



# PRAYER JOURNAL

## SEASON OF CREATION 2024

This Season of Creation, our emphasis is on **ecological conversion**. Responsive to our 2019 Chapter call to go deeper, to implement *Laudato Si'* and to make all decisions through the lens of unifying love, we challenge ourselves to respond to Pope Francis' request.

“So what they all need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”

—Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* 217

We hope that you will find these pages draw you into deeper reflection on your ecological conversion.



**TO HOPE AND ACT  
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)





*You are invited to read, reflect, and journal on these thoughts about ecological conversion.*

## **Ecological Conversion Definition**

by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Bonnici

Source: [Universe of Faith](#), August 29, 2020

The word 'ecological' comes from the noun 'ecology' which means the branch of biology dealing with the relations and interactions between organisms and their environment. Whilst the word 'conversion' comes from the Anglo-French word, 'conversio' which means a complete change.

Thus, 'Ecological Conversion' implies a change in how we look at, interact and behave, to care for our common home. It means changes in the choices that we make in our daily life, that have an effect on the environment as a whole; on other living organisms, including people. It is a change for the betterment or improvement of all creation and its creatures. A person who has ecologically converted acts like a human being in the image of God where s/he seeks to live in harmony with nature (including people); a steward rather than someone who dominates.

**Ecological conversion in the Catholic perspective usually includes:**

### ***1. A sense of gratitude and gratuitousness (cf. Laudato Si' 220)***

Through the Catholic faith one becomes open to a sense of

thankfulness  
and wonder as  
one recognises

"that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works," even when no one is looking.

*What are you thankful for? What do you wish to give in return?*

### ***2. Awareness that I am also part of the book of Creation (cf. Laudato Si' 220)***

"It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. As believers, we do not look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which the Father has linked us to all beings. By developing our individual, God-given capacities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world's problems and in offering ourselves to God "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable" (Rom 12:1)." So creation is like a word of love from God to you and you are a word of love from God to the rest of Creation.



*What does God's trust in you inspire within you?*

**3. Awareness**  
***that every creature reflects something of who God is: goodness, knowledge, beauty, love, gentleness (etc.) (cf. Laudato Si' 221)***

The Catholic perspective of ecological conversion is recognising “that each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us, and the security that Christ has taken unto himself this material world and now, risen, is intimately present to each being, surrounding it with his affection and penetrating it with his light.”

*Choose a creature, an insect, a flower, a fruit, a person... and contemplate on it. What does this creature tell me about God?*

**4. Acknowledging harmony and order in creation (cf. Laudato Si' 221)**

Ecological conversion for the Catholic is also knowing “that God created the world, writing into it an order and a dynamism that human beings have no



right to ignore. We read in the Gospel that Jesus says of

the birds of the air that “not one of them is forgotten before God” (Lk 12:6). How then can we possibly mistreat them or cause them harm?”

*Observe the rhythms, colours, cycles and seasons in nature. What is God's invitation to you today?*

**Ecological Conversion is a particular way of looking at creation prompting a change of heart.**

Therefore, “Ecological Conversion” in the Catholic sense is this new way of looking at creation; a new way of living our life in deeper harmony with the people around us, with the creatures we live with and with God. It can mean choosing to have less in life but living more of life to ensure that all, including future generations, benefit equally from the Earth's resources.

Pope Francis presents the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi as a model for this conversion: “to realise that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. To achieve such reconciliation, we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God's creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion or change of heart”. (cf. Laudato Si' 218)



# Prayer Service for the Season of Creation

## Opening Prayer

**Source:** Laudato Si' Prayer Book, p. 63  
Sr. Maura Fitzsimons, PBVM.  
Shaw, Mississippi, USA

Inspire...  
Inspire  
in us a  
spirit of awe  
Divine Creator, God,  
We thank You  
for the wonder of the universe  
and its eons of time and life  
that has sustained us.

We thank You for our sister mother  
earth,  
her beauty and giftedness,  
the bounty of her days  
and her sacred  
ground.

Sadly, we have abused  
earth's sacred space  
and have misread its  
sacred story,  
claiming it as our own,  
opposing Your divine  
plan.  
Its gift of  
sustainability  
has been snatched away,  
diminishing its sustenance  
for the good of all.

Yes, we can hear its anguished cries  
of pain and distress;  
its resources stripped bare,  
its climate distorted,  
its water and soil poisoned,

its landscape unable to cope.

Creator God,  
Help us to care for sister mother earth  
with loving attention  
to its sacred journey.  
As it gives of itself without measure.  
Inspire in us a spirit of awe  
for its beauty and many life forms.  
And may we be thankful  
knowing that it waits unceasingly  
to refurbish itself for our sake.  
Amen.

## We Pray for Mercy

**Source:** [Season Of Creation 2024 Catholic Liturgical Guide | Catholic Climate Covenant](#)  
p. 18

**Leader:** Loving Creator God, we  
often lose hope in the face of  
the widespread devastation of  
climate change, the threats of  
far worse to come, the urgency  
of the needs, and the slowness  
of our response....

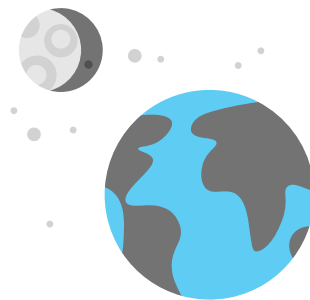
**All: Creator Spirit of God,  
have mercy.**

**Leader:** Christ Jesus, you  
remind us that the crises bringing so  
much suffering to Earth begin within  
us, from our hearts....

**All: Christ Jesus, have mercy.**

**Leader:** Holy Spirit of God, you plant  
the word of truth in each of us and call  
us to be doers of the word and not  
hearers only....

**All: Holy Spirit of God, have mercy.**



**Leader:** May God, who has birthed the vast web of life in which we live through billions of years, have mercy on us, free us from our sins, and guide us into the fullness of divine Life.

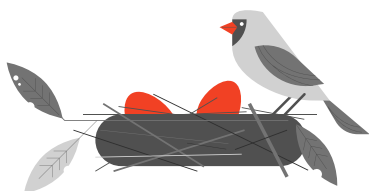
**All: Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Our Earth**

**Source:** [Pope Francis, Laudato Si'](#)

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.



### **Reflection and Sharing**

*Take a few minutes to reflect on what you have read. Briefly share what emerges for you.*

### **Prayers of Petition**

**Source:** [Season Of Creation 2024 Catholic Liturgical Guide | Catholic Climate Covenant](#) p. 22

**Leader:** For ever-deepening trust in the faithful presence and loving work of God in us, among us, and through us to respond to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor, we pray...

**All: Lead us to deeper ecological conversion.**

**Leader:** For the success of the work of ecumenical and interfaith communities to promote global unity and restore Earth as a nurturing home to all its creatures, we pray...

**All: Lead us to deeper ecological conversion.**

**Leader:** That we may take up our prophetic responsibilities in this time of urgent crisis to speak God's Truth to each other and to call each other into ways of living on Earth wisely, sustainably, justly, and reverently, we pray...

**All: Lead us to deeper ecological conversion.**

**Leader:** That we may hear and respond in faith and in hope to the Cry of the Poor among us and around the planet, we pray...

**All: Lead us to deeper ecological conversion.**





