

'Laudato Si' week Celebrations 2021

Ashirbhawan

The invitation to celebrate 'Laudato Si' week was very relevant and fitting during this devastating pandemic time. Everyone is trying to find ways and means to protect oneself and others as best as one can following all the guidelines given by the authorities. Surely God has a great message to give us through these experiences and it is for us to look into ourselves and listen to the promptings from within.

The community decided that each Sister selects a theme and prepare the Prayer according to her creativity and imagination starting from the senior sister to the junior Sister. The days were allotted and everyone was quite enthusiastic and busy to make her day as meaningful and effective as possible.

The liturgist introduced to us the theme of the day: '*the Call to be Responsible Stewards for God's Creation.*' Then we were led to the convent garden, where we spent some time praising and thanking the Lord for the greenery, the beautiful colours, plants, flowers and the pure air the lord has gifted us with. Later we came to the chapel singing the hymn, "The heavens are telling the glory of God..." An appropriate reading from the Book of Genesis was read out. Finally as a community, we took a pledge, to be faithful Stewards of the whole creation in any simple way we could.



"The Word of God and Creation" was the theme for another day. A beautifully decorated Bible and a Plant growing in a pot were kept on the altar. After a Bhajan, we had silent reflection on how we have deviated from the original plan of God. "Sowing the seeds of Hope for the Planet" was the topic for another evening. We were asked to concentrate and listen to the cry of the earth, the poor, and the migrant workers, etc. We placed in the chapel saplings, ripe fruits, seeds, flower plants and vegetables in order to admire, wonder at and to be happy at the mystery of the Universe. It instilled in us a sense of gratitude and reminded us that we are a group of people called upon to sow the seeds of hope for the Planet.

Next day was set apart for Praising and Thanking the Lord for His wonderful creation He has gifted us with. "Energy and Fossil Fuel" was another aspect of our prayer. The seamless garment of creation is a sacrament of communion. The Eucharistic Jesus gives Himself to all those who believe in Him. The gift of creation gives adequate energy to support our needs. On the following day we had a short film on St. Francis of Assisi to awaken in us his tender compassion and love for the nature and for the

the nature and for the whole created beings.

The last day was the day of Pentecost and the appropriate theme for the final day of 'Laudato Si' week was 'Pentecost and Creation' We had a real Upper Room experience in the well decorated chapel. We implored the Holy Spirit to come down upon each one of us during our 'praying over' on every Sister and even went to the bedroom of a sick Sister and prayed over her as a community.

We were reminded that we are in the holy presence of God, our Creator, at all time, and there is nobility in taking care of our Common Home by our daily little actions. During this special week, we have become more conscious of our attitude towards God and His creation and we came closer to one another in mutual help and support.

As a result of our prayerful celebration of the 'Laudato Si' week we came to the realization that we need to take careful in the use of using Electricity and water, plant more fruit trees and other plants, and make use of the aqua guard waste water for cleaning purpose. We could make a more effective inward journey during this Covid period and discover who we are and where we stand with regard to caring for our Common Home, etc.

Sr. Sunita, Edanonil, Ashirbhawan

Provincialate

Every celebration and event brings joy and happiness and leaves an indelible mark on the lives of all. The Provincialate community had an opportunity to celebrate the 'Laudato Si' week. At a time when the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are becoming more and more intense 'Laudato Si, week was a perfect time to be one with the whole global body. Throughout one week (16th – 24th May) we listened to talks on different topics like: Laudato Si dialogue on critical opportunities, on education, energy and fossil fuels and sowing hope for the planet and reflected and prayed with people all over the world.

24th May 2021 was a momentous occasion for the community members to participate in the creation prayer service which was prepared beautifully on the theme "for we know that things can change." The chapel was arranged with lots of greenery and all felt and experienced being one with the nature. All the Sisters proceeded to the Chapel in procession holding different resources from our mother earth like water, fruits, vegetables, flowers, soil etc. without which life would be impossible. God has entrusted the whole creation into the hands of human beings to take care of it and God's Word is the essence of the whole creation, hence the Bible was the first gift to be offered to the Lord.



After reaching the Chapel each one offered the gifts of nature at the feet of the Lord. Then we spent some time praising and thanking the Lord for the abundance of gifts and blessings we have received unasked for because God knows what we need. We are aware of the fact that we have not been the good and faithful stewards of the creation entrusted to us so, we expressed our sorrow for being negligent, selfish and careless in using the resources God has lavished upon us. We asked pardon and mercy from God who had commanded us to till and care for the garden of life.

We watched a video clip on the destruction of mother earth which challenged each one of us to take the responsibility to care for our common home seriously. At the end as a gesture of love and gratitude towards our beautiful nature each one watered the plants.

Sr. Dipti Kerketta, Provincialate

Tanmay, Gurgaon

The formation community, Tanmay celebrated the Laudato Si Week from 16- 24 May 2021. Each day we went to the garden to be more physically present and to be in touch with our Mother Earth, planting flower plants, watering and cleaning up our garden and surroundings. We took this opportunity to prepare compost manure with dry leaves from our garden. At the end of the day, we came together as a community for special prayers. Every day the prayer was centred on themes related to mother earth which led us to be in prayerful disposition. We watched short documentaries and films connected to the Bible based on creation (Gen. Ch.: 1-2), which helped us to raise our hearts in gratitude to God, our Creator. It was an occasion to admire and be amazed at the beauty of creation and how the cycle of life moves on. We became aware of the peace and serenity nature can provide us with and the wholeness of body and mind we can experience. We became aware of how some people are trying to take care and preserve the natural resources, while others ruthlessly destroy the mother earth, our Common Home.



On 23rd May we joined the prayer service broadcasted globally. We were touched by the words of Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle; the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples who invited us to take care of our mother earth in small and simple ways beginning from our own garden. Every day at the end of the prayer we paused and spent time in silence thanking God, the

Mastermind of this magnificent and marvelous work. We expressed our sorrow for failing to take care, respect, abuse and overuse the natural resources of our Mother Earth in a small or big scale.

On the last day of Laudato Si week celebration, the eve of 24th May 2021, our community gathered in the well decorated chapel for a beautifully and creatively prepared prayer. Melodious and appropriate hymns helped us to be one with the whole of creation and above all with the Creator of heaven and earth. We were grateful for the gifts of the Mother Earth and for all that we receive from our Common Home for our sustenance and living. At the end of the prayer we moved to the garden to plant flower plants as a gesture of our obedience to the Creator's command to till it and take care of his creation. We had our dinner in the flower garden. It was weeklong activities that conscientized us, made us aware of our stewardship and responsibilities towards our Mother Earth and we enjoyed and cherished our green campus and thanked God for this special gift.

Christina Soy & Shobha Choranth (1ST Year Postulants)

Sidhpur

The Laudato Si' week was celebrated on the occasion of the 6th Anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical **Laudato Si'**. The Theme of the week was **"For we know that things can change"**. Each day's prayer was conducted creatively based on the theme. The Rosary too was connected to the theme of the day. This celebration made us more aware of our responsibility as stewards, trustees and servants of the creation. It was a renewed call to reuse, recycle and reduce consumption of the resources of mother earth. It also helped us to recognize that our redemption is not just between God and humankind but it extends to all of creation.

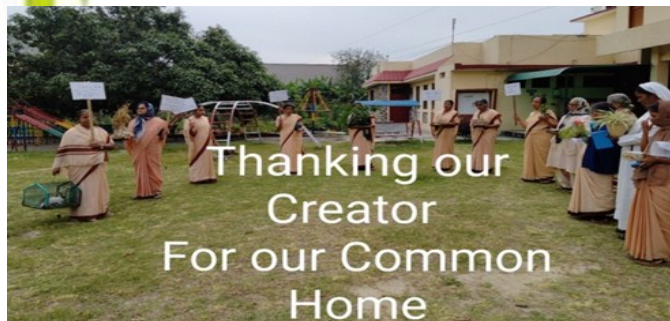
On the concluding day of Laudato Si' week, we entered the chapel in procession carrying a symbol each, according to our choice, representing the nature. It was a feast to the eyes to enter the chapel and see the beautifully decorated Chapel with varieties of flowers, plants, vegetables, fruits and so on.....Our hearts were filled with gratitude, praise and thanksgiving to God our Creator, for the wonder of Creation. Laudato Si' week was a time to reflect on the ultimate power of the Creator, and acknowledge the gifts and fruit of the Earth He has blessed us with. It also renewed us spiritually and energized us to be good and faithful stewards of Mother Earth.

Sr. Anshu Xess, Sidhpur

Una

Una community had a week long prayer and reflection from 16-24 May, to join the rest of the world in celebrating the 6th 'Laudato Si' anniversary. The theme for the weeklong celebration, **"for we know that things can change"** (**Laudato Si 13**) enabled us to reflect upon the present situation and pray for the mother earth and the suffering humanity. On the eve of the Pentecost, 22nd May, we came together to inaugurate the Laudato Si Week 2021, with a special prayer service.

The prayer service started with a procession from the ground, each Sister holding a gift from the Mother Earth in her hand to offer to the Creator. After a hymn to the Holy Spirit, the procession moved on while the sisters who had the placards came forward in turn, showing the captions from the 'Laudato Si' to all and then read it aloud together to remind us of the importance of the Mother Earth. When the procession reached the Chapel the Sisters offered their gifts to the Lord, then we watched a video clip on nature, which deepened our love and appreciation for the mother earth. The readings on the necessary elements for the humans (earth, water and fire) by different sisters enriched us with deeper understanding of these three precious things and its importance in our lives. It was also a time to reflect on what COVID-19 pandemic has taught us and it enabled us to prepare for the future with hope.



To throw more light on the present scenario of the earth, a video was shown on deforestation, which indeed made us aware of the ignorance of the modern society and the harm it does to the entire humanity. To bring us closer to the nature we recited the canticle of Creatures and offered our intentions and prayers to the Lord by asking pardon and mercy for our carelessness in taking care of the mother earth and prayed for the suffering humanity. The prayer service was concluded with the recitation of the Laudato Si prayer by Pope Francis, holding a creeper each, which was tied to the Globe uniting ourselves with the entire universe in taking care of our common home—the Mother Earth.



At the end of the prayer service, everyone was invited to take concrete steps to save Our Common Home, to create a new birth, a new common home, to restore the eco systems, to build up solidarity among ourselves, So, we marched to the vegetable garden and Sr. Stella along with other Sisters planted a sapling to commemorate the event. The whole celebration of the 'Laudato Si' week was indeed meaningful and everyone participated in all the activities whole heartedly.

Sr. Elsy Thomas, Una

Parataspur

Laudato Si urges us to acknowledge “our contribution smaller or greater, to the disfigurement and the destruction of creation, to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing, an asceticism which entails learning to give, and not simply to give up. It is a way of loving, of moving gradually away from what I want to what God’s world needs....” (Laudato Si.8, 9)

It was indeed a wonderful occasion for us to get united with the catholic community globally in prayer and solidarity during the Laudato Si week 2021. Since the whole humanity is battling with the pandemic Covid-19, the Laudato Si week prayers became more relevant and challenging for each one of us. It made us to reflect on what the pandemic is teaching us and how it is urging us to conversion of our hearts and minds.



From 16th to 24th May 2021, we had special prayers to mark the occasion and the chapel was decorated with variety of plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables. One of these days we spent time reflecting on our callousness toward the nature and our lethargic attitude to care for our common home. We realized that we are the stewards who have to take care of the mother earth which provides us with all the basic necessities. We have gratefully acknowledged that we cannot survive without the nature but nature can survive and thrive without human beings.

We attended two webinars: One on 22nd May 2021, the topic was “Laudato Si in the context of post Covid strategies and biodiversity conservations”. The second one was on “Suffering humanity: Laudato Si / Fratelli Tutti and our response” on 29th May 2021. These webinars provided us with not only knowledge and information but the speakers challenged us to move beyond our comfort zones to care for our common home. The cry of the earth is the cry of the poor hence we feel the urgency and need to act now so that the lessons learnt from this pandemic may not go waste but may bear fruit.

Sr. Ruby Joseph, Parataspur

Chogawan

The SCJMs at Chogawan joined Pope Francis and others to celebrate the ‘Laudato Si’ week. On the first day we appreciated the creation in its beauty and splendor. Each member brought into the chapel an object of her choice from the nature, and placed it on the table that was specially prepared and illuminated, for this purpose. The earth was formless, empty and dark and God’s spirit hovered over the emptiness preparing to perform God’s creative work. Selected passages that brought out the theme of

creation from the book of Genesis were read out and reflected upon. This reminded us once again that the creation story was not a scientific one but a fabulous story of God's relationship with humanity from the beginning. At the end of His creative work He formed humans as the crown of creation, and He entrusted the whole creation to human beings and he commanded them to take care and nurture it. Today God's plan is that each one of us takes care of the planet, protect it, and enhance the glory and grandeur and present it back to God and keep it safe for the next generation, as everything in creation is related and woven together as the visible expression of the invisible beauty and power of the Divine. Earth is a shared inheritance whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. This was brought home to us in a powerful way.

We became aware of the fact that this wonderful creation is polluted on all sides- air, water and soil and thoroughly overused and destroyed. As a consequence the earth is crying and sighing; so are the poor who are condemned to live in inhuman conditions and deprivations of their basic needs of food, living conditions, education, health, employment and so on. Proverbs 19: 17 and Lev. 19: 9-10 clearly tells us how we ought to treat the poor. The cry of the earth and of the poor is intensified by the Corona virus and its consequences. Keeping in mind Covid appropriate behavior, we were urged and have decided to move out and be of help to the needy.



In spite of all these, the Risen Lord offers us hope, a theme that stood out during the week of celebrations. The day's prayer brought out this vividly and we prayed deeply for a new heaven and a new earth. Laudato Si has inspired us to give more importance to our common home, it has taught us to pray and prepare for the future with hope for a re-emergence of the beautiful world as it is meant to be by God. "Let your hopes, not hurts shape your future" gives us courage. If Covid 19 hurts, the Word of God offers hope and encouragement, so let us arise in the name of God who strengthens us and join hands with others to bring about healing and wellness to all especially the poor and the marginalized.

We concluded the prayer by asking God to fill us with His power so that we are enabled to protect the earth and its creatures including human beings; to consider everyone as a brother/sister and live in peace and harmony. That we may be enabled to discover the worth of each person, realize that we are profoundly united with every creature and remain grateful to God our Creator.

Sr. Martha Prem, Chogawan

Kargana

“Laudato Si” week was an occasion for us at shanti Niketan, Kargaina to get united with the catholic community globally, in prayer and solidarity.

The celebration started on 17th May 2021. A sense of gratitude welled up in our hearts we thanked the Almighty Father for creating a beautiful world and making us the responsible stewards to take care of the earth. During the weeklong prayer we also acknowledged our sinfulness and our contribution in spoiling and damaging the beautiful creation of God for our own selfishness and greed. We resolved to be more generous in caring for one another and the nature. Realizing our bounden responsibility to care of the mother earth we cleaned the campus, prepared the ground for with more beds to grow plants and vegetables of various kinds. We emptied the compost pit and the plastic articles were collected in separate sacks, which we will continue to do. The place looked so clean and beautiful that we could say at the end of the “It was good”.



The Laudato Si’ week was a time for each one of us to reflect on restoring harmony between humanity and nature and building a culture of love, care and justice.

Sr. Kiran Kispotta, Kargana

Lahorigate

The Laudato Si week was a time to renew our relationship with the Creator and with all of creation through celebration, conversion and our union with them. During the Laudato Si week celebration, the Lahorigate Community joined the rest of the global population who are engaged in promoting the care of our common Home – the Earth. We realized the abundance of gifts freely given to us by the Creator, which very often we take for granted. This celebration provided us yet again the opportunity to pray, reflect and praise and thank the Creator for His beautiful creation and to care for the creation that makes our lives possible.

The week was celebrated meaningfully and creatively each day, with readings of extracts from Pope Francis’ Encyclical ‘Laudato Si’ and through the means of audiovisual communications. The well-chosen hymns based on each day’s reading added more relevance to the ambience of the day.



On the last day, we had a special prayer service to make it more meaningful and appropriate. It was arranged outside in the garden, to feel one with Nature and with the five essential elements: earth, water fire, air and space. The awareness that everything in creation is interconnected and we are also an integral part of the creation was confirmed through the reflections and insights received during the prayer. We realized that our stewardship as caretakers of the earth is equal to taking care if the vulnerable people at the 'periphery'.

[Sr. Sukanti, Lahorigate](#)

Batala

The community at Batala chose some of the inspiring and challenging articles from 'Laudato Si' to pray and meditate. We also had an evaluation of the steps we had taken last year for environmental protection and care of the mother earth.

From May 17 to 22 we organised special prayers and adoration in the evenings. Prayers, hymns and some natural materials (flowers, plants, fruits, water and seeds) were used for the prayer service according to the theme of the day. We also watched some of the videos clips related to 'Laudato Si' celebrations. It was an opportunity for us to meditate and marvel at the wonderful creation of God, to pray for the entire creation and to feel connected with the whole universe. As we watched we became aware of some of the naked truths of man's manipulation of the environment and the degradation of the natural resources. We realized that as good stewards of God entrusted with the responsibility to till and fill the earth, we need to shun our callous attitude towards the Mother Earth.

[Sr. Deepa Mathew, Batala](#)

Kathalguri

Laudato Si "Praise be to you" this is what our hearts throbbed and sang when we spent our time in front of the Eucharistic Lord in adoration,, thanking and praising Him for the beauty all around us in Kathalguri. Thanks be to the gifts of the nature we can breathe fresh air, eat fresh fruits and vegetables from our garden. We celebrated the Laudato Si week as a thanksgiving week for the gifts that we

receive from our mother earth. Not just in words but in deeds.



The Sisters devoted quality time in nurturing and caring for our common home by gardening and cleaning up the campus. For us the celebration of season of creation does not come once a year but every day of the year.

Sr. Shweta Baleam, Kathalguri

SHConvent, Amritsar

The Sacred Heart convent, Amritsar joined hands with people who are enthusiastic about taking care of our Mother Earth to celebrate the 'Laudato Si' week. We participated in the panel discussions organized by eminent environmentalist on various topics. Some of the important themes we paid attention to were:

Critical opportunities in 2021 to create change- Call for an integral path to reach our aim:

The panelists stressed the need to have an ecological conversion and take serious and concrete actions in everyday life to save the earth. The question to ponder was how we would like our world to be for our dear ones at home in the future. . They challenged us to look into ourselves to see what we did or are doing in our communities ever since the pandemic began? The panelists urged us to act seriously to change the rotten roots of our societies to healthy roots to bear abundant fruits, for that we need to change crisis into opportunities. The solution lies in listening to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth with a change of attitude.

Laudato Si Dialogue on Education; The attention here was, how to adapt ecological education along with other disciplines. The Oxford University has taken concrete steps to make Laudato Si as an integral part of the syllabus for their students, along with Geography and environmental studies. They pointed out how institutions can motivate students, staff and parents to care for the earth. We need to form and train groups of people who would be leaders with Christian values and lead others.

Energy and Fossil Fuels: We acknowledge that we have not cared for God's creation and its natural resources. We need to say no to fossil fuel and encourage the use of renewable energy sources. Now in the given situation we should adapt certain measure to play our part to save our natural resources.

Sowing hope for the planet and creation care prayer: It is prayer that can reconnect us with God, nature and one another. Ecological conversion takes place at the personal, institutional and social levels.

we need to restore our common home and instill in us green values. We need to educate ourselves make a difference, inspire others and be the change we want to see.



Laudato Si Festival “Songs for Creation: The song of creation was meaningful and inspiring. It was a time to acknowledge the harm we have inflicted upon the mother earth by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed us. It is our greed, and selfishness that has deprived others of their daily bread. Pope Francis , warning that if we destroy creation, creation will destroy us It has become a reality in the present scenario (e.g. cyclones, tsunami and corona.) We, in our given context try to conscientize others through music, painting, and social media to listen to the cry of the suffering creation. Jesus became flesh and saved us so it is our turn to become humane and save His creation because earth is the only human habitat.

(Pentecost) Praying Gathering: Easter is the greatest miracle of God. The risen Lord shares food with disciples and invites us to share what we have and not to follow the throw away culture. Respecting, loving, sharing and honoring the creation we bring order in our personal life and that of the community. And everyone as brothers and sisters of the same Creator.

Roundtable about wash: Water is an essential and basic need for life. Each of us is called upon to share the responsibility to save and care for water and heal the planet by preserving the water from being contaminated by pollution.

Sisters Grace Kolady & Mercy Joseph, SHC, Amritsar

Jeevodaya, Jammu

Jeevodaya, Jammu community made a prayer programme for everyday during the evening prayer to celebrate the ‘Laudato Si’ week. , We started the first day with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and praying the Rosary in solidarity with the whole world.

Every day we had different themes reflect upon. We made a small garden in our chapel using mud which reminded us the earth itself, varieties of plants, flowers, seeds and fruits. We also used pictures of birds and animals to make it more meaningful. During the prayer service we prayed for the preservation and protection of our mother earth, asked God for forgiveness for the harm we have done to His creation and the times we have not taken care of it. We also asked for the grace to appreciate and be grateful for the beautiful creation.

Sr. Justina, Jeevodaya, Jammu