



## LAUDATO SI' REFLECTION - JUNE 2019

Resource for personal or group reflection in [Laudato Si' Circles](#).

### MONTHLY INTENTION: THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO NURTURE ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

For the past four years, the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) has witnessed the Holy Spirit animating thousands of people around the globe in passionate care for our Earth. From public prayers to pipeline protests, tree plantings to parish educational events, many have been collaborating with the Holy Spirit to address the growing ecological crises of our time.

Throughout Church history, various lay movements have arisen to meet the “signs of the times.” of both the spiritual hunger of individuals and the social needs of the world. Today the signs of the time point to potential extinction of 1 million species and an end to the world as we know it due to the climate crisis.

While potentially overwhelming, as people of faith, we know that with God anything is possible. On the occasion of Pentecost, let us join as a community in prayer, to hear the groanings of the Holy Spirit of how we can best meet the ecological and spiritual crises of this time. Let us discern how the Holy Spirit longs to further animate our work to renew the face of the earth.

***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle within them the fire of your love. Help us realize our part in the Earth's suffering and understand our call to act on behalf of our brothers and sisters and the global systems that sustain all life. Send forth your Spirit to recreate our hearts that we might better partner with you to renew the face of this awesome Earth. Amen***

Prayer adapted from <https://ecospiritualityresources.com>



### MONTHLY REFLECTION: LAUDATO SI' & SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS

#### **Scripture for Pentecost**

**Psalm 104:** Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

**John 14:15-16** Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.

**Laudato Si' Quote:** “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made” (Ps 33:6). This tells us that the world came about as the result of a decision, not from chaos or chance, and this exalts it all the more ...Every creature is thus the object of the God's tenderness, who gives it its place in the world.” (LS 77)

#### **Reflection**

Laudato Si' was officially signed by Pope Francis on May 24, 2015 on the Solemnity of Pentecost. Pope Francis' choice of Pentecost should not be overlooked. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the coming of



the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church, and the sending forth of the disciples in mission. Surely, Pope Francis was tapping into all of these gifts from God when he added *Laudato Si'* to the body of Church teaching on care for our common home.

Today, when we hear the psalm 104 “*Lord send your Spirit and renew the face of the earth*” we feel a real sense of urgency for that renewal. The breath of the Holy Spirit leaves no creature, human and non-human alike, untouched, reminding us of the universality of God’s love. We too are called to care and protect all Creation without distinction.

On Pentecost, we also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as Advocate. In today’s context, we are called to be advocates for the Earth and all its creatures. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we receive real hope, courage and strength to commit every day to the care of our common home and all who dwell here. Beginning with the disciples, the work of the Church throughout history has often been led by laity, women and men attuned to the needs of the world. So it is today. The Spirit endows each person with special gifts to serve God’s mission of healing, reconciliation, peace, and justice. As we celebrate Pentecost, let us remember that each of us and all of Creation have been blessed with gifts that are meant to be shared. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us renew our commitment to ensure that all life has the opportunity to live its fullest potential.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Take time and ponder the Holy Spirit as Advocate. When I imagine myself as an advocate, how do I feel? What do I think? Do I sense a call to action emerging in me?
2. What gifts have I received that are meant to be placed at the service of the world? Do I offer them freely or I do I keep them hidden? What do I hear God saying to me about the gifts I’ve been given?

*This month’s Scriptural reflection was written by Amy Echeverria, Board President of the Global Catholic Climate Movement and International Coordinator for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation for the Missionary Society of St. Columban (Columban Missionaries).*

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## MONTHLY ACTION: *Begin preparing for Season of Creation*

Season of Creation is an ecumenical event lasting from September 1, Day of Prayer for Creation, through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis. It is a time to pray, reflect, and act for Creation. Start speaking with your community about the Season of Creation

- Speak to your pastor, Bishop, and/or religious community asking them to integrate Season of Creation into the liturgy throughout the Season of Creation. Ask your Bishop to urge all parishes to do the same.
- Consider as a circle if there are personal changes in your own lives you can make to lessen your climate impact. Living the Change has several resources and a commitment tool.
- Begin to plan your engagement in the next global climate strikes, Sept. 20, as part of your work for the Season of Creation. Consider how to strike or hold a solidarity action as a community.

**We’d love your feedback.** Send any feedback to: [hello@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:hello@catholicclimatemovement.global)