**Leader: The Holy Cross International Justice Office sent us prayers and reflections for the**

**Season of Creation**

**Cultivating a Culture of Care**

Oct 4, 2018 2pm – 3:30

Thank you for being with us today

**Introduction**

Pope Francis invited us to honor the/ **Season of Creation from Sept. 1 to October 4/, the feast of St. Francis today. *Slides: on Francis with quotes from Laudato Si***

 The **Justice and Environment Mission Group (US Sector of Sisters of Holy Cross, Manchester NH, contact person Denise Turcotte, csc)** is hosting this gathering which is a blend of education, sharing and prayer. We are also responding to our Chapter Orientation: “to commit ourselves to safeguard all life /which includes **the care of Earth our common home**.

**We begin with a song reminding us that Earth is Holy Ground** .

**Opening Song**: **Take off your Shoes** Jan Novotka 4 slides

***Refrain***

The Earth is the Burning Bush. The Earth is Holy Ground.

Take off your shoes,

for where you stand is Holy.

Circle of power, rings of fire,

echoes of Ancient Song.

Spirits of those who prayed long ago, are here. ***[R]***

Shadows and light caress thisplace.

Ferns dance with joy in the wind.

Circling above, hawk stirs my soul, with love. ***[R]***

Mountains so high and caves so deep;

hot springs and mounds of stone.

Healing and hope rise up from the soul of Earth. ***[R]***

 **Leader: Do you think that where we stand is Holy? Pause**

**This building and all that surrounds it.**

 **Our Green Space; the soil, the rocks, the grass, trees, flowers, the sunlight, the rain.**

**..... all is holy**

**Reading:** Chapter Four of Pope Francis’ encyclical, (slide) **Integral Ecology**, is an ecological study of relationships. When we speak of the environment we mean the kind of relationship that exists between nature and /ourselves, ourselves with one another, and the individual’s relationship with one’s self.#140 Each organism as a creature of God is good and admirable in itself. **# 140 All of God’s creation is interconnected with a deep sense of Love for everything that exists.” (202)**

**Leader: Let’s reflect on how ALL is interconnected. This slide represents the topics we will share upon this afternoon** of bees, hurricane, air pollutants, water and we remember the immigrant’s whom all this impacts. **WE pause for a moment of silence to remember them and their suffering.**

**READING**: Chapter 6 of Laudato Si', *Ecological Education and Spirituality*, slide Pope Francis directs people towards a **New Lifestyle**, a Transformation for the sake of Humanity. **A new way of thinking and a new way of acting so that we may better “Cultivate a Culture of Care”... the theme of the Season of Creation. What would be a transformative or new way of thinking that we are called to live that would contribute to a greater culture of care? Let us take a few moments to reflect upon this**

Denise We begin by spending time with pollinators

**Pollinators: who are the pollinators ( honeybees, wild bees, bumble bees, butterflies, moths) How do they care for us and how do they care for us?slide Wild bees** are the unsung heroes of pollinators. They vary in nesting habits and behaviors, from solitary to social They have lived In North America for thousands of years**.** There are 4,000 **species in North America** and an estimated **200 species in the Granite State. The honey bee slide is an introduced species**, brought to North America around 200 years ago by European settlers.

Few facts about decline of bees and butterflies

**Loss of habitat** land developed, reminder that slide“weed flowers” are beneficial..

**Climate change:** warm winters **cause plants to shift their schedules**. bees come out of hibernation, slide some flowers have already bloomed and died.

**Disease:** Pathogens carried by mites weaken bees, which makes them more susceptible to pesticide poisoning.

**Pesticides** are designed kill insects.slide **Neonicotinoids (Neonics**). do not require spraying,. coats the seed, remains in the plants tissue for several weeks. It **weakens the bee’s immune systems and impact their brain functions**.

**Actions taken:**

**Neonics** were banned in Italy. On April 27, 2018 The European Union expanded the ban on neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics), In US The first ban on sales of products containing the neonicotinoid class of pesticides began on January 1, 2018 in Maryland. Connecticut followed . California Vermont ,NY, New Jersey are in process...

**Reading: If** we want to bring about deep change .....*cultivate a culture of care* ..we need to realize that certain mindsets really do influence our behavior. Our effort at **education** will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and nature. Since everything is closely interrelated, today’s problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis. This is what Pope Francis invites us to deepen and to expand our way of thinking and being..**all is interconnected.**

**Reading**: We need to take ACTION: and we have done so. Fran will share this new way of thinking in planting within the Green Space. ..... **Pictures of green space**

**Fran: Green Space why we chose the plants we did: (perennials, attract pollinators, non hybrids, native species, etc)**

**Leader: let us now respond**

 **ALL:** On slide **Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all else who need to change**. *!* **Singing Bowl**

**Pauline** leads into her sharing: **brief info on Global Climate Change from various points**

**Eye of Hurricane slide: few details on the hurricane and a connection to global warming flooding photo: in south Carolina slide) Next slide : decimated homes in Lawrence MA : brief info on fracking slide fracturing process), slide fracturing plant Info on biomass as a source of energy and comparison of slide selective clearing; and clear cutting photo**

**The  slide CSC carbon footprint info emphasis on comparing car foot print 2017 and 2018**

**Lasts lides cows talk about methane gas from cows (the last one is kind of funny but makes a point)**

**Carbon Print: cars, fossil fuels fuels, methane and satellite**

* **Again we take action**
* **Action taken**: csc carbon footprint and offset projects

 **Pauline leads into the response:**

**Response: Slide**  **Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all else who need to change**. *All is interconnected!*

**Sally:**  We have listened to Denise, Fran and Pauline **P**ope Francis says that personal conversion is not sufficient without **communal conversion**. To what are we are we called? . What is stirring inside of us?. How do we then cultivate a culture of care for nature and for others?. Let us take a few moments of personal reflection.

**Singing Bowl**

 **Sally** In a spirit of Contemplative listening to our one self .... to one another?.

**What of this afternoon is evoking a response in you**?

**Silence**

We take a few moments to share if you wish!

**Leader: We take a amount to welcome all that has been shared , using the prayer Together we pray.**

 **Prayer** *adapted by Sally S from HCIJO Cultivating A Culture Of Care* . . **.**

**Ever Creating and Loving God, called to be co-creators through, with and in You, we pray,**

**May our hearts be open to your life within us;**

**May our eyes behold, with love, the lavish beauty of your creation;**

**May we ever bear witness to the sacredness of all life,**

**the embodiment of your presence within all that is;**

**Aware that “we human beings need to change course as we set out on this long path of renewal”**

 **may we grow in wisdom and authenticity, needed for true conversion;**

**May our hearts embrace with love and trust, those transformative actions**

**that will bring about a “culture of care” and communion with Earth and one another. Amen**

**Leader:** We remember that we are part of a much larger community

**Reading: “**Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. In this framework, along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a “culture of care” which permeates all society” (*para 231*

**Reading:** This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness. It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion par 220 Laudato Si

**Leader:** Let us end our time together we the song ***ONE***.

***ONE***

 *(Jan Novotka, Melodies of the Universe)*

*(humming . . . ) sally will prepare and lead simple movements*

**One, one with the Water,**

**One, one with the Fire,**

**One, one with the Earth**

**And one with the Air we breathe**.

***Leader:*** *Thank you for your presence and participation....we now celebrate by sharing fruit of Earth .... local apples dipped in maple syrup if you wish****.***