



ECO-NEWS SSCM

General Administration, 2029, Holy Cross, Montréal (Québec) Canada H4E 2A4

Summer 2024

Number 4



Summary

**Gardening and
Barbecue.....2**

**Laudato Si' Week
at the Sainte Thérèse
de Montgeron
School.....3**

**A Story About Our Love
for the Planet.....5**

**Living *Laudato Si'* Week
20245**

**Healing
Workshops.....6**

Editorial

Simple Gestures that inspire Hope!

"**Hope and Act with Creation**" is Pope Francis' invitation to us on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for the Safeguarding of Creation, September 1, 2024. Beyond the storms that shake our world, we are invited to keep our eyes fixed on Christ, conqueror of evil.

Our faith is expressed in simple everyday gestures, revealing the presence of the Spirit of love that dwells within us and moves us to action to beautify Creation. Bending down to the level of the child and inviting him or her to use his or her creative power, sharing the joy of coming together, welcoming others, committing to a common project, opening up spaces for listening, rediscovering benevolence, taking care of the fragile members of our people - these are all luminous stars that give birth to hope. Yes, "*men and women are still capable of intervening positively. For all our limitations, gestures of generosity, solidarity and care cannot but well up within us, since we were made for love.*" LS 58.

We say **THANK YOU** to all those who are committed to sowing hope.

Sr. Paule-Marie Ndjom, SSCM
General Secretary

Gardening and Barbecue



On the weekend of May 11, 2024, with the sun gracing us with its presence, we gather a few neighbors of our Residence, young and old, to prepare the vegetable garden.

Fortunately, a resident can turn the soil and prepare it for sowing. The compost carefully accumulated throughout the year will enrich the soil.



The children learn how to spade, clean, and enrich the soil with compost, and then sow the vegetable seeds of their choice.

After planting lettuce, the children, accompanied by Sister Ghislaine, are searching for pebbles to protect the young shoots.





Meanwhile, two other residents trim the hedge along the wall. The branches are carefully saved and will later be used to protect nature.

A Barbecue prepared by a parent of children from the building intensified relations between residents and welcomed new tenants.

A fine achievement, to be repeated!

Sr. Ghislaine ROY, SSCM

Laudato Si' Week at the Sainte Thérèse de Montgeron School



On the occasion of the Laudato Si' ecclesial week, which took place from May 19 to 26, the young pupils at Sainte-Thérèse school had the opportunity to discover the encyclical "Laudato Si'!" written by Pope Francis. On this occasion, they got to know Peter's current successor. They not only learned about the importance of safeguarding our common home, but also explored Pope Francis' commitment to environmental protection. To deepen their understanding, the children were introduced to ten key phrases from the encyclical, which they then materialized with drawings and slogans.

All have been affected by the abundant production and poor waste management.

The creative activities carried out enabled the students to appropriate the essential messages of "Laudato Si'" and express them in artistic and inspiring ways.

Here are some of the most expressive drawings.



Sr. Cobi-Angèle Bilo'o, SSCM
France

A Story About Our Love for the Planet

In our province, where the average age is 86,
We need to adapt our actions to our sisters' capacities.

We regularly inform ourselves about the *Laudato Si'* platform and the UISG's JPIC movement.
We pass on this information to our sisters, either by e-mail or through slide shows.

This year, we translated the UISG slide show on plastic pollution into French.
We have distributed it to all our communities to encourage our sisters to reduce their plastic intake and to better use and dispose of those we can't avoid.

We reduce waste by sorting, reusing, and recovering things we no longer use.

We also give a lot of space to ecological spirituality.

We prepare celebrations: for Creation Month, *Laudato Si'* week, and theme days for the Earth, Water, the Environment, Biodiversity, etc. We also prepare activities in which we take part. We also prepare activities in which our sisters can get involved:

- Ecological walks,
- Nature walks,
- Prayer time,
- Time to marvel,
- Celebration of Water, Earth, and Creation.

We send out messages, reflections, and invitations to commit to our common home, to leave future generations a livable planet.



The Environment and Social Justice Team by
Sr. Gisèle Pouliot, SSCM
Quebec

Living Laudato Si' Week 2024 with the Cameroon Chapter

As part of our *Laudato Si'* week, the Cameroon Chapter has put several activities on the agenda to be carried out during the week, including two masses to be offered at the beginning and end of the week, and as a flagship activity, awareness-raising at the Vita course in Yaoundé, a privileged sports venue for the country's decision-makers.

We've planned our activities to be able to carry them out as effectively as possible. We met at 8 a.m. at the gate of the Vita course, where we waited for certain members of the circle. When we were all ready, we first went to the sanctuary of Mont Febe to offer our action to the Lord through the Virgin Mary.

We took as our theme for the day: “**Catechesis on the promotion of integral ecology with children**”, reflected and shared on the theme, and concluded with the prayer of the day from the LSI week guide, a decade of the rosary and 30 minutes of adoration in the adoration chapel.



After this intense moment of prayer, we went back down to collect, or better still, clean up plastic bottles and plastics in the gullies and on the public highway around the Vita course, passing on a few messages to the



various athletes who were doing the same course as us. Our awareness-raising was greatly enhanced by the action we took in this

space, which was applauded by several expatriates and some Cameroonians. Some of them took the same action as us and encouraged us with words that they appreciated what we were doing.

It was a really good time spent together as a circle. On the site, there was a restaurant serving fruit juices and natural fruit, and we sat down to share the seasonal fruit at the end of our work. That was the end of our activity. We returned home happy to have made a gesture to safeguard our common home.

**Sr. Solange Lomessoas,
Sister Dominican of Blessed Imelda**

Healing Workshops



Pope Francis invites us to work from a Church that reaches out to existential peripheries and, with this premise in mind, since 2017, Sister Margarita Batalla, SSCM together with social psychologist María del Rosario Gamarra, have set up bereavement workshops for people going through this difficult journey due to the loss of loved ones.

The program, run in parishes in the town of Resistencia, in Argentina's Chaco region, is geared towards providing psychological and emotional support to different groups of people. The workshops last eight weeks, with a weekly two-hour meeting.

During the pandemic, given the impossibility of organizing face-to-face meetings, “conversations” were organized on social networks. Currently, in Presidencia de la Plaza, workshops are held every 45 days in the homes of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary.

These spaces are designed as places for active listening, where confidentiality, free expression, and understanding are essential elements. They use projective resources such as art therapy, photo language, and artistic expression. It's a silent path, where pain, anger, and anguish plunge people into states of permanent sadness until they reach pathological states. These encounters thus become healing workshops.



María del Rosario Gamarra
Argentina

WITH THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY, FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO OCTOBER 4, 2024



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