

A Sweet Song and An Anguished Plea

“If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home.” -Pope Francis

Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, September 1, 2022

This summer season gives us both the joy of reveling outdoors in the beauty of God’s creation, and, when the heat is oppressive and the rains don’t fall, a small taste of the suffering endured by our sisters and brothers in places even more adversely affected by climate change. Pope Francis calls us to recognize both the “sweet song” and the “anguished plea” of the Earth.



Our nation is facing an historic moment when we can, at the federal level, finally do something significant to address climate change. The passage of the newly introduced Inflation Reduction Act would be a major step. You can be a voice to push Congress to act on this legislation.

Here’s how the Catholic Climate Covenant explains it:

“The Inflation Reduction Act includes \$369 billion in climate change investments, and will lower greenhouse gas emissions more than any piece of legislation in history. You can learn more about its contents [here](#).

If passed, it will be the largest climate change package ever passed by Congress and will reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 over 2005 levels and put us on track to meet the Paris Accords. The legislation includes \$60 billion for clean energy manufacturing, a fee on methane emissions, and consumer incentives for purchasing electric vehicles. Also included is \$30 billion to help rural communities implement climate smart practices in agriculture, forestry, and coastal management, and \$60 billion to empower communities experiencing environmental injustice. In so many ways, this legislation answers the Gospel call to love our neighbors, especially those in need.”

The Catholic Climate Covenant, in collaboration with Interfaith Power and Light, is asking all U.S. Catholics to **call their Senators about this bill**.

Click [here](#) to see the script to use. Please use that link, as it also enables the Catholic Climate Covenant to keep track of how many calls are made.



Addressing climate change is a MORAL issue. Tell your Senators you care about it because of your Catholic faith.

Thank Sen. Schumer for spearheading the effort to negotiate and create this bill: 202-224-6542

Ask Sen. Gillibrand to support it: 202-224-4451

The ecumenical [Season of Creation](#) runs from Sept. 1- Oct. 4 (the feast of St. Francis of Assisi) Click [here](#) for the Celebration Guide.

A Nuclear Prayer

The Beginning and the End are in your hands, O Creator of the Universe. And in our hands you have placed the fate of this planet. We, who are tested by having both creative and destructive power in our free will, turn to you in sober fear and in intoxicating hope. We ask for your guidance and to share in your imagination in our deliberations about the use of nuclear force. Help us to lift the fog of atomic darkness that hovers so pervasively over our Earth, Your Earth, so that soon all eyes may see life magnified by your pure light. Bless all of us who wait today for your Presence and who dedicate ourselves to achieve your intended peace and rightful equilibrium on Earth. In the Name of all that is holy and all that is hoped. Amen.

This August 6th we are asking the people of the world to unite and pray for peace.

August 6– Anniversary of the Dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima
August 9– Anniversary of the Dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Nagasaki
Estimates of the number of deaths range from 105,000-214,000

Sign the [online petition](#) in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

"...[T]he use of nuclear weapons, as well as their mere possession, is immoral. Trying to defend and ensure stability and peace through a false sense of security and a "balance of terror", sustained by a mentality of fear and mistrust inevitably ends up poisoning relationships between peoples and obstructing any possible form of real dialogue. Possession leads easily to threats of their use, becoming a sort of "blackmail" that should be repugnant to the consciences of humanity."

*-[Message](#) of His Holiness Pope Francis
to His Excellency Ambassador Alexander Kmentt,
President of the First Meeting of States Parties to
the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, June 2022*

[T]he reality of catastrophic climate change means we can no longer waste our resources on preparing for nuclear war when the whole planet is facing global destruction. We need a complete about-face.

Living in the Light of Christ: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament, 2022
[A Pastoral Letter](#) by the Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico

Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the A-Bomb was developed, is situated in this diocese.

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