

Open Hands to Reinvent Earth



**Justice, Peace & Integrity of the Creation
National Day of Action
October 24, 2026**

To bear witness to our commitment
and our convictions
to care for our common home.



The Catholic Religious Congregations
of Canada

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"We cannot make a blade of grass, but in the future there is liable not to be a blade of grass unless we accept it, protect it, and foster it."

- Thomas Berry, *The Christian Future and the Fate of Earth*

Goal and Date

To bear witness to our commitment and our convictions to care for our common home. Each year, on the 4th Saturday in October which is **October 24, in 2026**.

The Urgency to Act

We are living through an unprecedented crisis as the Earth, our common home, grows exhausted under the weight of our endless exploitation. It is no longer simply a matter of adjusting our lifestyles or recycling our waste: there is an absolute urgency to reinvent our fundamental relationship with Creation. The Earth is sacred. It is neither a mere reservoir of resources nor a passive backdrop for the human drama. It is the primary holy book, a living and continuous manifestation of the Divine presence.



This deep intuition lies at the very heart of the thought of theologian and geologist Thomas Berry¹. For him, the universe is not a *collection of objects*, but a *communion of subjects*. All of Creation is the primary and greatest revelation of the Divine: every mountain, every river, every species of plant or animal embodies a unique divine word. When we extinguish a species or degrade an ecosystem, we erase a page from the divine book and deafen the voice through which the Mystery expresses itself.

The Earth has been entrusted to us, not to be dominated, but for us to become its loving and conscious guardians. Thomas Berry reminds us that humanity has reached a decisive turning point in its history: the transition from the Cenozoic Era to what he calls the **Ecozoic Era**—an era in which humans will learn to live in a mutually beneficial, symbiotic harmony with the rest of the living community.

Witnessing to our convictions

To reinvent Earth today is to undertake a major spiritual and cultural conversion:

- **Re-enchanting the world:** Recognizing the sacredness of nature and re-learning awe and wonder before the cycles of life.
- **Listening to the wisdom of the Earth:** Aligning our economic, political, and social systems with the laws and capacities of the biosphere.
- **Embracing our role as guardians:** Responding to the trust placed in us by protecting biodiversity and restoring what has been broken.

The urgency to act is moral, existential, and spiritual. To listen to the Earth is to hear the voice of the Creator calling us to responsibility and love. There is still time to enter into this sacred communion and to write, together, the next chapter in the story of Creation.

Consecrated Life's Specific Contribution

« Religious congregations can bring cultural and political dimensions of a culture of encounter to the fragmented worldviews that are operating in society and manifesting in polarized conversations about climate change and the wider polycrisis. Perhaps this could be a contribution that religious can make to begin to build the political will that is needed in Canada, and the world, to act on climate change. »²¹

“Our commitment for the care of our common home takes place within the broader world of civil society, among large and small NGOs and people of great generosity, skill, and good will. We have something to contribute that complements the expertise of civil society. We are

¹ To learn more about Thomas Berry, visit this website <https://thomasberry.org/>

² ORCIE, Integral Ecology : How the Concept of Integral Ecology is Evolving in the Canadian Context, April 13, 2026.



convinced that caring for our common home means contributing to positive, systemic social transformation, and this requires agency and power. Jesus exercised power—the power of the Holy Spirit. Power can be exercised spiritually, especially through discernment of the signs of the times which highlight the Spirit of Christ at work in our world.

Here is an example. When we drive, the car follows our eyes. So it is with our JPIC commitment: we move toward what we see. But what do we see when spiritual practice has transformed our vision? We see the signs of the times—that is, signs of the presence and action of Christ, and therefore signs of the Kingdom of God.

In both his Gospel and Acts, Luke teaches us to see the world on two levels: what is happening on the surface of life and what is happening beneath it. We live on both levels, though much of life—especially when unexamined—is lived on the surface. Yet the signs of the times appear precisely there. To recognize them as signs of Christ’s work, we need to remain grounded in the deeper level of reality.

Consecrated life is oriented to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom does not lie only in the eschatological future. It is already happening now beneath the surface of things. One of the gifts that consecrated life can bring to action in care of our common home is interpreting events from the point of view of the Spirit’s action beneath the surface and using the Kingdom as a standard to interpret and evaluate current events and relations.

Collective joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties are signs of the times because they reveal where societies are in tune—or out of tune—with the Spirit. Through awareness, however imperfect, of the Spirit in our own lives, consecrated life can be especially sensitive to these social spiritual movements. We become still more sensitive when we discern them together, in a synodal way. We may not always understand these movements, but we can learn to notice them. One important spiritual use of our agency and power, then, is discernment that helps reveal how the Kingdom of God may be acting.”³

Let’s create our JPIC National Day of Action

In 2026, the CRC will hold its first-ever National JPIC Day of Action. Together, let’s lay the groundwork for what could become a CRC tradition on the fourth Saturday in October.

This year, let’s come together to express our commitment to bearing witness to our convictions so we can reinvent Earth!

^{3 3} Reflections by Peter Bisson SJ



Highlight an action you're already taking that demonstrates your commitment to the care of our common home. Or choose to create a special activity for the occasion: raking leaves or cleaning up a public space or a neglected natural park; a prayer of contemplation on endangered species using Angela Manno's icons; incorporating a special prayer into the Liturgy of the Hours or the daily Mass; a film screening followed by a discussion based on a documentary about the climate crisis; etc.

- Take photos to share
 - with the CRC communications@crc-canada.org
 - on your webpage
 - on social media
 - in your newsletter
 - by email
- Write an article about your activity to be published via
 - the CRC communications@crc-canada.org
 - your newsletter
 - the local newspaper
 - your website
 - etc.
- Inform or even invite your parish priest, your bishop, your elected officials (municipal, provincial, federal), local media.