



Mary Ward JPIC Office
Freedom - Justice - Sincerity - Felicity

Laudato Si' Week 2022



Listening and Journeying Together

May 22-29, 2022

Reflections Booklet



INTRODUCTION

It is easy to feel affected by the current state of our Common Home. Wars, famine, deforestation, pollution, floods, migration, human trafficking, high economic and social inequalities are the most obvious wounds of it. Can we contemplate Jesus being baptized in a river full of plastic and trash, or contemplate the sower wasting precious seeds on a rocky land, or among thorn bushes (Mt. 13, 1-9) when we know how overexploited land is today, with companies harvesting the same crops up to four times in a year?

For the Laudato Si' Week 2022 we asked members and friends from different countries to reflect with us how contemplation can lead us to heal our planet. The result is an invitation to listen again to God's voice, to contemplate creation, to let ourselves be touched by different experiences and realities and be prophets and apostles for the world today.

Along with reading this booklet take a minute each day to be aware of the harmony in and around yourself, despite all limitations and incarnate it in a way that mirrors this harmony in your daily actions.

Our sincere thanks to Susan Daily IBVM for the images, to the contributors who shared their beautifully thought out reflections and to you all for joining our 7-year journey toward integral ecology.

Thank you for your daily JPIC commitment!

Adina Bălan CJ



Prayer for listening

Most blessed holy Trinity,
Creator, Savior and Ruah,
Through Your Word of life All was and is created,
All was redeemed and is called to redemption,
All was united in Your bosom of love
and is called to live in communion.
Because of You, dear Trinity,
All of creation is a constant exercise of listening to Your Word
So that we can embody the Word in our own lives.
Teach us, therefore, how to truly listen to
Your creating and creative Word.
Remind us that Your Word is present
and can be heard in each living being.
May we listen and learn from Your message
present throughout nature.
Open our ears and our hearts and teach us strength and courage so
that we may hear the pain and suffering
of our sister mother earth and of those most affected
by the socio-environmental crisis.
Amen.

Suzana Moreira, Laudato Si' Animator,
Coordinator of Eco-Conversion Programs at Laudato
Si'Movement, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Day 1:

The Just Soul and Care for the Earth and Care for the Poor

The 'Just Soul' is a charism given to Mary Ward (1615) and the entire world. The vision of the Just Soul emphasizes:

- **Freedom:** free from attachments to earthly values and things, (use, not abuse of creation but care for all living things) for any kind of good works and to refer all to God.
- **Justice:** having right relationship with God, others, self, and the whole of creation.
- **Sincerity:** living a life of integrity and transparency without masks or pretense; “to be such as we appear and appear such as we are”; an openness that allows all creation to bring us to God.

Mary's sense that everything is interconnected is echoed in *Laudato Si*. The Just Soul calls for a new awareness that the earth is a place of abundance that God has provided for us. When we care for the earth, we are caring for the poor people and for the future. When the environment suffers people also suffer; for example, the Coronavirus disrupted life for so many of our brothers and sisters. The state as well as the individual has RESPONSIBILITY for future generations.

How do I take this responsibility in caring for the Earth and for the Poor?

Mercy Shumbamhini CJ Zimbabwe



Day 2: Wise stewardship of the gift

Living in awareness of the message of Laudato Si' leads me to a deeper awareness of the two following facts:

Existing: being as I am a part of the created world. This has been given to me with all its beauty that I am capable of perceiving. I, too, am a creation that has come from the Creator's hands. All creation has a mission to praise Him. Nature, its resources, and humankind is here to glorify the One who is its originator. The Psalmist in Psalm 148 glorifies and praises the Lord, who transcends the earth and the heavens and gives great power to the people (vv. 13-14). Conscious praise has become a part of my life and my prayers.

The realization that all things have been given to me for my use invites me to a deeper responsibility. I live in a country where water is not in short supply. Knowing that it is a mistake to waste this gift leads me to be careful of its use. Sorting waste, caring for flowers and trees as well as taking responsible decisions when using means of transport are daily practical exercises. It is not taking for granted that I have everything I need for life; it is a gift to be protected for generations to come.

In what areas do I perceive - personally or as the whole Mary Ward family – I can find space for doing more for promoting the protection of life on our Earth?

Júlia Milcova CJ Slovakia



Day 4: Animating others

"We can all collaborate as God's instruments for the care of creation, each one from his or her own culture, experience, initiatives and abilities". LS #14

We wish to take the wisdom of the original peoples of Latin America to help us find ways to care for and commit ourselves to creation.

In our Andean culture we ask permission from Pachamama to sow the earth, to interact with it. The term "Pachamama" is formed by two words of Quechua origin: "*pacha*" means world, time, universe and place, and "*mama*" means mother. *Pachamama* is the one who conceives life, the protective mother who protects, nourishes and sustains life, and for this reason she is honoured.

In the cosmovision of the Mayan peoples, there is a close relationship between the sacred earth and the human being. There is no distinction between the two, for all beings are part of the same living system called Our Mother Earth. Everything created possesses the breath of life that makes it worthy of the deepest respect.

The elders of our native peoples teach us that because of the destruction and plundering we have done to our mother earth we are in "no time". The way to return to sacred time, to *kairos*, is through respect and care for Mother Earth.

In my daily life, how can I ask permission from the earth when I sow it? How do I honour and respect creation? Am I willing to make a concrete and sustainable commitment to care for our common home? How?

Estela Clara Grignola CJ Argentina



Day 5: The gift of little

In Cuba, the encyclical *Laudato Si* is known more in the ecclesial environment, among priests and religious. It has not been popularized among the laity, and is more commented on in circles of those interested in environmental changes and the evolution of the global climate process.

The existence of a number of internal and external factors, which led to the deterioration of the economic situation of the country, among them: restrictions on import-export of products, limitation of private property, etc. led the population to resort to various creative processes, primarily not so much to protect the environment, but, above all, to manage to survive with little and face the challenges by using recyclable materials. Everything, in Cuba, can be recycled, everything serves a purpose: old car parts, broken household appliances, broken building materials, old medical instruments, extremely old clothes...all of these, through Cuban creativity, dictated by necessity and lack of commodities, are transformed into true works of art, able to last and serve for many years to come. Also, due to the fact that the necessary food is often not available, people have turned the land in front of their own households into fertile land for growing, mainly, vegetables.

We, the Sisters of *Congregatio Jesu*, motivated by the content of the encyclical, but especially by the example of the locals, have also resorted to the same process of fertilizing the land by: separating food waste, putting it in the ground and planting various vegetables, specific to this area. We also reuse anything that can be used in other circumstances: broken tree branches for burning when we don't have gas; leftover teaching materials, pieces of old carp; plastic bags.

We are grateful for all that we learn every day from our neighbors: that you can live and be happy with little!

Have a look around you and see what around you can be reused, recycled or given to those who are in greater need.

Lavinia Șerban CJ Cuba

Day 6: Advocacy for Mother Earth

Genesis 1:31 'And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good ...'. After working on creation and putting all the creatures where they would live whether in water, air or on the land; God was happy with how it had come out. Human beings were the last to be made, with a duty to take care of the Earth.

Unfortunately, right from the time of Adam and Eve, humanity became selfish and started preying on the Earth making it very difficult for Mother Earth, our Common Home to thrive.

The effect of this is an earth that is suffocated under pollution, mining, deforestation etc alongside the accompanying effects of climate change. We are already feeling the impact of global warming, loss of biodiversity, threat to life and livelihoods.

It is urgent that humanity takes advocacy for Mother Earth more seriously and proactively lobby legislators to come up with policies for mitigating against the effects of climate change and demand for climate justice. However, the advocacy has to start with us. Following the See, Judge and Act methodology we need to ask ourselves: where does Mother Earth need help around me/us: is it cleaning the water bodies, planting trees and caring for them? Once the needs are clear and specific, then we discern how this can be done at individual level, with communities, mission and the local community around us. Only then can we respond more deliberately to the Cry of the Poor and to the Cry of the Earth.

What can you do in your life, with your community to ensure that we have a welcoming planet for future generations?

**Adina Bălan CJ
and Pauline Macharia IBVM
Mary Ward JPIC Rome**



Day 7: Call to engagement with LS

Laudato Si' the second encyclical of Pope Francis on 'Care of our Common Home' calls all the people of the world to take swift and unified global actions. Loreto South Asian province consciously participate in shouldering the responsibilities of being an integral part of teaching social justice and in keeping with the goals of Laudato Si'. As a wake-up call to help humanity, we as an institution, have taken small steps by taking up four goals in keeping with the local issues namely: Gender Equality; Water Conservation; Eradicating Child Labour; Green Campus.

In order to accomplish our goals, we, through actions like planting, installing solar panels, awareness programs, medical camps etc., are working with the students, teachers, parents and community sisters and we are practicing new ways of living out our goals.

Our national team, under the guidance of Sr Prabina, UN JPIC representative, the National and Zonal Coordinators, are working hand in hand with the school JPIC Animators and stakeholders in achieving our goals.

Our animators are connecting and collaborating with their local NGO's and organizations in order to motivate, embrace, and inform all of our transformative vision.

We, along with students and parents, are working on strategies for a solution demand and an integrated approach so that more and more lives can be touched.

We recognize and encourage the tireless efforts of each and every member, right from our Provincial team members to our students, who are working towards designing a community whose actions care for God's creation. We pray and are hopeful that our endeavors will bear fruitful results.

Are our efforts good enough to enable us to move forward towards sustaining our environment for future generations?

**Ms. Georgina Menon, Zonal Coordinator,
West Zone JPIC South Asia, IBVM**

Day 8: Journeying together

Celebrating Laudato Si' Week as Mary Ward Family is both a blessing and reminder of our responsibility towards the earth as individuals and collectively as a body. This year, we have been phenomenally enriched by the reflections of some members of the family, and we are truly grateful. There is something unique in sharing in the experience of another; it is both encouraging and challenging. And it is our hope that their sharing has confirmed us in living Laudato Si' as well as challenging us to remain committed in/to our 7-year journey. May we find ways as individuals, as communities and in our ministries to implement the Laudato Si' Action Plan. We are in this journey together and it will be interesting to see the great impact we will have on society and mother earth in 7 years. During these days when Pope Francis has invited us to conversations on Synodality, we strengthen our resolve to encounter each other in *communion*, *participation* and *mission* in a world that is hurting from many/a greatly reduced biodiversity, climate crisis, pollution, war, etc. May we continue to hear the Cry of the Poor and the Cry of the Earth and in so doing, heed the invitation and do our part. Herein is the heart of JPIC! May the Lord bless our plans and activities.

How have I engaged with Mary Ward Family Living Laudato Si' 7-year Plan? What more do I feel invited to be and do?

Pauline Macharia IBVM



Final prayer

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

*Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.*

*Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.*

O God of the poor,

*help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so
precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.*

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united

with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

*Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.*

Pope Francis

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