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Message for World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

Pope Francis

The exploitation and plundering of the Earth's resources at the expense of the poor and vulnerable cry out for justice and the forgiveness of debts, Pope Francis said. In his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Sept. 1 and the Season of Creation, which runs through Oct. 4, the pope said the observance is a time to renew, repair and restore humanity's broken relationship with God and his creation. "It is a time for restorative justice. In this context, I repeat my call for the cancellation of the debt of the most vulnerable countries in recognition of the severe impacts of the medical, social and economic crises they face as a result of

"We are invited to remember above all that creation's ultimate destiny is to enter into God's eternal Sabbath."

COVID-19," he wrote. Since 2020 included the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the ecumenical team organizing the Season of Creation chose "Jubilee for the Earth" as this year's theme. In the Bible, the pope noted, a jubilee was a "sacred time to remember, return, rest, restore and rejoice." As a time of remembrance, he said, the day of prayer and the Season of Creation should call to mind "creation's original vocation to exist and flourish as a community of love." "We exist only in relationships: with God the Creator, with our brothers and sisters as members of a common family and with all of God's creatures within our common home," the pope wrote. The message follows, copyright © 2020 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

you shall thus hallow the 50th year and you shall proclaim a release throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you." — (Lv 25:10)

Each year, particularly since the publication of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* (May 24, 2015), the first day of September is celebrated by the Christian family as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the Season of Creation, which concludes on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on the 4th of October. During this period, Christians worldwide renew their faith in the God of creation and join in prayer and work for the care of our common home.

I am very pleased that the theme chosen by the ecumenical family for the celebration

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