



HOLY CROSS OF DAVAO COLLEGE CHAPLAIN AND CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE

Tel. No. (082) 221 – 9071 loc. 154 & 144

Main Campus: Sta. Ana Avenue, Corner C. De Guzman,
Barangay 14-B, Davao City, Philippines
Other Campuses: Camudmud (IGaCOS) and Bajada (SOS Drive)

VIRTUE of the Month of FEBRUARY

Respect

I. What is Respect?

“**Respect**, also called **esteem**, is a positive feeling or action shown towards someone or something considered important, or held in high esteem or regard... it is also the process of honoring (others) by exhibiting care, concern, or consideration for their needs or feelings”

Respect is a household name but one is left to wonder if we have the same picture of what it means. What slights me may not offend you. Or what indulges me, you might find restraining. Respect means that you accept others for who they are, even when they're different from you or you don't agree with them. There is comfort in knowing that esteem does not have to come naturally that respect can be learned. However, one thing must be clear to us: we all have value, we all matter. Your thoughts, feelings and ways of being-yourself are just as important as how others think, feel, and be-as-persons.

Respect helps keep our relationship together. And this does not just mean our relationship with the Lord, with others and with ourselves. The ecological sensitivity brought about by ecological education, movements and spiritualities (such as St. Francis's) lead to an awareness that we cannot love God and forget about a bleeding earth. Respect for creation and connection with it are a reflection of our relationship with the Lord. The encounter with Jesus Christ changes the character of our communicating with the world. We must love God through, in, with and even because of this world. The way we treat the earth is reflected in the way that we pray to God. How I live in this planet and kneeling to pray are tantamount to the same thing.

II. Respect in the Light of Laudato Si

The encyclical compellingly challenges us to “ecological conversion”. The change *required* of us is no mean feat. But converted, we must be! “*Many things have to change, but it is “we human beings above all who need to change.” and to remember “our common origin,” “our mutual belonging,” and “a future to be shared with everyone.”* (#202).



In his homily at Mass on the solemnity of Pentecost in 2015, Pope Francis emphasized: “*Respect for creation... is a requirement of our faith: the 'garden' in which we live is not entrusted to us to be exploited, but rather to be cultivated and tended with respect. Yet this is possible only if Adam – the man formed from the earth – allows himself in turn to be renewed by the Holy Spirit, only if he allows himself to be re-formed by the Father on the model of Christ, the new Adam. In this way, renewed by the Spirit of God, we will indeed be able to experience the freedom of the sons and daughters, in harmony with all creation. In every creature we will be able to see reflected the glory of the Creator.*”

III. What the Scriptures say...

Romans 1:20

Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made

Leviticus 25:2

Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, let the land, too, keep a Sabbath for the LORD.

1Cor. 10:26

...for “the earth and its fullness are the Lord’s.



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IV. What Laudato Si suggests we can do:



“ Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity.” (#211)

V. Prayer

Lord, it sometimes happens That I do not respect nature.
I will break a plant, Cause damage for no good reason,
Empty the trash In the woods or by the side of the road.
Teach me To live in harmony with the earth.

It sometimes happens That I do not respect my neighbor.
I will make fun of him, And even reject him.
I will look at him and treat him with superiority.
Teach me To live in harmony with my neighbor.

And finally, it sometimes happens That I do not respect You.
I act like You did not exist,
You-- for my own personal interest.
Teach me To live in harmony with You. Amen.

Marguerite Bourgeoys
Foundress, Congregation De Notre-Dame (17th century)
Translated by Jules Beaulac

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