

Josephine's reflection on the garden

We ask "how do we care for the world" our common home in this age? Do we see it as a thing to be used and abused, or as something that is valued, cherished, preserved, and protected?

We can learn from the Native Americans – our world is loaned to us and must be cherished and preserved for posterity. How can we achieve this in our little patch?

Pope Francis in "Laudato Si" challenges us to change, to see creation with eyes of wonder and awe, to see the mystery and beauty hidden in created things, and to love and protect all. As the poet William Blake wrote: "to see the world in a grain of sand, and to see heaven in a wildflower, hold infinity in the palm of our hands and eternity in an hour."

This challenge and love of nature and the environment draws me out daily to the garden to see, admire and tend it for hours. The entire material universe speaks of God's love. God is very close in the garden. I walk in the world of the Divine all the time – bird song praising the Lord, flowers opening in magnificent splendour and beauty, all kinds of insects humming their praises to Him, a variety of butterflies showing His beauty and bounty. Such limitless multitudes, and yet only a little visible to my eyes. What is happening in the soil? All the invisible creatures down there – worms, microbes, bacteria etc. doing their work and praising the Almighty for his wonderful deeds.

I will continue gardening with His help, as long as I am able, and even when not able I can continue to contemplate and be grateful for His wonderful creation, and its survival in spite of the odds. I will encourage our staff, neighbours, friends, and relatives to grow, protect, and recycle. I will donate plants, seeds, pots, and information to anyone who shows any interest. I will continue to spread the Good News – the beauty of God's creation and its vast potential.

Sr Josephine Cagney