

**September 2025**  
**-For Our Relationship with Creation-**

“We pray that inspired by St. Francis, we might experience our independence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.”

**Pope’s Prayer USA Video, [popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)**

**Pope Video, [thepopevideo.org](http://thepopevideo.org)**

**Reflection by Julie Laudick Dougherty**

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Jesus tells us not to worry about our lives. This is easier said than done, so he gives us the example of the birds for reassurance: “they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them” (Matthew 6:26).

It is good to be generous, but it is also good to be needy. We are all called to depend on God through our relationships with our neighbors and the earth. If you find that you need an ingredient for a meal or a tool to fix something, praise the Lord for an excuse to ask your neighbor for help!

It is easier to receive when we remember that everything is ultimately a gift from God. Likewise, we need to remember that our ability to love our neighbor depends on our care for the earth which is our common home. This is why Pope Francis introduced Caring for our Common Home as a new Work of Mercy.

By caring for creation, we sow the seeds for other works of mercy. When we give the land a Sabbath rest, we increase the soil’s fertility to feed the hungry in future years. When we invite farm guests to visit our animals or walk through the woods, we counsel those who are doubtful and have lost hope in the earth’s future.

Creation care is also the fruit of the other works of mercy. When we have been nourished and counseled, forgiven and comforted, we have the strength and peace to more fully participate in our vocation to care for God’s earth.

This month we thank God for the beautiful interdependence of creation: for the yeast that leavens our bread, for the neighbors that help harvest our crops, and for the grace of wind that brings rainwater from the ocean.

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**[Leader] Daily offering prayer:** Good Father, I know you are with me. Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more next to the Heart of you Son Jesus, who is giving himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist. May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion. I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church, and for the intentions of my Bishop, and the Pope for this month - Amen.

***September: We pray that inspired by St. Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.***

**Grace:** We pray for the grace to understand the goodness of the earth, God's love for it, and our dependence on it. We ask that God may open our hearts to his creation so that he may increase our love for the earth and our desire to become better stewards of it.

**[Reader 1] Scripture:** "But ask the animals, and they will teach you: the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being." Job 12:7-10

**[Reader 2] Quote:** "Let us not forget that the ultimate purpose of our lives is not to dominate the world, but to be in harmony with it, and to join in its song of praise to the Creator" (Pope Francis; Laudato Si' 239)

**[Leader] Reflection questions:**

1. In what ways do you take the fruits of the earth for granted and misuse the gifts that God has given us through the earth?
2. What are some concrete actions you can take in this upcoming week to take better care of our common home in your day-to-day life?
3. How can we, as one body of believers, better our relationship with creation and promote zeal for the stewardship of the earth within the Church?