



Newsletter – August 2021

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CFSM – Nature Walk on June 19th, 2021

‘Showers of blessing.... to cool the path of our walk’ aptly cited by the President of CFSM, Luke, as families, friends and loved ones gathered at the starting point in preparation for the CFSM nature walk on Saturday, 19 June 2021. While the rain had threatened to dampen the event in the wee hours of the morning, our collective prayers seemed to be answered as the skies cleared, awakening the morning sun, and bringing on the gentle breeze and crisp morning air that surrounded the CFSM families and friends as they gathered for the walk in the beautiful surroundings through the stretch of the Rail Corridor.



After a short prayer, the participants started the walk from the old Bukit Timah Railway Station in small groups (*to adhere to safe distancing measures*) heading towards the end point at Railway Mall, approximately 4km away. The trail not only provided the members a good chance to observe the

biodiversity and greenery but for some also a nostalgic journey back into the past recollecting the trips along the former Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) railway line that once connected Singapore and Malaysia.

Even though the groups were separated along the trail, the members managed to engage in the sharing of their experiences through a Whatsapp group chat that was set up for the event.



Abundant photos and exciting comments of the natural beauty that surrounded the participants were exchanged allowing the members to share in a unique journey filled with lush greenery, vibrant colours of flowers, industrious insects, the freshwater stream and not forgetting the great Flame of the Forest. Ultimately the most likes and favourite share in the group chat were the fond Durian trees that were captured by many as it served as a backdrop in several Wefies.



Another favourite of the morning was the quiz put together by the organizing committee. Members were given clues and asked to look for answers along the trail. There was active participation and with all members filling up the correct answers, it was left to a lucky draw to determine the winner. Congratulations to Andy Wee and family on being the lucky winners!!



The wining family!!

Albeit, the strict compliance to the safe distance measures was observed during the event, the Nature walk was a huge success. After the many months of the pandemic and restrictive movements imposed, the walk provided a good opportunity to get out in the open, breathe the

fresh air and provide a sense of togetherness for the CFSM family that was so long missed. In total 52 members turned out for the event, which was the biggest gathering for the CFSM group since the pandemic began.

Being close to nature helped to rekindle the importance of nature as our life-support system; from the fresh air we breathe to the clean water we drink nature provides the essentials we all rely on for our survival and well-being.

The beauty of God's creation in Nature seen throughout the trail was a gentle reminder on God's immeasurable love, care, and concern for us, as we are recall in Matthew 6:26

26 Look at the birds of the air: They do not sow or reap or gather into barns— and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

As one CFSM member accurately summarized reflecting upon the natural beauty that surrounded us;

“It is a good reflection of the Family and Creation: The crown of God's creation is a new creature, a creature that can sound the heartbeat of its Creator. That creature, made male and female, reflects God's own relational richness. The human family is to join God in the ongoing work of creation. The earth below and the sky above with all their inhabitants are too beautiful and too good to be left alone. They need the tender care and close attention that only God's favored creature can give.” Contributed by Wai Chong

As the CFSM family we are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's Creation. As human beings we are not only the beneficiaries but also the stewards of Creation.

A big thank to the team organizing the event, it was an enjoyable day that was much needed for a change of surroundings and a chance to get out of the house and appreciate what God has always provided.

Reflection/Judge

1. What does Pope Francis say (give some examples) in his recent Encyclical “Laudato Si” on the respect, care and protection that we must give to our “common home”?

2. "The human family is to join God in the ongoing work of creation." What does it mean?
3. Does our Lord Jesus say anything about our "common home" in the Gospels? If so, what are they?
4. What can we learn from our Catholic Social Teachings about Nature/Creation?
5. Reflect on what the Saints have said about Nature/Creation.

Act

1. As individuals, how do we participate in the recycling of waste?
2. How can we, as individuals and families, encourage our community to appreciate Nature?
3. How can we, as a Movement, enable faith formation in the family so as to join God in the ongoing work in creation? In some bible passages we are to be stewards and "till" the land. What can we do?
4. As a Movement, are we ready to assist other organizations to save our Environment?

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