

Talk on Laudato Si

Readers, I am sure you are familiar with Laudato Si. It means "Praise Be To You". It is the 2015 papal encyclical by our late Pope Francis. It is drawn from the teachings of St Francis of Assisi on the care for our environment, our earth and what Pope Francis calls our "common home".

Recently, Christian Family and Social Movement (CFSM) with the aim of reaching out to youth and young couples arranged a talk on the above on 14 March 2026 and 21 March 2026. Overall, we had about 25 participants with some students and young adults attending the event.

The talk was given by Father Glenn De Cruz, Csr. On 14 March, he spoke about our Ecological God, emphasizing the role of businesses, consumers like us, and government policies in protecting Nature. There is a tension between economic survival and the preservation of our Common Home. Our world and the ecological systems of Man and Nature are interconnected. Father Glenn also highlighted the ethical issues and the need to stop this self-destruction.

On 21 March, Father spoke about the Integral Ecology – the preservation of Nature is for the common good. We save the earth to benefit all of us not just a country or sector of the population. This is not optional. We have to do it and quickly. Rich countries have more resources to help. Thus, we need dialogue on these issues between the rich and the poor countries. We must have accurate decisions on these issues and dialogues must produce fair and honest decisions. Father reminded that our Earth is our only home and we do not have a planet B. We can all do small things- we can plant the seed, a new lifestyle. It is all for God and not us.

We had groups sharing some questions during both sessions tossing ideas and suggestions to one another. Both sessions were enriching and fulfilling giving the kick to do something to save our planet.

In the talks, for example, a reflection question was posed as follows:

Laudato Si warns against the "Consumerist culture"..... and today's self-centred culture of instant gratification. In my daily life, is there one area (or two) that is an example of consumerist tendency/instant gratification?

What do I want to do about it?

In one sharing, some participants highlighted examples such as tendency to buy clothes even when it is not needed especially during festive occasions and the ordering of too much food in restaurants.

A participant said he only buys clothes when necessary and said that the shirt that he was wearing for the session was purchased about 20 years ago. Some emphasized the need to sort out the waste when we want to dispose it and the need to pick up the habit of recycling waste. Some bring their own forks and spoons from their homes when they have their lunches in their offices.