September 1st 2026

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Season of Creation running from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4th, is a time to be grateful for God's abundance, for all his Creation. Creation is the first love message of God to humankind. It is a place where we can encounter God. This year's theme for the Season of Creation is "Living Water" (see Ezekiel 47:1-12: water flowing from God's sanctuary). The theme highlights the interconnectedness of spiritual life and environmental stewardship, calling participants to **immerse themselves in God's life-giving water** and to actively work for the renewal of creation.

This is a moment to take action to protect Creation in our everyday choices. Let us support access to safe water for all nations and start at home by being careful not to waste or contaminate our water. Let us be grateful for the gift of water, and resolve to be good stewards, making good decisions as we go and seek the fountain of life in Jesus Christ. Starting this year, I strongly encourage you to avoid (or even ban) single-use plastic water bottles in our churches, at committee meetings and parish celebrations.

Especially in this Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi may we be agents of change, allowing the eucharist to transform us so we may bring goodness wherever we go, adopting simple lifestyles and nourishing awe of God in all his Creation.

+Marcel Damphousse
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall

Office of the Archbishop
200-1209 Michael Street N
Ottawa, Ontario K1J 7T2

Bureau de l'Archevêque
200-1209 rue Michael N
Ottawa, Ontario K1J 7T2

613-738-5025 x 233
613-738-0130
ottawacornwall.ca