

**First Sunday of the Season of Creation (22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
September 3, 2023**

**Sister Evangeline Salazar, OSB shares a reflection on the scripture  
readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-  
27**

## **SEASON OF CREATION**

**As Catholics**

**responding to the Pope's invitation,**

**we celebrate**

**a season of creation.**

**The call is to everyone,**

**into an extensive coordinated action**

**to address**

**the complex socio-ecological crisis**

**facing the Earth today.**

**And to restore**

**reverent respect and care**

**for the sacredness of creation.**

**In the increasing destructive impacts**

**of changing climate**

**and the ecological degradation,**

**might the Earth**

**be trying to show us**

**what Jesus was trying to tell his disciples  
in today's gospel?**

**Increased suffering and even death  
are before us.**

**And in that suffering and death,  
the results of our sinful actions and neglect  
are being exposed.**

**The light is being shed,  
on the conversion so desperately needed  
and on the paths of redemption  
and healing  
that are still open to us.**

**We have seen,  
and we have heard,  
of worsening storms, wildfires, droughts, floods,  
and heat waves.**

**And still we doubt.**

**And fail to accept the truth.**

**We fail to hear the voice,  
of Mother Earth  
crying out to us.**

**Jesus says to Peter,  
“You are thinking not as God thinks,  
but as human beings do.”**

**God let’s us see what’s happening,  
in all its cruel brutality.**

**Having seen the truth,  
we must act.**

**To change.**

**To find new ways  
to avoid the suffering  
and destruction  
of our Mother Earth.**

**Together we can help create  
a more Godlike,  
healthy,  
sustainable,  
nonviolent  
and loving world.**

**Let us accept the invitation.  
to enter the Christian adventure  
with counterculture passion.**