

2025 Season of Creation – “Seeds of Peace and Hope”

Reflection #5: September 14-20

READ: 5th part of Pope Leo’s letter for the 2025 Season of Creation- *next page in green*



REFLECTION: *“Nature itself is reduced at times to a bargaining chip, a commodity...”* Pope Leo does not mince words. Neither does the above photo.

- Where have you experienced Creation being reduced to a commodity?
- How is such denigration of Earth,
which *“is like a sister...and mother”* to us,
akin to misogyny? to rape?
- What within myself prefers to remain unconscious
in terms of how I relate with Earth?

ACTION: Pick up and sit with Elizabeth Johnson’s powerful words in the updated (2022) small but classic work *“Women, Earth, and Creator Spirit”*. *

“For (indigenous communities), land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values.”

(Laudato Si #146)

Resources for September 14 - 20

Pope Leo's letter for the 2025 *Season of Creation*

(Excerpt 5 of 9)

That is not all. Nature itself is reduced at times to a bargaining chip, a commodity to be bartered for economic or political gain. As a result, God's creation turns into a battleground for the control of vital resources. We see this in agricultural areas and forests peppered with landmines, "scorched earth" policies, [1] conflicts over water sources, and the unequal distribution of raw materials, which penalizes the poorer nations and undermines social stability itself.

[1] Cf. PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, *Land and Food*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015, 51-53.

From <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/creation/documents/20250630-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

Pray with Scripture: compare/contrast **Deuteronomy 20: 10 - 14**
and **Psalms 24: 1 - 6**

*Ponder [the preface](#) for the 2022 edition of "Women, Earth, and Creator Spirit".

Photo credit: Vlad Chetan on pexels.com

*"...our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life
and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us."*

(Laudato Si #1)