

***WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
for the Care of Creation
in the
SEASON OF CREATION
September 1 – October 4, 2016***



We will address the root causes of violence, war, human trafficking and the myriad humanitarian & environmental crises of our time & respond to them collaboratively through actions in accord with our SHCJ spirit & mission 2016

CALL TO PRAYER

According to Pope Francis, *"The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation...."*



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This day of prayer has been extended into a **SEASON OF CREATION** (*click to visit site and view message of Pope Francis*) that is celebrated by Christian communities around the globe, beginning on September 1 and ending on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



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LET US PRAY

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...



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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...



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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...



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ALL:

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen



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ACTIONS NOT WORDS

Possibilities of action for living simply and sustainably are endless, but the ones below make a major impact. These actions interconnect with others, especially care of water:



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CONTEMPLATE CREATION'S BEAUTY, MYSTERY,
and interconnections, and rejoice in the divine
presence living and acting in our world.



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VOTE FOR CANDIDATES proven to care for all creation, to resolve conflicts nonviolently, to assist the poor, and to increase love on our planet.



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LOBBY LEGISLATORS on issues of importance for people and planet, such as:

- invest in renewable energy; stop subsidies to fossil fuels
- increase negotiating skills; stop expansion of weapons systems
- reduce inequality
- foster organic agriculture; stop mono-crops and toxic chemicals



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REDUCE EXTRACTION & USE OF FOSSIL FUELS:

- transition to renewable energy at home and work
- reduce use of plastic, especially plastic water bottles and plastic bags
- reduce gasoline use by reducing car trips and staying below 55-60 on highways



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EAT RESPONSIBLY FOR THE PLANET:

- reduce factory-farmed meat consumption
- increase fair trade, organic, and local produce and products



FAIRTRADE



KEEP RECYCLING YOUR DOLLAR AT HOME



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PROTECT TREES:

- Reduce paper use
- Use 100% sustainable paper
- Plant trees and/or support groups that do



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REDUCE USE OF ELECTRICITY:

- Turn lights and fans off when not in use
- Reduce use of a/c, dryer, iron



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REDUCE CONSUMERISM:

- Make do with what you have whenever possible
- Share when possible
- Buy recycled goods

REUSE 
REDUCE
RECYCLE



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***“Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.”
Earth Charter / Laudato Si’ 207***



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REDUCE...REUSE...RECYCLE...REFLECT

What am I doing to care for my home planet?

What are we doing?

What more will I/we do for our common home?

...contemplate...vote...lobby...reduce fossil fuels...eat responsibly, protect trees, reduce use of electricity...reduce consumption...reduce...reuse...recycle...reflect...care...contemplate...



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Between 2014 AND 2016 the American Province has:

- made countless personal efforts
- engaged in many kinds of advocacy
 - agreed on a province statement
- transferred to green energy in our houses
 - studied *Laudato Si'*
- Invited staff to form green committees at Holy Child Center & the provincial office
- Continued our Eco-spirituality & Evergreens Groups



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SHCJ American Province Statement 2014

We pledge to be aware and pray over recent scientific reports and Church statements and to invite family, friends, and colleagues to join with us.

We urge our government officials to join the world community to enact legislation which will reduce emissions of global greenhouse gases and support clean energy. We give authorization to our Province Leadership Team to act in our name in this regard.

We commit ourselves to reduce carbon emissions by our activities and lifestyles so that all God's people, particularly the poor and vulnerable, will not suffer the devastating consequences of climate change. We recognize that what we do to the earth, we do to ourselves. Therefore, as Holy Child Sisters, we commit ourselves to support ALL life on Earth.

How will I / we renew this commitment?



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