

## Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World

### During the Season of Creation

September 1 – October 4

Now more than ever we know that the well-being of Mother Earth affects the life and well-being of all who share our Common Home, including human beings. We feel an urgency to listen to Mother Earth. What is she demanding of us? How can we act in new ways? We are not alone in knowing the need for transformation of our relationship with Mother Earth. Indigenous peoples, scientists, activists, and faith-based groups are among those who demand that we “wake-up” and transform our relationship with Mother Earth. This work is required at all levels of our lives as human beings, from the personal to international forums.

In this crucial moment of mass extinction caused by the acceleration of human-caused climate change, we continue our process of “Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World”. In light of our global reality and our participation in God’s mission of Love, we are invited to be and to act as One Body during the Churches’ Season of Creation (September 1 – October 4). How do we propose to do that? Moreover, what will be a next step? The Philippine Duchesne Region in collaboration with the UN-NGO and JPIC has a proposal for the international Society that involves the prayer of attention, intention, and action.

### Attention

#### **Being Artisans of Hope by Paying Attention: *Listening to What Mother Earth Asks of Us***

Each week from September 1 – October 4, the Philippine Duchesne Region invites reflection on Constitution #8 from the perspective of the imperatives identified in “Being Artisans of Hope in Our Broken and Blessed World”. Our prayer during the Season of Creation is to listen to what Mother Earth demands of us so that we can determine our contribution to next steps as One Body.

During the Season of Creation, we invite each one to connect with a praying community and listen to each other’s experiences and learnings from Earth as a caring mother. Below is a guide with some questions, and two next steps. Attached is a suggested prayer for each week.

How is the pierced Heart of Jesus  
opening our being to the depths of God  
and to the anguish of ***all Earth beings, including humankind?***

How is Jesus drawing us into His movement of adoration  
of the Father and love for all, especially those who are poor?

What is demanded of us as we continue returning to this word of Jesus,  
as to a light which gradually transfigures us in His image:  
"Learn of Me, because I am gentle and humble of heart"? (Mt. 11:29).

Adapted from Constitution #8

## Intention

### **Being Artisans of Hope by Opening: *Being Grateful for Mother Earth***

How is your relationship with Mother Earth? Are you aware, as Jesus was, of how she cares for life? Can you allow her to love you? What is your response of gratitude to the generosity of Mother Earth?

### **Being Artisans of Hope by Respecting: *Setting Intentions as Response to Mother Earth***

We further invite you to reflect on what you are hearing and learning from Mother Earth about her anguish and distress. What she is demanding? How is she demanding? What intentions are you impelled to act upon as an individual, a community, and province?

## Action

### **Being Artisans of Hope by Acting: *Being Artisans of Hope as One Body***

Finally, while Climate Change is a global problem, we experience it locally. Therefore, it requires integrated actions among local, national and international levels. Let us share our learnings and concerns with others so that we can help each other to act as One. How can we do this? Below are two important ways available to us now.

- 1) The Philippine Duchesne Region, through its Popular Education Network, the UN-NGO, and JPIC are preparing to bring the voice of the international Society to the Climate Change Conference in Santiago, Chile, in December. We will remain in communication with the international Society at all stages of the process in every way possible. How can you participate?

Please share your peoples' voice by responding to the following questions. Your **JPIC and/or UN-NGO links/teams will send responses by October 15** to [un-ngo@rscj.org](mailto:un-ngo@rscj.org). Your responses will be part of the Society's preparation for the Climate Change Conference in Santiago, Chile, in December.

- a. How is Climate Change affecting your people? Be specific and give examples and statistics where possible.
  - b. What are your current involvements in Climate Change action your context (projects, ministries, actions)?
  - c. What are your learnings and best practices? Where do you see gaps needing attention?
  - d. Are there new ways we can respond, in light of the demands you have heard from Mother Earth?
  - e. What else do you want to add as part of a collective voice on Climate Change?
- 2) Update and/or add your involvements in question b) above to the JPIC Database. The JPIC Database is a resource for all of us. Your concrete involvements (projects, ministries, actions) of caring for Mother Earth, our Common Home are essential to determine accurately what the Society with its partners offer to addressing Climate Change.

## Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World

### Beyond the Season of Creation

October 6 – December 13

While most actions happen at local, provincial and national levels, Climate Change is a global problem of great concern in the Church and in the world. Our ECOSOC accreditation at the UN provides a way for us to bring our learnings and voices to the international level. Our prayer of attention, intention, and action during the Season of Creation will prepare the Society for two upcoming global events at the international level. These are: 1) "Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology" and 2) The Santiago Climate Change Conference.

- 1) The Amazon is the lungs of all life on Mother Earth. **The Synod** takes place in Rome from October 6-27, 2019. It will help the Church at all levels to reflect and act on issues such as land use, biodiversity, and indigenous rights. While the Society does not have a voice in the Church at the synod, it is important for us to be aware of how it can inform our attention, intention, and action. How can we participate?
  - Read the *Preparatory Document for the Synod on the Pan Amazon Region*
    - English  
<http://www.sinodoamazonico.va/content/sinodoamazonico/en/documents/preparatory-document-for-the-synod-for-the-amazon.html>
    - Spanish:  
<http://www.sinodoamazonico.va/content/sinodoamazonico/es/documentos/documento-preparatorio-para-el-sinodo-sobre-la-amazonia.html>
    - French:  
<http://www.sinodoamazonico.va/content/sinodoamazonico/fr/documents/document-preparatoire.html>
  - Remain vigilant for further communication from the UN-NGO and JPIC about the outcomes of the Synod that can inform and support our next steps.
  
- 2) **The Santiago Climate Change Conference** takes place from December 2-13, 2019 at Cerrillos Bicentennial Park, Santiago, Chile. The conference will feature the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). There is space for the voice of civil society at the Climate Change Conference. We want to bring the voice of our peoples to this international forum. How can we participate as part of civil society? Below are three ways in process.
  - **The annual meeting of the Popular Education Network of the Philippine Duchesne Network.** Delegates of the Philippine Duchesne Region Popular Education Network are deliberately meeting in Santiago, Chile in December during the Santiago Climate Change Conference. They will focus on the topic of Climate Change. The Religious Conference in Chile, other NGOs and even schools will participate by doing educative side-events and protests.
  - **Host with others a public side-event during the Santiago Climate Change Conference.** The Philippine Duchesne Region Popular Education Network, the Society's UN-NGO, and other partners will host a side-event outside the venue of the Santiago Climate Change Conference. This will allow for greater collaboration and participation from civil society.

The event will broadcast live for anyone to view. The theme of our side-event is still to be determined by an organizing committee.

- **Attend the Santiago Climate Change Conference.** Sheila Smith, our UN-NGO Representative and one member of the Philippine Duchesne Region Popular Education Network will register to attend the Santiago Climate Change Conference on behalf of the Society. They will report to the Popular Education Network during the event and will find ways to communicate with the international Society. Together we will seek next steps for the Society at the international level for Care of our Common Home.