



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, September 3, 2023

Season of Creation: Let Peace and Justice Flow

This year's Season of Creation begins on September 1 with a World Day of Prayer and ends on October 4 with the Feast of St. Francis.

"Each year the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. **As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for creation.** We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth." (Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

Prophet Amos cries out: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24) "And so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity....

As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice." (Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

"...First, let us join the mighty river by **transforming our hearts.** This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that "ecological conversion" which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator...

Second, let us add to the flow of this mighty river by **transforming our lifestyles....** With the help of God's grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable. Let us be as mindful as we can about our habits and economic decisions so that all can thrive – our fellow brothers and sisters wherever they may be, and future generations as well...

Lastly, for the mighty river to continue flowing, we must **transform the public policies that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow.** Economic policies that promote scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others, spell the end of peace and justice..." (from Message of Pope Francis for Creation Day 2023)

TO DO: In the next few weeks, take some time on your own or as a family to choose one thing you will do as a steward of our earth. It can be as simple as taking a walk outside by a local river to meditate on the gift of God's creation and our response to be in deeper communion with all life. It might be learning more about effective advocacy. Many faith organizations have helpful resources. Check the resources page on SeasonofCreation.org for details.

Whatever you choose, **know that each step you take on behalf of creation brings us a step closer to a world where peace and justice flow.**

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.