



## Newsletter – July 2022

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### Are We Stewards of God's Creation?

Did the development from agriculture to steam engine and industrialization to computerization and digitalization help to improve the life of mankind in our current reality? Now, the world realizes that the price that we must pay for the growth and development thus far is probably far more than one can either imagine or bear.

Last year, in June our CFSM members went for a walk along the railway green corridor with our family members during the school holidays. SFA group also went to Kent Ridge Park and Horticultural Park for a morning walk. Apart, from it there were several individual walks to Clementi Woods, Pierce Reservoir, to St. John Island and to Sentosa.

This experience with Nature creates a human bond within us and nature as we get closer to nature in harmony. When we breathe in the natural air, see the natural beauty, smell and touch these experiences create a lovely relationship between nature and us.

God created the Earth, the Sea, the Sky, Atmosphere, Plants, Animals and Man in a symbiotic inter-relationship. God created the World so that Man can subdue the natural resources for the good of Man. The invention of steam engine, industrial development and infrastructure development had gradually altered the natural environment. This in itself is not bad at all. We can see the many advantages of Modernization. However, Industrialists, Technocrats, and the Capitalists wanting to have more and more profits because of Greed eventually are destroying a large part of the nature and the environment without looking into the consequences for the future generations.

For example, in some places Man had flattened more land, hills, and even redirected the original drainage flow. This causes complete damage to the whole natural eco-life along the original drainage flow till the river mouth. Just imagine the damage done to the natural vegetation, the fish, insects which would all vanish because of this unnecessary development. Likewise, during a heavy down fall, floods and landslides are common sights such as in Brazil and Indonesia. Globalization and the rapid development must be balanced with Conservation of Nature and Restoration of Nature for the future generations to live in peace and joy.

Individuals, Government Agencies and Non-Government Organizations must take up the social responsibilities to be in solidarity for a sustainable natural environment throughout the whole universe for human development. And it must be tune with Nature for Harmony.

While we live on a loan in this world, we need to share with each other our basic food, fresh air, water for human and spiritual development **and** to build the Kingdom of God. If development is only towards structural and physical development and not towards sustainable development in

harmony with nature, then it may lead to a destruction of the environment in the years ahead because of Greed.

A few examples of destruction in our society are as follows. The haze from Indonesia engulfed Singapore and Malaysia. It was harmful to our respiratory system and our general health. Next, the oil spill by BP in the Gulf of Mexico that caused unimaginable harm along the Gulf of Mexico in five states and this also affected the living creatures along the coast, seabed and the shoreline. Lastly, the global warming, water pollution and the numerous satellites and debris deposited in the outer sphere of the earth are scandalous.

Recently, the floods that hit across Asia in India, Bangladesh and in China are a great concern as the climate changes take a toll on the Asian continent. It has displaced thousands of families and had destroyed large scale agricultural farmland and homes on the low-lying areas. It is causing shortages of food and clean drinking water in these regions. Hundreds of thousands of people are left homeless.

Also recently, “wildfires in Spain have destroyed thousands of acres of land and forced hundreds of residents to flee their homes amid a punishing heat wave across Europe. Some of the fires continue to burn, with firefighters working to extinguish the flames that have ravaged more than 74,000 acres.” (The Washington Post, 20 June 2022).

Article by Francis Mane (Edited).

### **Our Situation:**

- a. Who should be the responsible stewards of Nature and why?
- b. What is/are the one or two things that resonate within me? Share your views on such realities.
- c. What would be the impact and consequences if the above continues?

### **Our Personal Reflection**

- a. What did I discovered and learn from the above experience with nature?
- b. How do I feel above the above realities?

### **Christian Reflection**

- a. If Christ is present among us what would be his good news message for all of us with regards to the above situation?
- b. What does the Teaching of the Church, the Bible, the Gospel, the Catechism of the Church, the Encyclicals tell us about being stewards of nature?

### **Our Response and Action**

- a. How can we be good stewards of God’s creation?
- b. What can I do as an individual, as a family, as a CFSM base group and as a movement?
- c. What can we do for the Parish and Society?