

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement on Care of Creation



We, the undersigned Roman Catholic Women Bishops of North America, express our support for international efforts to care for creation, to protect the environment and reduce the causes of climate change.

- We support the youth of the world like Greta Thunberg who are speaking out, challenging our leaders to take seriously the science of climate change and to take action now for the sake of the future.
- We support the United Nations in calling leaders of nations to adopt concrete and realistic action plans that will reduce carbon emissions over the next decade and for the future.
- We support Pope Francis in his call to protect the Amazon region as one of the great lungs of the planet and to address the needs of the indigenous people who are most severely affected by those who promote the exploitation of the natural resources of the region.

We call on all people of good will to learn about the environmental crisis we face and to adopt as a spiritual practice some effort to reduce one's personal carbon footprint as part of a global effort to care for our common home.

In Christ,

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Background

Throughout the world communities of faith observe the Season of Creation annually from Sept. 1 to October 6. This observance originated in 1989 when the Patriarch of Constantinople, Demitrios I, decreed the first day of September as a day of special reverence and prayer for the Safeguarding of Creation. In 2008 the World Council of Churches began promoting The Season of Creation and since then it has expanded throughout the world. In 2015 Pope Francis issued the Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si*, which has drawn even more attention to care for creation and earth as our common home.

Youth around the world, through Global Climate Strikes inspired by Greta Thunberg of Sweden, are adding energy to the Season of Creation by drawing attention to the urgency to listen to the science of climate change and to urge civic leaders to take action now for the sake of the future of our planet and all creatures.

Greta Thunberg brings this sense of urgency to the UN Climate Action Summit, September 23, 2019. UN Secretary-General António Guterres is calling on all leaders to come with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050.

The Vatican Synod on the Amazon being held October 6-26, 2019 in Rome draws special attention to the moral responsibility of the church to protect the Amazon region as one of the great lungs of the planet and to address the needs of the indigenous people who are most severely affected by those who promote the exploitation of the natural resources of the region.

Call to Action

We call on all people of good will to learn about the environmental crisis we face and to adopt as a spiritual practice some effort to reduce one's carbon footprint:

- Refuse – make the choice not to generate waste in the first place
- Reduce – make decisions that decrease the amount of waste produced
- Reuse/repair – expand the shelf-lives of products; repair and reuse items
- Replace – next time consider the recycled and green option
- Recycle – reclaim the raw materials

Resources

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

<https://twitter.com/GretaThunberg>

<https://globalclimatestrike.net>

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml>

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/amazon-synod/>

Further Information

Roman Catholic Womenpriests USA: romancatholicwomenpriests.org

Roman Catholic Women Priests Canada: rcwpcanada.x10.mx