



Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir

MESSAGE OF ARCHBISHOP MARTIN KMETEC OFM CONV.
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION
1ST SEPTEMBER 2024

Pope Francis asked believers all over the world to pray for the Creation on 1st September. To observe annually World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers an opportunity to renew our commitment to be responsible caretakers of the Creation as a precious gift of God. Since the publication of *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis has constantly admonished humanity to wake up from slumber before everything around them created by God to sustain life on earth will crumble down because of the negligence and careless attitude of human beings. He has tried to raise human conveniences by making people realize their responsibility to vigilantly take care of their only home, the earth. Creation is our sacred heritage because every creature bear the stamp the Creator, God who has given existence to all that is good. God wished that His Creation be filled with peace, all creatures coexist in harmony. The earth is our common heritage, we do not own it as possession, our ancestors diligently took care of it and trustingly entrusted to us for the next generation.

Pope Francis' message for World Day of Prayer for Creation is Hope and act with creation. In the letter of St. Paul to the Romans, the Holy Bible depicts the Earth as a mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rm. 8:22). St. Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his *Canticle of Creatures*. Unfortunately, as Pope Francis warns us that we have exhibited an indifferent attitude towards earth, an attitude of exploitation or using to the extent of abusing for our wants and extravagant lifestyle.

And yet, there is hope and the expectation for a better future. To hope in a Biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, after a period of intense pain, new life springs forth. We also must take concrete steps, resolute decisions and make determined choices to take care of Creation to restore its original beauty and harmony. Today we pray that may God make all our efforts fruitful for the good of our present and future generation. God bless you all.

With prayers and good wishes.

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