

JUSTICE & PEACE MINISTRY

September 1 to October 4, the Diocese of Joliet is celebrating the Season of Creation, which is an annual ecumenical observance. It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration and commitment together. During this time we are reminded to reflect on the wonderful and awesome work of God the Creator of all things. And hopefully we will take time to recognize the need for our cooperation in the care of our natural resources, our world and the universe.

With God's help we have made use of the resources for life giving and life saving inventions but we have also contributed to the negative impact on the environment that we see around us - on the vegetation, the water, the air, etc. Scientists, clergy and many caring lay people have been warning the world about climate change, global warming, the effects of pollution, the accumulation of massive amounts of discarded trash that mounts in landfills and will take more years than a person's lifetime to decompose. It is time to seriously address these issues and do our part to improve the situation. Every little bit helps.

On Thursday Laudato Sí Ministries - Diocese of Joliet began the celebration with a prayer service hosted by the Wheaton Franciscans. Our prayer was for awareness and action. During this month long season, culminating with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment, let us try to take time to evaluate our efforts to reduce, reuse/repurpose, recycle and recover.

Pope Francis has offered a powerful encyclical on the environment, ***Laudato Sí***, which not only addresses the effects of the misuse of the resources of the earth on our environment but how this affects the poorest and most vulnerable of peoples on the globe.

The theme of the Season of Creation 2022 is **Listen to the Voice of Creation**. Pope Francis said in his recent message on the Season of Creation, "If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home."

Let us pray and work together to care for our common home.