



Preparing for the 2023 Season of Creation – “*Let Justice and Peace Flow*”

Reflection #1: August 27 - 31

“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.” (Laudato Si #207)

READ: 1st part of Pope Francis’ letter for the 2023 Season of Creation (*below*)



REFLECTION: What is God’s desire? Pope Francis begins this Season of Creation by getting immediately to the heart of the matter: **God wants justice to reign.** Equating the kingdom of God to right relationship with God, humanity and nature, Francis makes clear that such righteousness, authentic justice and peace, is like a nourishing stream that does not fail.

As we prepare to begin this annual Season, let us reflect on the ways in which we contribute to the stream and “let justice and peace flow”. And, for a thorough ecological examen: how do some of our *perceptions* inhibit such a flow? From where did we imbibe these “dam-Ing” perceptions?

Let us live at the heart of the matter this Season of Creation and beyond.

ACTION: The Season of Creation begins September 1 and continues through October 4. Procure and keep a Season of Creation journal. You may wish to play with the water imagery of this year’s theme. Like a stream that flows with new water, may this Season be one of new commitment for you.

“We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.” (LS closing prayer #246)

Resources for August 27 - 31

(Beginning of) **Pope Francis' letter for the 2023 Season of Creation**
(*Excerpt 1 of 8*)

1 September 2023

Dear brothers and sisters!

“Let Justice and Peace Flow” is the theme of this year’s ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (5:24).

The evocative image used by Amos speaks to us of what God desires. God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God’s children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival. This justice must flow forth wherever it is needed, neither remaining hidden deep beneath the ground nor vanishing like water that evaporates before it can bring sustenance. God wants everyone to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to his laws and thus to enable life to flourish. When we “seek first the kingdom of God” (*Matthew 6:33*), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures.

From <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2023/documents/20230513-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

Pray with Scripture: Isaiah 55: 10 - 11

Additional reading: (Re-)read Maurice’s recent short reflection entitled “*What is the Work of Justice Now?*” at [Social Justice Initiatives - Presentation Sisters \(pbvmunion.org\)](https://www.pbvmunion.org)