

Dear Sisters,

We are about to conclude the Season of Creation, which concludes on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

These days leading up to the feast of St. Francis will be filled with intense activity in the Vatican.

Pope Leo XIV will speak on October 1 at the conference "**Raising Hope for Climate Justice**," an international conference sponsored by the Laudato Si' Movement, in collaboration with various ecclesial and institutional partners, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si'.

The event, which will run until October 3, will bring together more than 400 religious leaders, climate experts, representatives of civil society, and institutions from around the world, with the aim of defining the next steps in the implementation of ecological conversion in light of the Church's teachings.

We know that with our participation in the Laudato Si' Platform, we support the Church's work of advocacy and proclamation on ecological matters.

We also want to join in with our contemplation and prayer, and therefore we propose this prayer, Via Creatio, created by the St. Kateri community of Canada years ago, which you can adapt by adding songs, readings, symbols, etc. It is a very versatile prayer proposal.

May Saint Francis continue to inspire our commitment to ecology.

United in our common journey

International Commission on Integral Ecology

October 1, 2025

*This proposition of prayer, **Via Creatio**, similar to the Via Crucis or the Via Lucis (stations of the resurrection), is inspired by the contemplation of Jesus, in dialogue with Creation, as he discovers his mission. We invite you to enrich it with your own comments and prayers, and to change some of the stations for other gospel passages that you consider more appropriate. We suggest singing some meditative songs between each station, for instance, Taize songs.*

VIA CREATIO

Jesus, in dialogue with Creation, discovers his mission

Introduction. LS nº 97: “The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father, and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things.”

- **First station: The Baptism of Jesus.**

Mk 1: 9-11: “During this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. Immediately on coming up out of the water ... a voice came from the heavens: “You are my beloved Son. On you my favour rests.”

Water is the presence of our God who loves us. Without water, life is not possible. Water vivifies us, purifies us.

LS nº30: “Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights.”

Prayer: Purify us, O God, so that we become a clearer image of you, and we commit ourselves to making human rights a reality for all.

- **Second station: Parable of the Sower.**

Lk. 8: 4-15: “A Farmer went out to sow some seed. In the sowing, some fell on the footpath ...”.

The “soil” of the human heart has many possibilities, many potentialities. The Sower is generous. Our part is to make our soil good, and to become sowers ourselves.

Prayer: Bless, O God, all people who work the soil with respect and provide us with food. May all of them have good working conditions and a living wage.



- **Third station: Parable of Good Shepherd**

Lk 15: 4-7: “Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wasteland and search for the one that is lost, until it is found?”

For a mother, for a father, all children are precious. If one goes astray just s/he receives the most attention; they are thought of all the time. And they will not rest until all their children are safe at home- just like our God. That is our God, the good shepherd who calls each of us by our name.

Prayer: Grant us, Lord God, to collaborate with you in gathering the entire human family under your loving protection, all without exception.

- **Fourth station: Jesus is thirsty and asks a drink from the Samaritan woman.**

Jh 4: 6-7: “Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down at the well. The hour was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water...”

Like all of us, Jesus was thirsty. He needed others. He gives and receives. As the Samaritan woman, we are called to give others to drink. And how much we receive when we give!

Prayer: Grant us, O God, to give dignity to every woman, with our welcome and our gaze; to make each one aware of how much they have to give, to offer.

- **Fifth station: Parable of the yeast.**

Mt 13: 33: “The reign of God is like yeast which a woman took and kneaded into three measures of flour. Eventually the whole mass of dough began to rise.”

By observing the work of women, Jesus was learning the ways of God. How novel it was then to show the feminine face of God and Jesus did it in the most natural way. And how urgent it is today to unveil that maternal face of God.

Prayer: As yeast in the dough, grant us to fight to dignify women by making visible in the Church the maternal face of God, through our own visible commitment.

- **Sixth station: Lilies of the field.**

Mt 6: 28-30: “As for clothing, why be concerned? Learn a lesson from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work; they do not spin... yet, not even Salomon in all his splendor was arrayed like one of these.”

Everything is given to us. God has gifted us with the best that he has: Creation.

LS nº 84: *“The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.”*

Prayer: Grant us, Lord God, to recognize you and praise you in each creature, and to live in gratitude, knowing that we rest in your providence.

- **Seventh station: Parable of mustard seed.**

Mc 4: 30-32: The Reign of God... "is like a mustard seed which, when planted in the soil, is the smallest of all the earth's seeds, yet once it is sown, it springs up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches, which are big enough, for the birds of the sky to build nests in their shade."

Jesus experienced in his life how littleness has greatness inside; littleness has an unusual life force. Littleness has a hidden mystery with infinite possibilities. The smallest actions have an enormous transforming force.

LS nº 211: *"There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions."*



Prayer: Let us practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. "(LS nº230)

- **Eighth station: Signs of the times.**

Mt 16: 2-3: "He gave them this reply: In the evening you say: "Red sky at night, the day will be bright", but in the morning, "sky red and gloomy, the day will be stormy. If you know how to interpret the face of the sky, why can you not read the signs of the times?"

LS nº 59: *"As often occurs in periods of deep crisis which require bold decisions, we are tempted to think that what is happening is not entirely clear. Superficially, apart from a few obvious signs of pollution and deterioration, things do not look that serious, and the planet could continue as it is for some time. Such evasiveness serves as a licence to carrying on with our present lifestyles and models of production and consumption."* The reality is that we are consuming 1,6 planets, and we have only one.

Prayer: Help us, Lord God, to be conscious and committed women in the defence of our common home.

- **Ninth station: Parable of the weed.**

Mt 13: 24-30: "The reign of God may be likened to a person who sowed Good seed in the field. While everyone was asleep, the enemy came and sowed weeds through the wheat, and then made off... Let them grow together until harvest ..."

Life is like that, the good and the bad together. That was the experience of Jesus. He did not promise that we would avoid evil, but that He would be with us.

Prayer: Lord, work us inside to be able to come like you to forgive our enemies.

- **Tenth station: Jesus calms the storm.**

Mc 4: 35-41: “That day as evening drew on he said to them: “Let us cross over to the farther shore”. Leaving the crowd, they took him away in the boat in which he was sitting... It happened that a bad squall came and the boat began to take on water... They finally woke him and said to him: “Teacher, does it not matter to you that we are going to drown?” He awoke, and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea: “Quiet! Be still!! The wind dropped and all was calm again. Then he said to them: “Why are you so terrified?”

When we ought to cross the storms of life, sometimes it seems that Jesus is absent, sleeping. But he is always with us and does not let us perish. “Do not be afraid”.

Prayer: Strengthen our faith, Jesus, sustain us in the storms of life and help us to sustain others.

- **Eleventh station: Parable of the seed growing of itself.**

Mc 4: 26-29: “The reign of God is like a person that scatters seed on the ground. S/he goes to bed and gets up day after day. Through it all the seed sprouts and grows without their knowing how it happens. The soil produces of itself ...”

Once we have sown, once we have done our work for the reign of God, we ought to rest, trusting God, without anxiety. The work is of God, who will make our work bear fruit.

Prayer: Grant us, Lord, to live trusting in you, without anxiety, knowing that the work is yours and that you never ask us nothing that surpasses us. You want us serene and happy.



- **Twelfth station: Jesus is the true vine.**

Jn 15: 1-5: “I am the true vine... you are the branches. The one who lives in me and I am in them, will produce abundantly; for apart from me you can do nothing.”

Faith is a gift and a task. We receive our life from God, in whom we find our fullness. In collaborating in building the kingdom, we find happiness.

Prayer: Lord, Jesus, do not let us wander away from you.

- **Thirteenth station: The agony in the garden.**

Mk 14: 32-33: “They went into a place which is called Gethsemani. “Sit down here while I pray”, he said to his disciples; at the same time he took along with him Peter, James, and John. Then he began to be filled with fear and distress...”

In moments of anguish, there are people that seek shelter and company in nature. It is an intuition of all times and in all religions that God is present in creation. Jesus sought divine protection among the olive trees.

Prayer: We ask your protection, Lord God, for all the defenders of nature who today are persecuted, threatened, criminalized and, often, murdered. They know what it means to live in anguish to defend a just cause; strengthen and protect them.

- **Fourteenth station: The Encounter of risen Jesus with Mary Magdalene.**

Jh 20: 15: “Woman, why are you weeping Who is it you are looking for? She supposed he was the gardener... Jesus said: “Mary”. She turned to him and said in Hebrew: “Rabbouni” (meaning “Teacher”)...”

LS nº 100: “The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout creation by his universal Lordship ... Thus, the creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them towards fullness as their end. The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence.”

Prayer: Blessed are you, Lord, who call all the creation to fullness in you.

LS nº 244: “Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.”

We sing: “Praised be you, Lord”.