

SOCIAL JUSTICE

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*"The cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor are one and the same."
Laudato Si'*

The 2025 Season of Creation (Sept. 1st to Oct. 4th) theme is "Peace with Creation" with the symbol "Garden of Peace", inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. It urges reconciliation between humans and the environment through justice and transformation.

September marks the beginning of autumn and often includes ecological justice, climate care, and stewardship of creation. It is harvesting month that celebrates the fruits of the land from grains, fruits, and vegetables. It encourages gratitude for the Earth's abundance.

In Pope Francis encyclical *Laudato Si'*, he calls for an "integral ecology," where care for people and care for the planet is inseparable. He condemns environmental destruction as a form of injustice against the poor and future generations.

Catholic Understanding of Ecological Justice Theological Foundation

- Creation is a gift from God and must be cared for, not exploited.
- Humanity is called to be stewards, not owners (Genesis 2:15).





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Key Themes of Ecological Justice in the Season of Creation

- Environmental degradation is a moral crisis
- Climate change is a social justice issue
- Biodiversity loss and pollution are injustices against creation
- True justice includes intergenerational responsibility
- Ecological sins (e.g. overconsumption, exploitation) require repentance and conversion

Ecological and Social Justice (Sept. 20th)

The Jubilee of Justice today extends to:

- Debt forgiveness for developing nations
- Climate justice: protecting vulnerable populations from environmental harm
- Economic reform: addressing exploitation and unfair wealth distribution
- Healing broken relationships between humanity and creation

World Environmental Health Day (Sept. 26)

Global efforts towards environmental health, a branch of public health aiming to protect human health by improving the environment's wellbeing. Look at the different ways our environment (home, workplace, etc.) can impact on our health: air pollution, chemicals, radiation, community noise, occupational risks, agricultural practices, built environment (houses and roads), climate change, inadequate water and sanitation. We need to realize that human activity is responsible for most degradation of the natural world (i.e., overfishing, deforestation, overconsumption, plastic pollution, overuse of chemicals, and more).

Practical Implications

- Advocating for just policies (economic, environmental, social)
- Forgiving debts and supporting fair trade
- Promoting care for creation as an act of justice
- Fostering community healing and reconciliation



Church and Member Calls to Action

- Pray for ecological conversion in individuals and communities
- Advocate for policies that protect the environment and the poor
- Educate about Laudato Si' and environmental justice in catechesis and liturgy
- Local clean-ups
- Tree planting for reforestation and biodiversity
- Recycling initiatives
- Community/parish gardens for sustainable food practices

Upcoming Social Justice and Other Events/Dates

- Sept. 01: Oct. 4: Season of Creation
- Sept. 03: National Tree Day
- Sept. 15: International Day of Democracy
- Sept. 18: Water Monitoring Day
- Sept. 21: International Day for Peace
- Sept. 28: World Day of Migrants and Refugees
- Sept. 29: International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction
- Sept. 30: Orange Shirt Day / National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

