

## Combined Report of 'Laudato Si' week Celebration (Delhi Province)

### **"Nurture the Nature for the Future"**

Every community set aside quality time for prayer, reading and reflection with the help of the materials provided, materials available from other sources and inspiring videos and hymns, from 16 to 24 May, 2020 and celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Laudato Si', the most valued and acclaimed Encyclical of Pope Francis. In the present scenario of lock down due to the pandemic COVID 19, outside activities and participation of collaborators were not possible though we would have encouraged it, especially for plantation of saplings, cleanliness drive, etc. yet the creativity, newness, uniqueness, enthusiasm, interest and urgency with which the communities took up the call to care for our 'Common Home' was praise worthy. A few communities spent time out in the garden for prayer and other activities.

Each day during the prayer, the communities chose different themes, spent sufficient time on the five elements of nature i.e. Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Space and tried to understand their inter connectedness and our dependence on them. In other words we need grace to accept the fact that all beings, living and non-living, humans, animals, birds, plants, trees, seas, oceans, mountains, valleys, sun, moon, stars, everything is essential for the existence of one another. God created everything for our use but not for abuse and over use that we destroy it and leave behind a depleted earth for the next generation.

'Laudato Si' week was a time to reflect on the ultimate power, power of the Creator, the gifts and fruits of the Earth, He has endowed us with, the free will and reasoning capacity God has given to the human beings to make responsible choices and leave behind a better place for the future generation to live. We are called upon to "Nurture the Nature to protect our Future . It was another opportunity that reminded us once again that 'Everything in nature is connected' and the interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan.

The whole week's prayer, with appropriate readings from the Bible, 'Laudato Si', prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, meaningful videos and inspiring hymns in praise of the Creator and Creation lifted our spirits to the realm of the Divine, making us aware of the presence of God permeating the whole universe.



**No Earth, No Life**



**Think Globally,  
Act Locally'**



We realized that we are not the masters, but only care takers of this beautiful planet. We sometimes take for granted the preciousness of our own surroundings that is filled with God's beauty and bounty and the selfless attitude of nature in sharing and giving itself fully to us to make our life more comfortable and happy. This time of the Pandemic and the subsequent lock down have also been a time to see and marvel at the many ways nature is healing itself.

At this unexpected and extraordinary time of pandemic when we are faced with problems of not having helpers in the house, we have become more grateful to their contribution in our life and learned to take care of our surroundings and resources of the Earth that God had provided us with greater responsibility. Some communities are resolved to intensify their efforts to elicit the good will of the staff, students, parents and co-workers to become active partners with us, in the mega project of "Healing the Mother Earth crying out in distress".



## Go Green, Save Earth

The final day of 'Laudato Si' week, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 the physical arrangements of the Chapel or the garden itself brought in greater momentum to the feeling of being one with nature and our connectedness with everything in creation. Our hearts were filled with gratitude, praise and thanksgiving to God our Creator for all that we have been gifted with unasked. We felt invited to discover God in Nature and commune with Him rather than limiting ourselves to meeting Him in the Church. It enabled us to develop an attitude of reverence, sensitivity and compassion for all the vulnerable including Mother Earth.



This time of prayer and reflection challenged us to examine our life style and realize the impact of our thoughtless behaviour and daily decisions regarding food, water, energy and other material goods of the earth. In many ways knowingly or unknowingly we are part of the destruction of nature with our wanton habit of planting and uprooting at will. It stirred our conscience to acknowledge our sins against creation and truly be sorry for our neglect and difference to the Earth groaning under the pressure of human callousness.



Ms. Annie Besant beautifully expresses the unity, inter relatedness and inter dependence of everything and everyone in the nature in the following words:

*“O hidden life, vibrant in every  
atom,  
O hidden light, shining in every  
creature,  
O hidden love, embracing all in  
oneness,  
May each who feels herself as one  
with Thee  
Know that she is also one with  
every other”.*



***‘Save Earth, Save our Mother’***

**Conclusion:** In a nut shell, Laudato Si week refreshed and renewed us spiritually leading us to the realm of the Divine. It reminded us of the words of Fr. Triest, “A true Sister of Charity finds God in everyone and in everything – a true contemplative in action”. We cherish and treasure the week, never to be forgotten as it was a week of Blessings from God and a deepening of our sense of responsibility to uphold the Creation and everything in it. In this connection many communities have really dawn up practical steps to protect and take care of the Mother Earth.



***'Save the Earth, Save a Life!'***

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