


**History:**

September 1, 1989, was declared a day of prayer for creation for the Eastern Orthodox Church by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios. Subsequently it was embraced by other major Christian European Churches in 2001, and then by Pope Francis in 2015. Today this day of prayer has grown into the “Season of Creation” which is celebrated internationally from September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup> (the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi).

**Theme for “Season of Creation: 2018: “Walking Together.”**

**How to Celebrate:**  
 The suggestions in the calendar can be done individually or perhaps you may wish to form a special “Season of Creation” reflection group to share the daily prayers or activities.  
 If some of the suggestions do not fit for where and how you live, try to be creative and make up your own calendar action or prayer for that day.

<b>September 1:</b>	Find a tree and spend some time “walking together’ with this tree. Give praise to God for the many ways this tree gives you life each day.
<b>September 2:</b>	Make sure to bring your own tote bag and avoid using plastic bags when you get your groceries.
<b>September 3:</b>	Have a party and make a vegetarian meal with local produce.
<b>September 4:</b>	“Look at the birds of the air... Matthew 6:26.” Find the names of three birds in your area and learn something about their daily lives.
<b>September 5:</b>	Pray with a grateful heart for those who “til the soil” and provide us with our food to eat.
<b>September 6:</b>	Click on this link <a href="https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/10-foods-that-are-bad-for-the-environment.html">https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/10-foods-that-are-bad-for-the-environment.html</a> and discover how some of the foods we eat can negatively affect our environment.
<b>September 7:</b>	Find a quiet space and spend some reflection time with Psalm 19:1.

<b>September 8:</b>	Try to do a “car free day” today.
<b>September 9:</b>	Enjoy a gentle walk, look up, and see what the sky wants to teach you today.
<b>September 10:</b>	Examine your living space and make sure your personal care products are environmentally friendly.
<b>September 11:</b>	As you wash your hands or brush your teeth today, create a grateful space in your heart for the sacred gift of water. Pray for someone who most needs their thirst quenched today.
<b>September 12:</b>	Take some time alone or with others to reflect on and celebrate the many ways the Gospels reveal how Jesus “walked together” with various dimensions of creation.
<b>September 13:</b>	As you wake, look out your window and consider how you might “walk together” with something or someone in creation today.
<b>September 14:</b>	Find or make a picture of a leaf which is beginning to turn into its Autumn colour. Study the veins in the leaf and then one of your own. Contemplate what do you and the leaf seem to have in common and how your lives “walk together.”
<b>September 15:</b>	Make today a day of sheer wonder and awe at the grand inter-connectedness of all of life.
<b>September 16:</b>	Pray for world leaders to lead with justice, peace, and the integrity of all creation.
<b>September 17:</b>	Read <i>Love Gives Everything</i> and pray for the gift of new life for all species who are poor and suffering from climate change – humans as well.
<b>September 18:</b>	Read <i>Love gives Everything</i> and then take some quiet time to contemplate how all that lives is created in the image of our Triune God. What does that suggest to you about God?
<b>September 19:</b>	Make a Mandela ( <a href="https://www.art-is-fun.com/how-to-draw-a-mandala/">https://www.art-is-fun.com/how-to-draw-a-mandala/</a> ) to illustrate how you hope to spend your life “walking together” with all of creation.
<b>September 20:</b>	“We shall awaken from our dullness and rise vigorously toward justice. If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will respond to its endangerment with passion.” Pray today with Hildegard of Bingen.
<b>September 21:</b>	Check out what TV “nature” or “science” programs you might watch that teach us about the mysteries and wonders of creation instead of watching TV shows that seem to always depict violence or lack of authentic human relationships.
<b>September 22:</b>	Visit a backyard garden or local park. Celebrate all the colors you find.
<b>September 23:</b>	 How can this famous logo be a focus for your prayer today?

<p><b>September 24:</b></p>	<p>“Though most of us are not in a position to have any direct influence on major international conflicts, we are all in a position to create a more peaceful atmosphere around us. And for this, it is important to try to cultivate an inner peace – which will only happen if and when we feel good about ourselves.” Pray today with Jane Goodall.</p>
<p><b>September 25:</b></p>	<p>We often hear about “seven wonders of the world.” Try to locate or think of a particular insect and marvel at seven of its tiny wonders.</p>
<p><b>September 26:</b></p>	<p>“Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe, the less taste we shall have for destruction.” Pray today with Rachel Carson.</p>
<p><b>September 27:</b></p>	<p>As we approach the Feast of St. Francis, walk together with Francis as he proclaims his Cantic of Creation:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God, to you belong praise, glory, honour and all blessing. Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation and especially for our Brother Sun, who brings us the day and the light; he is strong and shines magnificently. O Lord, we think of you when we look at him. Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon, and for the stars which you have set shining and lovely in the heavens. Be praised, my Lord, for our Brothers Wind and Air and every kind of weather by which you, Lord, uphold life in all your creatures. Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water, who is very useful to us, and humble and precious and pure. Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire, through whom you give us light in the darkness: he is bright and lively and strong. Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our Mother, who nourishes us and sustains us, bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds and flowers of many colours. Be praised, my Lord, for those who forgive for love of you; and for those who bear sickness and weakness in peace and patience - you will grant them a crown. Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death, whom we must all face. I praise and bless you, Lord, and I give thanks to you, and I will serve you in all humility. Amen.</p>

<b>September 28:</b>	Rejoice, pray, and “walk together” with the <i>sun</i> and <i>moon</i> today.
<b>September 29:</b>	Rejoice, pray, and “walk together” with <i>wind</i> and <i>air</i> today.
<b>September 30:</b>	Rejoice, pray, and “walk together” with <i>water</i> and <i>fire</i> today.
<b>October 1:</b>	Rejoice, pray and “walk together” with <i>sister earth</i> today.
<b>October 2:</b>	Rejoice, pray and “walk together” with <i>sister death</i> today.
<b>October 3:</b>	Keep holy vigil today for tomorrow’s Feast Day in hopes that the human community will grow in its understanding of our astonishing intimacy and inter-connectedness with all living things -- and that human beings will work more vigorously for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation everywhere.
<b>October 4:</b>	Have a grand party to conclude the “Season of Creation” for 2018 -- and resolve to keep reading and studying <i>Laudato si</i> .

**Created by Mary Heather MacKinnon, SSND**  
**AM Province Water Committee**  
**August 2018**