

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

As members of the Church, we are invited to celebrate The Season of Creation. This Season spans five weeks between the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (September 1) and the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4). This time, when we are asked to focus on the gift of creation, offers us an opportunity to reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the transgressions committed against the world in which we live. Prayer, determination and concrete actions are all necessary so that the gifts of God are always visible in the world.

Now is the time to follow up our words with deeds. Let us pray together that Almighty God will send us an abundance of His Spirit so that our prayers, our determination and concrete actions bring about peace and hope and the richness of God's Blessing.

May we continue to be inspired to respect and nurture the handiwork of God's Creation. Let this Season of Creation extend beyond these five weeks so that throughout our lives we are stewards of creation.

***"There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions."*** - Laudato Si

-Fr. Raphael