

SEASON OF CREATION

THEME:

“ALL CREATION IS INTERCONNECTED”



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Presented by
Sr. Therese Marie Wojia
Sr. Annette Bikongnyuy
Barah Alfred Kiven

WITH FOCUS ON POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL

“LAUDATO SI”



***“Our Relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God”
(LS119)***

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THEME: “ALL CREATION IS INTERCONNECTED”

INTRODUCTION

Creation is at the verge of collapsing, it groans and cries for mercy, for affection and love, for understanding, it seeks consolation.

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* confirms our interconnectedness in the following words “Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God” (119). We all suffer ecological crisis as a result of sin which comes from human activities. We sin because we fail or refuse to accept our interdependence.

St. Francis of Assisi in the midst of his own personal suffering, composed a hymn about creation that we constantly make use of in our daily life and on which we are dependent on our own existence, and which we so often abuse. He addresses all of creation in terms of brothers and sisters, thus acknowledging that we have the same God as our creator who created everything good and for a good purpose.

In communion with the Patriarch of Constantinople, the Orthodox Church, the World Council of Churches and Christians from all over the world, Pope Francis in 2015, lamenting the rate at which the natural world is misused as a result of human activities, ratified and announced that the Catholic Church would also mark September 1st as the World Day of Prayer for the care of our Common Home which is celebrated till the 4th of October, every year.

Today as never before, the whole creation groans in pain and waits eagerly for their freedom from slavery and decay (Rom.8:19ff). For any real reconciliation to take place with each other, God and with all of creation there is no doubt that the human heart needs inner healing. This calls for a common endeavor. We must all put hands on deck to redeem the distorted image of creation.

LUNCHING OF THE SEASON OF CREATION IN KUMBO DIOCESE BY TERTIARY SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS CAMEROON PROVINCE

The season of creation was lunched on the 1st of September 2018 as seen in the plan of activities below;

SN	DATE	GROUP TO MEET	SPEAKER
1	01-09-2018	Sister Shisong Convent	Sr. Annette Tangwa
2	02-09-2018	Christians Parish Church Shisong	Sr. Annette Tangwa Mr. Barah Alfred K.
3	09-09-2018	Youths Shisong Parish	Sr. Annette Tangwa Sr. Therese Marie W. Mr. Barah Alfred K.
4	23-09-2018	Christians Cathedral Parish Kumbo	Sr. Annette Tangwa

During the lunching, the presenters created an awareness of the importance of interconnectedness with all of creation. They called on all to listen to the beautiful melody from creation that enhances and ennobles our wellbeing and encouraged all to be ambassadors in restoring the groaning creation.

This was accompanied by a nature work by the sisters and their companions to the woods. The experiences shared by participants were touching, revealing and reawakening.

The presentations were projected and posters made available. This attracted the attention of the participants and a keen interest in befriending and restoring our Common Home to its original state developed. Details of this will be seen in reactions and resolutions below.

A: SHISONG CONVENT



Praise and bless the Lord all you creation/and serve him with humble hearts all of your life

B: PARISH CHURCH SHISONG



Sr. Annette addressing the Christian Community at the luncheon of the Season of Creation - Shisong Parish Church, 2nd September 2018



C: YOUTHS SHISONG PARISH



**Youths in Active Participation and Attentive Listening to Presenters
Srs. Therese Marie & Annette Tangwa**





Sr. Annette Tangwa addressing Young People



Young People and the Presenter pose for a picture after the day's activities

D: CATHEDRAL PARISH KUMBO



Sr. Annette Bikongnyuy with Christians at the Kumbo Cathedral creating awareness on environmental responsibility



Display of posters on negative effects of human activity on creation



Franciscan Sisters, Novices and some Christians assisting at the presentation



Closure of the presentation on the environmental responsibility

**PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES ALREADY CARRYOUT BY YOUNG
PEOPLE ON CREATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Heeding to **Laudato Si***





The local community has already taken a practical step in implementing Pope Francis' invitation for Ecological Conversion which "calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness" (LS220)





Reminding Young People that “caring for creation is a Vocation, part of their daily life and not an optional or secondary aspect of their Christian experience” (cf LS217)



Sr. Annette encouraging Young People to recover their connection by educating them to Plant Trees

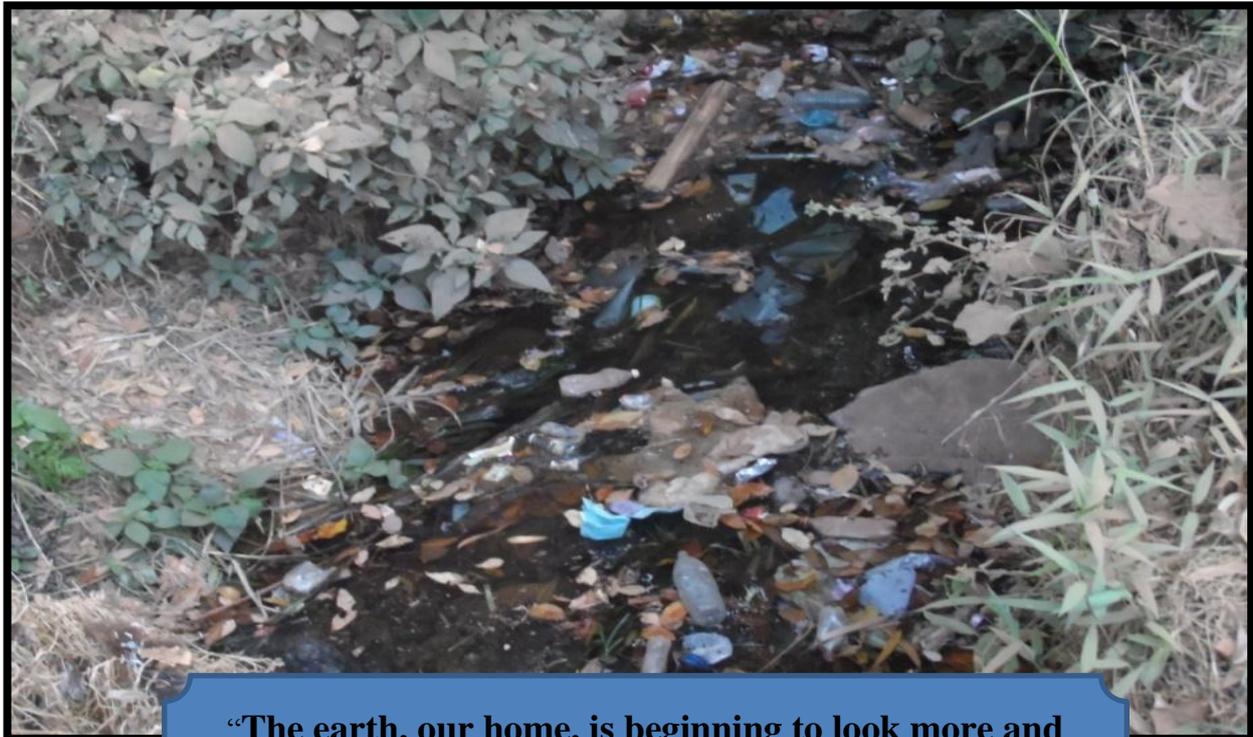


Sensitizing the local community through practical steps



The direction of Pope Francis calling on all to cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents (Cf. LS14), is being implemented by the young people of Shisong.

AREAS THAT NEED URGENT ATTENTION EARMARKED BY PARTICIPANTS DURING PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOP



“The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth” (LS66)



Based on LS66, the participants lamented that the large amount of rubbish that has been thrown into streams or leave lying on the streets creates its own health hazards and shows our lack of basic respect to the environment in which we live. We end up polluting our own water and make it unhealthy for those who wish to use it as we do with the rubbish that we have added into it. They therefore resolved to place rubbish and plastics in designated places.



Effect of Climate Change as a result of deforestation



They also highlighted the fact that burning bushes and the dry wood may be the easy way out for the farmers who wish to utilize the earth, but that there is a cost to the environment. The air is polluted by the smoke, and it becomes detrimental to human health, and on many occasions the fires get out of control and can cause widespread destruction to the nature around us. They therefore agreed to sensitize the society on the need to preserve the natural world as God created it. The consequences are enormous for as the Pope ascertained, “... within the space of a few years countless species are lost and the areas frequently become arid wastelands” (LS 38)



In the words of Pope Francis, “If we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters” (*LS11*), the participants resolved to replace consumption with sacrifice

They also realized that the planting of Eucalyptus trees, which had become a way of life for them, although providing the much needed income for many, at the same time takes away the water from the very people who need it most, as each of those trees takes up 80L of water every day. Thus, they unanimously agreed to replace Eucalyptus trees with natural environmental friendly trees.

The participants ascertained that the natural balance within our soil is disrupted by the many chemicals they themselves use in the name of cultivating it, or making it produce more crops. The long-term consequences of this actually have a negative effect on the productivity of our land and importantly on human health. Hence, they resolved to start practicing the old method of shifting cultivation, use of organic manure like compost and animals droppings.

CONCLUSION

From the foregone, the participants explored land and resources with human impact on land with diverse consequences. They examined human strategies to be stewards of the environment. This stewardship entails duties to abstain from damaging natural environment.

Prudence does not mean failing to accept responsibility and postponing decisions. It means being committed to making joint decisions and pondering responsibly to the road to be taken, decisions aimed at strengthening that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying.

The seminars and workshops went successfully as participants left determined and full of enthusiasm to take the bull by the horn in sensitizing and creating awareness in their various neighbourhoods. They resolved to be true ambassadors and role models for others in planting trees, caring, protecting, preserving them and redeeming our common home.