



Laudato Si' and CreationTide: A Catholic Season of Creation

September 1 – October 4, 2019

What is **CreationTide**?

For quite some time, our church – popes and bishops, Catholic Social Teaching, concerned women and men, have called us to a renewed understanding of and action for the care of the earth. Saint John Paul II reminded us that all of Creation reflects the love of the Creator and should be treasured. Pope Benedict XVI brought urgency to the question of how our Catholic principles should shape our climate future. This call has now been intensified. *Laudato Si'*, subtitled *On Care for Our Common Home*, published on June 18, 2015, is the first encyclical personally written by Pope Francis.

In the months following the publication of *Laudato Si'*, some media comments around the world criticized the pope for “not sticking to religion” in his teaching, but Pope Francis is actually following the example set by his predecessors. Most of the popes in the modern era, starting with Pope Leo XIII and his encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, issued on May 15, 1891, have called for global social reform. *Laudato Si'* is, however, the first encyclical that a pope, relying primarily on scientific data, has called for radical changes in human behavior and government policies around the world - behavior and policies that have resulted in irresponsible development, environmental degradation and global warming. It is a plea not just to the Church but to the entire world.

Over the last 25+ years, the Orthodox churches and many Protestant and Anglican churches have developed a specific liturgical response to the dangers facing our planet by including *Care for Creation* as an integral component of their public prayer life. This response is generally called **CreationTide**. They urged churches to adopt a **CreationTide** season, a season of the liturgical year during which the church remembers in a special way God’s work of creation and the obligation of all humanity to respect and care for all of God’s creation. This season of creation would run from September 1st to the feast of St. Francis on October 4th. In 2015 Pope Francis joined the other churches in proclaiming September 1st as the “World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.”

Here at St. John Neumann, we will follow Pope Francis’ urging and begin our celebration of **CreationTide: A Catholic Season of Creation** on Sunday, September 1. We will devote the weeks until the Feast of St. Francis on October 4 to the Care of Creation, addressing it in our liturgical prayers and music, singing a new hymn (“Tend the Ground,” # 616,) sharing in small group studies of *Laudato Si'*, and participating in a variety of actions in our parish community to care for the gift our Creator has given us.

Genesis 9:12-13 “God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of a covenant between Me and the Earth.’”