

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI' WEEK REPORT ON LAUDATO SI' WEBINAR

CELEBRATION OF BIODIVERSITY

WEBINAR-16th MAY,2020- Session 1

Middle School-Classes VI-VIII

First of all, I, Anisha Singh of class VIII-C of St. Agnes' Loreto Day School, Lucknow, would like to thank Ms. Devopriya Dutta and Sister Monica for holding the seminar and interacting with us through it. The seminar was very interesting and gave us the opportunity to learn about many issues regarding biodiversity. As a student who needs to learn about biodiversity, I found

it to be a very enriching experience for me. I will describe briefly the discussions that we had in the seminar.

The seminar was based on Laudato Si', the second encyclical of Pope Francis. The seminar was designed to provide and insight an understanding of biodiversity and review and discuss irresponsible development, environmental degradation and global warming. We were told by Ms. Devopriya Dutta that biodiversity is the amount of variety of life on earth. It is the number of different species of plants, animals and microorganisms. She told us that biodiversity provides ecological life support such as supply of oxygen, clean air and water. But these days biodiversity is in great threat due to mankind's behaviour. She stated that humanity must stop the pace of wildlife extinction or face extinction itself. Ms. Devopriya stated that biodiversity conservation refers to the protection and upliftment of biodiversity. Tarumitra is a Nation Wide Student Organisation which networks with over 2,000 schools and colleges. It discusses issues like climate change and global warming. We were told that Tarumitra works towards conserving biodiversity. She showed us a few slides regarding One of their projects which has been approved by the State Pollution Control Board of Bihar and mentioned that Dr. Ashok Ghosh, the chairman of the State Pollution Control Board of Bihar, came up with the concept of Eco-bricks, which meant that instead of using bricks we can use plastic bottles of the same size to build a house. She told us about meeting Pope Francis and described it as a blessed occasion. She met the Pope in 2018, in Rome for the third anniversary of Laudato Si'. Nature is continuously warning us of our deeds which are ultimately resulting in catastrophic consequences like the covid-19 pandemic that we are facing today.

Then we had an interactive session with Ms. Devopriya in which she told us to ask her a few questions regarding this topic. I asked her if it was true that the poor relied more on biodiversity than other people and she stated that it was indeed true as they live close to nature and the people living in rural areas understand nature's importance better than we do. We got further more knowledge about biodiversity from the session.

It was truly a wonderful and inspiring session. I felt highly obliged to be a part of today's seminar. This online discussion on biodiversity was extremely informative. I would also like to express my gratitude towards our Principal, Ms. Bunny and my teachers Ms. Benedict and Ms. S Srivastava for giving us this opportunity.

Anisha Singh

VIII-C

St. Agnes' Loreto Day School,
Lucknow.



Today's online discussion on biodiversity was really informative and an eye opening session. It made me understand that if we humans continue to be ignorant about serious issues such as deforestation, global warming and environmental degradation we will have to bear the consequences. We humans are so blinded by greed that we only care about ourselves and have forgotten that mother earth is our only home that we are destroying. This is the time when we really need to take action and conserve biodiversity to preserve humanity. Biodiversity conservation is vital for economic growth and poverty reduction. A majority of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend upon forests, water, wetlands, fields and pastures for their livelihoods. If we continue to follow this path there may even come a time when humans might go extinct.

Scientists estimate that 150-200 species of plant, insect, bird and mammal become extinct every 24 hours.

That's why we need to take preventive measures in order to conserve biodiversity.

I would like to thank Mrs. Bunny, Mrs. Srivastava and Mrs. Benedict for giving us the opportunity to attend this highly informative session. I got to learn a lot of things through this.

Tanvi Mishra

VIII B

St. Agnes' Loreto Day School, Lucknow.



I Kanika Arora of St. Agnes' Loreto Day School , Lucknow got an opportunity to attend an international seminar with Tarumitra and I would like to share my experience with all of you. It was held to celebrate the 5th anniversary of 'Laudato Si' week. Laudato Si means praise to be you is the second encyclical of Pope Francis. The encyclical has the subtitle "on care for our common home". In it, the pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action."

The topic of discussion was biodiversity. Ms. Divopriya Dutta was our host. Biodiversity is the variety of plants and animals living in the world or in a particular habitat. Our attention was drawn towards conserving the nature because one day of the other nature gives everything back to us in some way. We were even told to re-use discarded plastic.

Today's discussion made me learn a lot of things and even realise the importance of Mother Earth. In the present crisis of coronavirus that the entire world is facing, it is affecting the world in a good way since the rate of pollution has decreased by 50 per cent of the normal rate. As responsible citizens of the our country and of the world it is our duty to protect the environment before it gets too late.

For today's discussion i would sincerely thank Sister Monica and Ms. Divopriya Dutta for organizing such a enriching conference and Mrs. Bunny for allowing us to take part. I would also like to thank Mrs. Benedict and Mrs. Srivastava for guiding us.

Kanika Arora

VIII B

St. Agnes' Loreto Day School, Lucknow.



The seminar organized by Mary Ward Sisters and Tarumitra was remarkably full of information and inspiration. Miss Devopriya, our host, made all of us realize the importance of Biodiversity and unity. The words that struck me the most were that 'the whole world is a family'. Together, we need to take all the measures necessary to make sure that the earth is a better place to live for all living things and not just for humans. The word 'together' is the keyword here. Without the support of everyone we cannot even aspire to achieve anything. The earth is a haven for each living thing so we should not let our greed drive us and think about all the beings which our on this planet sharing our home. We may not be physically in connection with them but we are still the children of this world.

This world is not our toy. We have no right to dominate other lives. We should not tamper with the nature as we will have to pay the price for it sooner or later. Even now, man is being punished for his sins for tampering with the environment. This pandemic is a result of us trying to have control over nature. In a way this is a blessing in disguise to us as the geographical conditions are developing around the world.

Lastly, it is also upon us to decide if we want to go back to our old style of living and one by one push our own species to extinction or we want to stand up tall with everyone and see the wonders which were blind to the human eyes before.

Zubia Fatima

VIII C

St Agnes' Loreto Day School,

Lucknow.



WEBINAR-16th MAY, 2020- Session 2

Senior School-Classes IX to XII

Today's session on Laudato Si, with emphasis on biodiversity taught us many things. Even though, I couldn't join early enough to attend the whole session due to the numerical limit allowed by the application, I took away some of the best advice from it. I am grateful to Miss Dutta's immense knowledge of biodiversity and her approach to help us have a better understanding. She answered each of our questions in detail; sometimes even going out of her way to connect with us and make us understand the importance of biodiversity in the ecosystem.

The webinar taught us how each and every component of nature is important. From birds to fishes to tigers, the session helped us assimilate the importance of the roles played by each and every animal and plant in the ecosystem. It made me realise, that every single one of us has a part to play and a purpose.

In the end, the address by Sister Nirmala gave us hope. I would like to thank her for encouraging us to pursue our passion in these trying times.

The webinar was very informative and none of could have used our time in a better way. With the knowledge gained, the world can work better.

Ashlesha Pandey

XI - C

St. Agnes' Loreto Day School.



I would first like to express my gratitude to the Mary Ward Sisters, Tarumitra and especially Ms. Devopriya Dutta for giving us an opportunity to be part of this insightful webinar on “Celebration of Biodiversity” as a part of the Laudato Si week.

The session headed by Ms. Devopriya Dutta was very inspiring, knowledgeable and informative. It was an interactive session wherein we discussed the importance of biodiversity and how it affects us in our day to day lives and what steps can we, as individuals, take for the protection and conservation of our biodiversity. Ms. Dutta laid emphasis on individual work because for years scientists and activists have said that the Earth is in danger and that our animal and plant species are on the verge of extinction.

I had nothing but complete reverence for Ms. Dutta because of the knowledge she possessed about biodiversity and its importance. Her expertise and command made the webinar even more interesting and captivating.

Later, the floor was open for questions wherein students of different Loreto institutions across India asked questions and offered solutions for protection of biodiversity. Ms. Devopriya Dutta answered each and every question with immense calmness. She was thorough in her answers and often went out of her way to give us a better and deeper understanding of the topic at hand.

In the end, by her address, Sister Nirmala instilled a new ray of hope and faith in us. She assured us that everyone is in this together and that we’ll emerge out of this stronger than ever. Her comforting speech gave us a new shining light in these difficult times.

The webinar made me realise that the dream of making the world a better place was not impossible but one which required effort. When I left the webinar, I was more hopeful, elated and buoyant than I was previously.

Suhani Srivastava

XI-A

St. Agnes’ Loreto Day School



I would firstly like to thank the Mary Ward Sisters, Tarumitra and especially Ms. Devopriya Dutta for hosting and letting us be a part of very knowledgeable and insightful session on biodiversity as part of the Laudato Si week.

It was a most enlightening experience where I learnt a whole plethora of things ranging from the importance of biodiversity and how each of us is affected when some species goes extinct to vegetarianism to curbing singles use plastic to waste segregation. What I found most astute was Ms.Dutta's practical approach in answering our questions. She encouraged us to work hard to make a place for ourselves in the world, to be the change we wish to see and I will definitely bear that in mind.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank Sister Nirmala for instilling hope in us in these difficult times and reassuring us that we're all in this together and together we shall make it out.

Kashvi Agarwal

11-C

St. Agnes' Loreto Day School



WEBINAR-17th MAY, 2020- Session 3

I would like to express my gratitude towards the Mary Ward Sisters and Miss Devopriya Dutta, coordinator, Tarumitra, for conducting and letting us be a part of this informative and knowledgeable session on biodiversity as a part of the Laudato Si' week.

This webinar inspired us to come out of our comfort zones and view the world from a different perspective altogether. It taught us that all of us are in this together. Mother Earth is our common home, life on Earth is the end result of a big cooperative endeavour. We have one home, one mother and we are one family. Miss Dutta addressed us as 'cousins'. We are just a community on Earth, if Mother Earth does not discriminate between her children and protects them all, it is our duty to do the same. Miss Devopriya taught us about the food chain and also the fact that the Earth worms are the scavengers of the Earth. Tarumitra, the students' Forum for Environment strives to conserve as many trees as possible and do their own organic farming. Miss Dutta mentioned "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", the whole world is a family, emphasising the point that all of us are equally involved. Collaboration and cooperation will be needed to save the world.

The students who are a part of Tarumitra have represented Tarumitra at various international conferences, the United Nations and the Asian Pacific Conference. As I got to know about this, I knew that my dream to change the world and remove the evils from the world is not unrealistic and I can be one of them too. Miss Dutta inspired us to do the same.

The interactive session was held where we got to ask questions and express our views and suggestions. Miss Dutta answered all questions practically and thoroughly. Miss mentioned that the word impossible itself says 'I'm possible'. This made me realise that we can achieve all that we want to and make a change.

I would like to express my gratitude towards Sister Nirmala, who gave us hope and reassured us that we are in this together and we will come out of this together.

Mahi Tripathi

XI-A

St. Agnes' Loreto Day School

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