

CDM Kampung-ku Connection

Theme: Giving in Hope; Caring for Creation

September 2021

O *pening prayer.* God of the universe, we are forever indebted to you for the innumerable blessings you have poured into our lives; a big part being giving us a place to dwell called earth. We have partaken in the many riches this earth has given us that has helped us sustain ourselves and to immerse in Your love. While you made us the masters of this earth, we have, on many occasions, abused, violated and adulterated it for our own selfish gains or, at the least, ignored the actions of those who did the same. Forgive us O Lord and we come to You once again to join You to “renew the face of the earth”. Give us courage...give us determination to go on protecting nature as a sign of our love for you and for the generations to come. **Amen.**

Poem: *Peace* by Bessie Rayner Parkes

THE steadfast coursing of the stars,
The waves that ripple to the shore,
The vigorous trees which year by year
Spread upwards more and more;

The jewel forming in the mine,
The snow that falls so soft and light,
The rising and the setting sun,
The growing glooms of night;

All natural things both live and move
In natural peace that is their own;
Only in our disordered life
Almost is she unknown.

She is not rest, nor sleep, nor death;
Order and motion ever stand
To carry out her firm behests
As guards at her right hand.

And something of her living force
Fashions the lips when Christians say
To Him Whose strength sustains the world,
"Give us Thy Peace, we pray!"



Personal Reflection:

Can you recall a time in your life where you experienced nature in a such a way you felt God's love and peace fill your heart and soul in that moment, totally unexpected?

How does God talk to you through nature?

“Nature Can Survive Without Humans; Humans Can’t Survive Without Nature”

Try visualizing what would the earth look like without humans. You would probably say, “certainly lush and green”. When God created nature, he is in control of it. It requires no man to do anything to it because what God created is good. This is confirmed at the first five days of creation in Genesis, the phrase **“And God saw that it was good”** emerges four times (Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 25). If what God created is truly good, perfect, beautiful, magnificent - what is the purpose of humans? We humans had no role to play in creating it. However, God instructs us to ‘till and keep’ the garden of the world (Gen 2:15). **‘Tilling’** refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while **‘keeping’** refers to caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. When you combine tilling and keeping it simply means: Take what you need and return it to its original state afterwards”.

3 “Goliaths” against the Environment



GLOBAL WARMING

According to the UN, global warming due to CO₂ emissions have increased by **almost 50% since 1990**



AIR POLLUTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 90% of humanity breathes polluted air causing 7 million deaths a year.



DEVASTATION OF OCEANS

The oceans have become the **giant waste dumps** for plastics, dumping of pollutants, wastewater and fuel spills.

Pondering on these 3 disasters befalling our mother earth, if you could surmise the thought patterns of the people behind it in one word, what would that word be, and why? Share your thoughts with the group.

In what way have you knowingly or unknowingly contributed to the 3 problems highlighted above?



“When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears”

Pope Francis, Laudato Si (#204).

What is Pope Francis urging us to do, moving forward from the situation we are in?

The Role of Christians to Save Mother Earth

“Laudato Si” encyclical (Praised Be You) is more than just a call to save the environment but also a call to save **humanity**. It is in line with Catholic Social Teaching which focuses on the promotion of **solidarity, stewardship and the common good**. Therefore, protecting the environment for the benefit of mankind is part of our responsibility as a Catholic. Follow these steps to move into action:



It all starts with the right intentions and over time you become good at it. When people see you taking on projects to preserve nature through recycling, urban farming, or environmental activism work - the momentum catches. In all of this, you must be motivated to share the story of God and His Creation and how we are the good stewards duty bound to protect mother earth for all generations.

Share: What are some of the practises you have adopted as an individual/family/ministry/community in relation to the 4Ps described above?

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Losing Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, we can see now that this earth was created for us so that we can live a complete life while glorifying and worshipping you.

Thank you for the revelation, O Lord. We seek your wisdom; we seek your Word; we seek your mercy as we trod through a broken world. Help us be a beacon of light to those who are lost in their ways that cause them to live a life of selfishness. Let words of love come out of our mouth as we gently bring them to the path of righteousness. Unseal our mouth to speak out when we need to and to pray when our words fall on deaf ears. Most of all, let us be an example they can follow that the remaining days of our lives become a blueprint for others to follow thereby being truly your disciples.

Closing Hymn: Nature Shines With Beauty (By Chris Juby)

Song can be found on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5da1WTv4I0>

Sing and ponder on the words and ask the Lord to speak to you...

Verse 1

Nature shines with beauty,
bringing us a revelation
of the Maker's glory,
leading us in adoration.

Verse 2

Nature groans in labour,
longing for the revelation
of the Maker's children
on the day of liberation

Chorus

*O God who made the stars
and formed us from the dust,*

*your plans are over ours
and all your ways are love.*

