

AN APPEAL FOR PRAYERS ON THE 1ST SEPTEMBER

On the occasion of the first **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, CA Associations all over the world, united in the International Forum of CA, are launching an appeal for prayers.

Institution of the “World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation” (1st September) Letter by the Holy Father

<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2015/08/10/0609/01316.html>

This day is meant to reaffirm “our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the marvellous work that He has entrusted to our care, invoking His help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live”.

We recommend

1. personal prayers on the 1st September by participating in Holy Mass, by praying the Lauds and Vespers, by reciting the Rosary, by spending some time in recollection and adoration
2. wherever possible, to participate in community prayers, in the family, in the parish, in CA groups, ...
3. prayers for the care of creation during the initiatives promoted by CA during September
4. the organisation of an occasion for the community, even on another date, involving the Christian community, CA groups and other associations and movements, especially young people, inviting Orthodox Christians and other Christian confessions
5. a commitment, at national, diocesan level, to offer CA’s full support and collaboration to the Justice and Peace Commission, Lay Apostolate Councils, Youth Pastoral Groups in order to “ set up relevant initiatives to promote and illustrate this Day, so that this annual celebration becomes a powerful moment of prayer, reflection, conversion and the adoption of appropriate lifestyles”.

During these personal and communitarian prayer meetings we recommend the recitation of the *Christian Prayer in union with creation* found in the Encyclical *Laudato si’* (246), with the magnificent hymn by Saint Francis (*Laudato si’* 87)

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

A Christian prayer in union with creation

*Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!*

*Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!*

*Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father’s love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!*

*Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.*

*God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen*

CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES BY SAINT FRANCIS

*«Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day and through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;
and bears a likeness of you, Most High.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather
through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong”»*