



Press Conference 21.07.2022

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (September 1, 2022)

Pope Francis' message for this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation begins a month- long Season of Creation starting on September 1. This season calls us "to cultivate our ecological conversion" and practice "an ecological spirituality" which acknowledges that we are "not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion." When we reach this deep awareness, we become attentive to the sweet song rising from the luxurious diversity of creation. But we can also hear the cry of anguish from Mother Earth who cries out from the abuses and destruction which we inflict on her. This in turn affects the lives of all people, but more deeply the lives of the poor people, the indigenous people and the elderly. As a first- hand experience, right now, we are experiencing record high temperatures and sweltering heat.

Our vocation is to be protectors of God's handiwork, and so we hear the call to repent and modify our lifestyle. In addition, Pope Francis reminds us that Cop27 (the Conference on Climate Change) and Cop15 (the Summit on Biodiversity) offer us opportunities to join hands for lasting change and for the development of models of consumption and production that respect creation and the integral development of all peoples. The members of the International Union of Superiors General, participate each year in the Season of Creation, using the guide for times of prayer and reflection, and for promoting action. This year's theme "Listen to the Voice of Creation" requires deep listening that is often absent today. Deep listening is more than just hearing. It is contemplation which opens us to hear the many voices of creation, to be nurtured by its beauty and abundance, and to be disturbed by its

disfiguration and destruction. Critical thinking, responsibility, simplicity, truth, humility, respect, and reconciliation are attitudes that help us live eco-justice daily. True transformation calls for a deep spiritual connection with all that is alive.

UISG has been asked to exercise leadership in the religious sector of LSA Platform. Even before that we have been active on issues related to ecology and conducting webinars and short courses on this theme. As congregations we engage in networking with other agencies and organizations, hold workshops and seminars on the theme of ecology, organize monthly reflection days in communities based on LS theme, give radio talks and visit and support grassroots initiatives on sustainable development.

As religious sisters we commit ourselves during this Season of Creation to pray for conversion of heart (during our liturgies and prayers) to advocate for change (through our symbolic acts) and to raise awareness through our congregational ministries. During this Season of Creation, we join the worldwide community in embracing our vocation to care for our common home. We will intensify our efforts, through deliberate choices and enduring initiatives to make known the ancient wisdom of the jubilee in relation to the earth: remember, return, rest and restore.

Sr. Mary John Kudiyiruppil SSpS