Greetings of peace, my dear Franciscan Family!

*In our world today, the most basic, powerful, and counter-cultural thing we can do for God's creation is to pray. We live in cultures that values busyness and accomplishments. Following our Creator's call to 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10) humbles us. Prayer is the foundation of all behavior and policy change. Only by the grace and inspiration of God can hearts and minds transform.*

In this violent and uncertain climate, we need prayer more than ever. Prayer must always be our first action and not our last resort. Today, we remember Saint Augustine, whose mother Saint Monica was diligent in her prayers for her family. May we follow Monica's example to pray unceasingly and fervently. And to do it with great joy!

This Friday, September 1st we celebrate the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, a day proclaimed by the Orthodox Church in 1989 and established in the Catholic Church by Pope Francis in 2015. It also begins the **Season of Care for Creation** which runs into the solemnity of our Seraphic Father, Francis of Assisi.

Our Holy Father encourages us to join him, and millions of other Christians around the world, to pray and “reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.” We also keep in our thoughts and prayers those affected by devastating climates.

Attached please find the **Season of Caring for Creation Prayers** I wrote based on Saint Francis' Canticle of Creation and Pope Francis' Prayer from Laudato Si. I invite you to share with your families, fraternities and communities. I pray that it blesses you and strengthens you.

And please share with me your experiences of the Season and praying the prayers.

Wishing you blessings of peace and all good,  
  
***Carolyn D. Townes, OFS***  
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Board Member, Franciscan Action Network  
  
[**National JPIC Website**](https://sites.google.com/site/jpic4ofs/home)  
  
"***Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon***." (OFS Rule, Art. 19)

***O Breath of God, unite us in action!***

***Bo ruach Elohim!***  
(2017 NaFra Theme)

*Note: Attachment in next file (PDF)*