Closing Hymn:

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

Chorus:
Lord of all, to you we raise,
This our sacrifice of praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.

3. For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent child.
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild.

4. For your Church that evermore
Lift its holy hands above,
Off'ring up on ev'ry shore
A pure sacrifice of love.

5. For yourself, O Gift Divine!
To our world so freely giv'n;
For that love, from which will shine,
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n.

https://youtu.be/O89PW00IGUg?si=zeXHTY7qYmRC0p9Y

DISCERNMENT

(From Listening to Action)

Return to the larger group

Each small group briefly shares their **"We" perspective**, focusing on how they sense the Holy Spirit inviting them to respond.
Together as a BEC, identify **one simple "Move to Action"** to help the Word take root in daily life.
For example:

- Plan an ecological activity in your neighbourhood.
- As a BEC how can we work with the PIHD to assist the poor with a sustainable resource.

Intercessory Prayer

Facilitator invites all to voice short intentions, for example:

- *Lord, teach us to be faithful stewards of creation.*

Response: "Lord, hear our prayer." (R)

- *Lord, the cry of the earth is the cry of the poor. Help us to open our hearts to those who are suffering due to the exploitation of Mother Earth.(R)*

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, You taught us how to care for our common home and how to care for the poor. We thank you for the gift of creation. Guide us in our efforts to protect and restore the beauty of Mother Earth. Help us to be mindful of those who have cared for this land before us, and may we learn from their wisdom as we work together for a sustainable future. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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BECReflection

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship



MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE:

Ecology:

The Cry of the Earth is the Cry of the Poor

"All creation speaks to us of the greatness of its Creator, if only our eyes and hearts remain open to such a great mystery."

Pope Leo XIV

The environmental damage and social unfairness are interconnected. God hears the pain of both the Earth and the poor people. We must work to eradicate unfair systems, greedy lifestyles, and the abuse of both poor people and nature. We must play a greater role to protect nature and help the communities that suffer the most, from environmental neglect.

ENCOUNTERING

Opening Hymn

All the Ends of the Earth

Chorus:
All the ends of the earth,
all you creatures of the sea,
Lift up your eyes to the wonders of the Lord.
For the Lord of the earth,
the Master of the sea,
has come with justice for the world.

- Break into song at the deeds of the Lord,
  the wonders God has done in ev'ry age. ***(Chorus)***
- Heaven and earth shall rejoice in your might;
  ev'ry heart, ev'ry nation call you Lord. ***(Chorus)***
- The Lord has made salvation known,
  faithful to the promises of old.
  Let the ends of the earth, let the sea and all it holds make music before our God! ***(Chorus)***

https://youtu.be/vFwz155wZIw?si=JwH-aVKdB4cXKmIW

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach us to continue caring for creation, just as you entrusted it to humanity from the very beginning. Remind us, Father, to recognise our sacred duty and the cost of our neglect, for which the Earth is now paying the price. As we come together today, open our hearts, reminding us of our responsibility to heed the cry of the earth that results in the cry of the poor. We ask this in Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastoral Pathway

In the encyclical *Laudato Si'* published in 2015, Pope Francis highlighted the interconnection between the environment and the poor by saying that the suffering of the earth is also the suffering of the poor. Although the environmental crisis affects human life in various aspects, the poor are the most vulnerable. They must bear the prolonged negative impacts of climate change or environmental degradation while being the least responsible for the planet's destruction.

Members from all levels of the Church, such as the Pope, Bishops, Catholic schools, and individuals, put their efforts into creating an attitude of care for the poor and responsible stewardship for the environment. The Church also collaborates with representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations, and other religions to bring the voices of the poor and the most vulnerable to the decision makers on environmental policies.

People experiencing poverty face two serious issues that significantly relate to their health and life quality: the lack of food and safe water. The major causes of problems are unsustainable use and management of natural resources, dominantly in agricultural and industrial sectors. Responding to ecological crises, the Catholic Church places the environmental protection dimension within the Catholic teachings and recognises the environment as integral for the common good of humanity.

In the last decade, the Church has more actively participated in combating environmental degradation and promoting the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, which serve as a universal call.

Source: National Conference on Catechesis and Religious Education Conference Proceedings, Philippines

SCRIPTURE

Tobit 4:7

Do not turn your face away
from anyone who is poor,
and the face of God will not
be turned away from you.



DIALOGUING

(Conversation in the Spirit)

Form small groups of 4 to 6 persons. Observe one minute of silence between each round of sharing.

Round 1 – "I" Perspective

All are invited to share once only, for less than two minutes.
(No comments on others' sharing.)

• What is my attitude and response towards the cry of the earth and cry of the poor?

(Thank each person after sharing. Observe one minute of silence.)

Round 2 – "You and I" Perspective

Participants respond to something they heard from another.

After hearing others:
• What are my key takeaways from others?
(Observe one minute of silence.)

Round 3 – "We" Perspective

The facilitator invites the group to discern together.

• What is the Holy Spirit saying to our BEC about working together with other ministries to care for the earth and the poor?

(Thank each person after their sharing and observe 1 minute of silence before the next person continues)