



24 May 2020

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Easter greetings from Rome. During the [Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year](#), the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is happy to invite you to **join the ecumenical family in celebrating the [Season of Creation](#)**, the annual celebration that takes place from September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Last year, the Holy Father Pope Francis [officially invited](#) the faithful to participate in this annual "season of increased prayer and effort on behalf of our common home." As the Holy Father said, "this is *the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew,*" a season "*to reflect on our lifestyles,*" and a season "*for undertaking prophetic actions . . . calling for courageous decisions . . . directing the planet towards life, not death.*"

Pope Francis' message, which calls us to attend to the "immense hardship for the most vulnerable among us," is particularly relevant in the light of the coronavirus pandemic. As the world experiences deep uncertainty and suffering in the midst of a global emergency, we are called to recognize that a truly healthy recovery means seeing that "everything is connected" and repairing the bonds we have broken. We realize that we need to grow more and more in solidarity and take care of one another in fraternity.

Inspired by the apostolic exhortation *Querida Amazonia*, we encourage the people of God to accelerate their walks towards *new paths for the Church and for an integral ecology* by planning activities for the Season of Creation. These might include activities such as a special mass or pilgrimage walk, sustainability practices, or advocacy initiatives to respond to the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," to take place during this special season.

We also encourage bishops and ecclesial bodies to make statements to raise awareness about the Season of Creation, helping the faithful to realize that "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (*Laudato si'* 217).

This special season offers us the chance to work toward the renewal of our Earth and the precious relationships we share, and I warmly invite you to join in its commemoration. I am praying for you, and I ask that you pray for me.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Monsignor Bruno-Marie Duffé

Secretary, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development