

## SEASON OF CREATION - REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITIES



*Season of creation, Jubilee for the earth, a time for prayer and action*

### **St. Mary's Convent, Nainital**

The community had an hour of prayer each for four days on the theme Water, Fire, Earth and Wind. Sr. Manjusha conducted the prayer on the theme Water and Fire. Sr. Amita led the community in prayer on the theme Earth and Wind. All of us shared our reflections on the particular theme and prayed for a better Earth.

We have started growing a Herbal Garden in our campus. Some of us spent time in cleaning the place, removing the weeds and planting herbal plants. We also take care of water, electricity, limited usage of papers etc. Two dustbins are used to discard the waste materials - Bio-degradable and non-biodegradable. Sr. Manjusha conducted a drawing competition for the students on the theme 'Nature'. A good number of them took part in the competition.



### **St. Mary's Convent Jhajjar**

The community engaged both in prayerful reflection and some action. We studied the documents provided by the province. We chose the convent lawn for our Meditation on the two contrasting realities of the earth, a Laudato Si evening prayer and sometimes the rosary. Having relished the serenity and freshness of the campus we have decided to have a weekly rosary walking through the

campus. We also have done personal study of articles and topics related to environmental concerns in keeping with our interest.

We used the season of creation to track our personal habits, how eco-friendly they are. Saving water, appreciation and gratitude for the environment around stood out. A bit of daily digging and planting and watering and seeing new shoots was an enormously rewarding experience – helping us to become keenly aware of our connectedness with the earth.



During this season of creation, we made a decision to clear the panchayat road leading to the school and plant trees. For that we developed a simple nursery with plants suitable for the climate here. We were lucky to receive the cooperation and support of one of our parents who with his tractor helped to clear quite a bit of the road.

Single use water bottles are collected and used for watering the plants. Bottles have a small hole at the bottom from which water keeps dripping. In the evening bottles are filled and kept under the plants.

Two Jesuits from XLRI and a few student, staff and parent representatives joined us in planting trees. Thus this year the celebration of the feast of Francis of Assisi

was memorable.

## **Nirmala Community, Jhansi.**

We decided to have four days of community prayer on the theme ‘the four elements of creation - Water, Earth, Fire and the Wind’. We assembled in the chapel for prayer where names of these elements written placards and a globe representing the whole world were placed. During the prayer each theme was highlighted with reflections and brought out its importance in the lives of mankind and the whole world with fitting hymns and intercessory prayers.

All of us were closer to the Creator through these created things. It was a time to be one with the nature and reflect its impact on our lives. We were inspired and motivated to Restore, Renew and Repair the broken world and the creation of God.

Our hearts were moved with thanksgiving and praises of God, the Creator.



## **St. Mary's School Community, Mauranipur**

In this season of the epidemic, social distancing and online classes, the Season of Creation came as some what a relief. Nurturing the Mother Earth brings healing and joy. So our community embraced the Season of Creation happily. We had printed out the daily reflections for this season and used them for daily prayers. The four elements were taken for the last days of prayer. Each of us took turns to conduct the prayer. The reflections on the four elements and our decisions are given below:

**Water**: The first day's prayer was conducted in the chapel itself. Each of us had a bowl of water in front of us for the prayer. Water gives us life. We receive energy and strength and it revives the entire creation. It is an important element in the life of every creature. Our hearts overwhelm with gratitude that we have enough safe water for our use. We became aware of the usefulness and preciousness of water and felt the desire to save and impart the same to others. This year our action plan is to avoid wasting water by using it sparingly.

**Earth**: The second day of our prayer was organized outside the chapel, in the garden in order to be in touch with the earth while we reflect on her. Earth is our common home. All elements exist in it and we receive everything from the earth. We thanked God that we could use the Mother earth for our use. Every life emerges from the earth. To protect the Mother Earth, we use compost instead of chemical fertilizers in our land. We also try to cultivate all possible vegetables for our use. All of us spend time working in the garden whenever time permits.

**Fire**: The prayer was conducted in the chapel itself with all lights off and Diya's burning around the Blessed Sacrament. Fire purifies and cleanses. It gives light and heat. It is the source of all passions, intentions, motivations and transformations in our body. If it is misused, it brings great disaster.

**Air**: The fourth day's prayer was conducted in the open air, enjoying the light breeze of the evening time. The very basis of our survival is the element of air. It is the source of life. Bible says that God breathed into the human being and the human being came alive... we became grateful for the air we breathe in freely. We decided to do everything from our part to keep the air clean by not polluting it and to give waste materials for recycling.

We thank God for fashioning us and creating this universe for us. We thank God for blessing us with these elements which are created for us in His bountiful love.

## **Jesu Bhawan**

We, here in Jesu Bhawan conducted an hour of prayer during the season of creation. This prayer was based on the four elements of creation – earth, fire, air and water. We reflected and shared our thoughts and prayed for the entire creation. We were one with the women and girls who have to carry water from long distance for their daily use. We became aware of the pitiable condition of the earth, physical suffering, and dying species and prayed that the rich become a little more generous so that everyone has food every day. It was an eye opener to know the condition of the Arctic, the Amazon and central Asia which experienced unusually severe blazes. And finally, we

prayed for the vulnerable, the Church, our communities and all medical staff engaged on the front line to save the lives of thousands of people.

### **Mayur Vihar Community**

We had a recollection day organized on this Season of Creation. All reflected on the materials provided and then at the end of the day during the common holy hour we had a prayer on it. All of us felt that we have received in abundance the gift of pure wind, clean water, fire to cook our food and earth our home to live. We feel so grateful to God for these gifts and we feel invited to use these sparingly for the sake of those who do not have these and also for our future generations. The reflection paper was well prepared and gave us enough food for thought.

### **Shahbad community**

We, the Shahbad community celebrated the Season of Creation by reading and reflecting on the importance of 4 elements of nature. We had our monthly recollection on creation. Whole day we spent in prayer, thanking the almighty God for the beautiful creation.

We have an orange tree in our garden laden with oranges. Unfortunately, we are not able to enjoy the fruits because they are too sour. So Sr. Anita creatively made dishwashing liquid from it. Orange Marmalade is another delicacy that we enjoy. We also take care of our garden and enjoy organic vegetables.

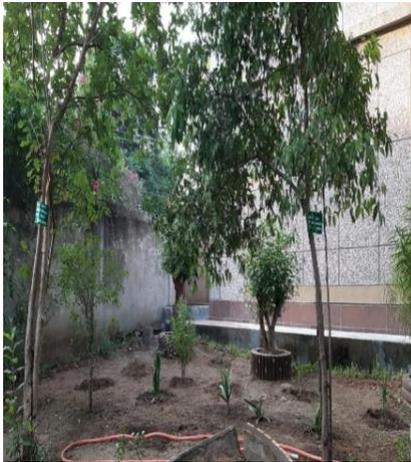


### **St. Francis' Convent, Jhansi.**

Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with the Creator and creation, the Mother earth, our common home. It is a time to reflect on issues concerning the environment and creation as a whole. Deepening our relationship with nature can help us to respect nature more and become its protector and advocate.

We joined the world-wide community to care for the earth through the following activities.

- The community had reflective prayer on 'the four elements of creation, - Water, Earth, Fire and the Wind' which are the energy forces that sustain life.
- Sr. Vijaya prepared a meaningful chart with the theme 'Season of Creation', which was a reminder to everyone to live in harmony with the creation.
- We have started growing a herbal garden in the campus.
- Sr. Deepti conducted an online prayer service along with the JPIC Coordinators of the communities highlighting the theme 'Jubilee for the Earth and our commitment to Repair, Renew and Restore the creation'.



## Krist Jyoti Niwas

Season of creation is a time of prayer, contemplation and increasingly, calls for action.

Every day we had prayer reflecting on 'the four elements of creation, - Water, Earth, Fire and the Wind'. The formees had one day training in weaving chair and camp bed and thereafter we weaved cane chairs.

We made a compost pit and added vegetable peels and leaves, and cow dung layer by layer. After adding water, the pit was covered with mud. This process we continue making use of the kitchen waste to make manure for the garden. The formees work together in the garden and now there is a good yield of vegetables.



## St. Anthony's Convent, Jeolikote

Earth is our common home, that provides mankind with all that is needed for our sustenance, physical and mental growth as well as caters to our good health. Keeping this view in mind, we have taken great interest in collecting medicinal plants and shrubs. We planted Aloe Vera, Tulsi, Mint leaves, Periwinkle, Ginger, Coriander, Ajwain, Curry leaves, Amla tree, Cinnamon tree, and Giloy (Ayurvedic herb) in our garden.

We are very careful in collecting the waste from our compound and burning it regularly and use the residue as manure for our plants after preparing it with other useful substances. Lately we have renewed the old mud from the flower pots and have added fresh manure and proper mud so that all the flower plants grow healthy and give us beautiful flowers. Our Chrysanthemum plants are looking healthy and some plants bear flower buds already.

Our garden workers take great interest in watering the vegetable garden, flower garden and hedges and remove the weeds on time. Our Rose garden is full of pink Roses giving delight to all those who pass by. We too spend a little time in our garden, thanking and praising God, the Creator of the beautiful universe.



## **Mauranipur, Hospital Community**

“We are beloved creatures of God, who in His goodness calls us to love life and live it in communion with the rest of creation”

During the Season of Creation, we went through the reflection every day personally and prayed for the creation. It was a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion and commitment together.

As a community we prayed and reflected an hour on the theme ‘Season of Creation’ where we praised and glorified God for creating this scared planet filled with His vibrant presence and embraced our kin in creation as our extended family. We confessed our sins against creation and empathized with a groaning creation. We pledged that we will live as partners with Christ in the healing of creation.

- We are using natural pesticides and worm composting manure to preserve and protect the earth.
- We use old cement bags, buckets and pots for planting
- Kitchen scraps are used for feeding the rabbits and fowls
- Providing water for birds to quench their thirst and feeding them and protecting and saving them as co-creation.

Pope Francis reminds us “we cannot live in harmony with creation if we are not at peace with the Creator who is the source and origin of all things”. The Jubilee is a time for thinking once again of our fellow human beings, especially the poor and the most vulnerable, to share the common heritage of creation in a joyful fellowship, supporting and protecting one another”.



