hands-on projects like developing a community group such as Laudato Si' Circles, liturgical suggestions, advocacy ideas, and much more. All resources are available at [SeasonOfCreation.org](https://SeasonOfCreation.org). **We look forward to celebrating with you.**



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING  
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



SEASON OF  
CREATION



THE GLOBAL CATHOLIC  
CLIMATE MOVEMENT



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