



# Newsletter – October 2019

CFSM Singapore  
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Website: <http://www.cfsm.org.sg>

## Saving God's Creation

In the first chapter of Genesis the whole universe is created gradually during a seven day period. The Sun, Atmosphere, Ocean, Earth, Fishes, Plants and the Trees were created for the good and responsible usage of mankind. 'Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it'. God by Himself created a perfect universe for us mankind. He provided all that we needed to sustain our lives in His creation. Even, the day, light, night, weather conditions and the different season conditions are balanced for the livelihood of human life on this Earth.

However, we can now observe that many species of plants and animals are facing extinction due to global warming and climate change. Water and air pollution have increased tremendously. Many countries are facing unpredictable weather, loss of biodiversity, deforestation and serious shortage of water. Our food supply is also facing serious threats. There is a dire need to save the earth's resources given freely to us by our Creator. As individuals, as institutions and as a society, we need a change of heart to preserve and protect the planet for our children and for generations yet unborn. (Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection and Action on Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching, 1991)

**Case One:** During an evaluation in 2015 after the CFSM/WMCW regional meeting held in Singapore at the Church of St. Teresa, the participants remarkably made some feedback on the way Singaporeans liberally used plastic sheets, plastic stirrers, styrofoam plates and cups. They questioned us where is our spirit of ethics to save the world for the future generations. It was and is a challenge for all our CFSM members and leaders.

**Case Two:** In many of our offices air conditioners temperatures are pre-set at 25 degrees to save cost on the electrical bills and to keep the environment less polluted by the emission of warm air. However, many of us would certainly lower the temperature to between 20 or 22 degrees without realising the consequences for our future generation.

**Case Three:** During an immersion programme visit to Brazil and India in 2000, some of our members observed that our counterparts in these two countries had very good habits to save the environment. They don't waste any food as each family estimates and cooks the right portion each day or else they have to consume it on the next day morning for breakfast. Even, at the fast food restaurants, their habit is to return the trays after eating. Next, when discarding the used plastic straws, spoons and paper plates, these had to be segregated into different rubbish bins provided. In their pre-primary, primary and secondary school education there is so much of emphasis on nature or agriculture and so they naturally become responsible for the environment from young. So, the awareness created from young gets immersed into their hearts and minds, resulting in natural and automatic actions to save the Earth.

## Seeing Our Reality

- a. Is the above reality happening in Singapore? Share your own personal encounters and experience?
- b. What would be the possible consequences if the destruction and pollution continue?

## Christian Reflection

- a. The message of Pope Francis can be seen in the following extract:

“13. The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us: he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.”

(Laudato Si)

What is your understanding of the above message from our Pope?

- b. What do the Gospels tell about our duty to care for God’s Creation?

## Our Action/ Response

- a. What can I/we do as an individual person to save the environment and the universe?
- b. How can we create awareness in our families to save the universe from further destruction?
- c. What can I/we do in our Parish / the Church community?
- d. As CFSM movement, what can we do?



### CFSM Formation Session

Date: Saturday 2 November 2019  
Venue: St Cornelius Room, CTIS, St Francis Xavier  
Major Seminary (beside Church of St Joseph (Upper Bukit Timah Road))  
Time: 2pm to 5pm.  
Speaker: Father Bruno (SD of CFSM Singapore)  
Theme: Gn 1-3. Do I use the person I encounter as a slave or do I welcome the gift of the other person?



#### Website

The CFSM website has been revamped. Members are welcome to contribute ideas and write ups for the website. The URL remains as <http://www.cfsm.org.sg>

#### CFSM Extension

The CFSM Exco in partnership with the Catechetical Ministry of Christ the King Church has been conducting outreach to parents of Catechism classes level 2-6 at the parish from August to October 2019. The aim is to create an awareness of the CFSM and share with parents the ROL method.