

Pope Francis has announced September 1st to be the Annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (as the Orthodox Church has done for some time). In introducing this event the Pope said:

"As Christians we wish to offer our contribution towards overcoming the ecological crisis which humanity is living through. Therefore, first of all we must draw from our rich spiritual heritage the reasons which feed our passion for the care of creation, always remembering that for believers in Jesus Christ, the Word of God who became man for us, "the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us." (ibid., 216). The ecological crisis therefore calls us to a profound spiritual conversion: Christians are called to "an ecological conversion whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them." (ibid., 217). Thus, "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."(ibid).



The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual and to the community an opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, giving thanks for the marvellous works that the Creator has entrusted to our care.

The celebration of the Day on the same date as the Orthodox Church is a valuable opportunity to bear witness to a growing communion with our orthodox brothers and sisters. We live in a time where all Christians are faced with identical and important challenges and we must give common responses to these in order to appear more credible and effective.

May this day involve, involve us all in some way and be celebrated in union with the initiatives that the World Council of Churches is promoting on this issue.

May it be a moment of prayer, reflection and conversion and the adoption of appropriate lifestyles.