

## TIME OF CREATION 2020: JUBILEE FOR EARTH



Pope Francis, after promulgating the encyclical *Laudato si'*, in which he invites an "ecological conversion", established September 1 as a Day of Prayer for the care of Creation. This year, the Pope recalled that from September 1 to October 4 "we will celebrate with our brothers and sisters, Christians of various Churches and traditions the "Jubilee of the Earth", to commemorate the establishment, 50 years ago, of the Day of the Earth "and that will begin with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

Francis in the message he addressed to

the world a year ago on this date affirmed: "God saw that it was good" (Gn 1,25). God's gaze, at the beginning of the Bible, is gently fixed on creation. From the earth to inhabit to the waters that nourish life, from the trees that bear fruit to the animals that populate the common home, everything is beautiful in the eyes of God, who offers man creation as a precious gift to guard.

And observing the response that Christians give to the mission of caring for creation, he affirmed: Tragically, the human response to that gift has been marked by sin, by the barrier in their own autonomy, by the greed to possess and exploit. Egoism and interests have made creation - a place of encounter and exchange - a theater of rivalry and confrontations.

The Pope looks for the root of this response, that is why he says: At the root, we have forgotten who we are: creatures in the image of God (cf. Gen 1,27), called to live as brothers and sisters in the same common home. We were not created to be bossy individuals; we were thought and desired at the center of a web of life made up of millions of species lovingly united by our Creator. It is time to rediscover our vocation as children of God, brothers among us, custodians of creation.

That is why the Bishop of Rome issues an invitation: This is the time to reflect on our lifestyle and on how our daily choice in terms of food, consumption, travel, use of water, energy and so many material goods often they are reckless and harmful. We are taking too much of creation. Let's choose to change, adopt simpler and more respectful lifestyles!

The commitment to the environment is an essential aspect of the Piarist proposal. Calasanz sought the reform of society with education. Today we understand that true social change is linked to caring for the Earth.

In an attached document, we leave you a precious message from the Pope on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

Many resources have been developed to raise awareness of this issue. An ecumenical initiative has designed a website where resources can be found in various languages: <https://seasonofcreation.org/es/home-es/>

The UISG has also launched a campaign entitled: "Sowing hope for the planet" <https://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org/>

In the midst of the uncertainty that we live in at this time, it is good that our schools become aware of the importance of taking care of our "common home".

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION**