



**Reflection of
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
British Province**

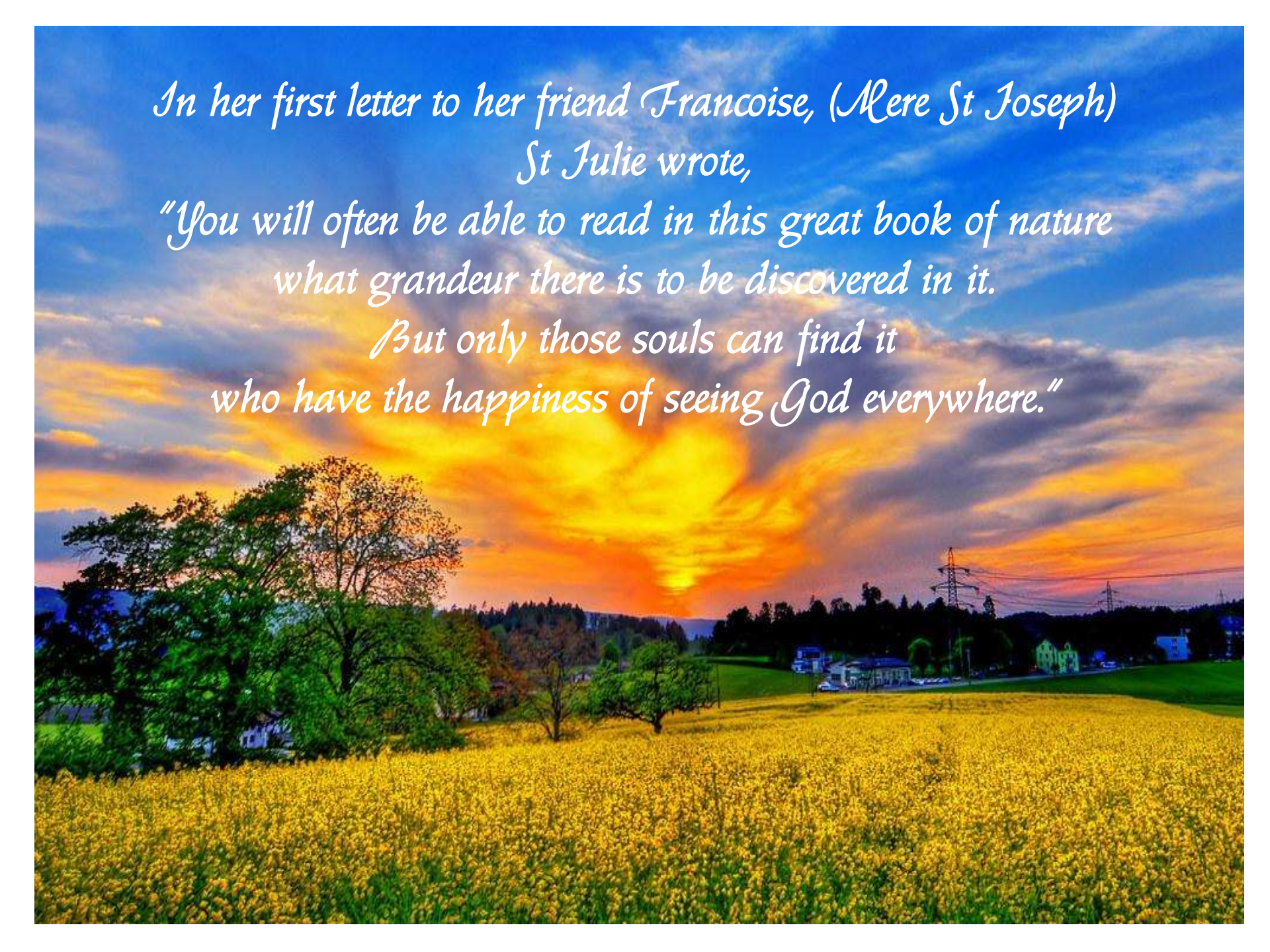
Laudato Si Action Platform

March 2022



*"How good God is!"
was the oft repeated phrase of
Julie Billiart, the foundress of the
Sisters of Notre Dame de
Namur and this in a time when
Jansenism and God as law
enforcer was a prevalent image.*





*In her first letter to her friend Françoise, (Mère St Joseph)
St Julie wrote,
"You will often be able to read in this great book of nature
what grandeur there is to be discovered in it.
But only those souls can find it
who have the happiness of seeing God everywhere."*



It is a great joy to respond to the invitation to mount the Laudato Si Action Platform and in so doing make a strong link with the General Chapter Calls which we have received through our 18th General Chapter.

We join with Pope Francis who invites us to join a 7 year journey as he says, "To widen the reach of his Encyclical, 'Laudato Si,'" written in 2015.

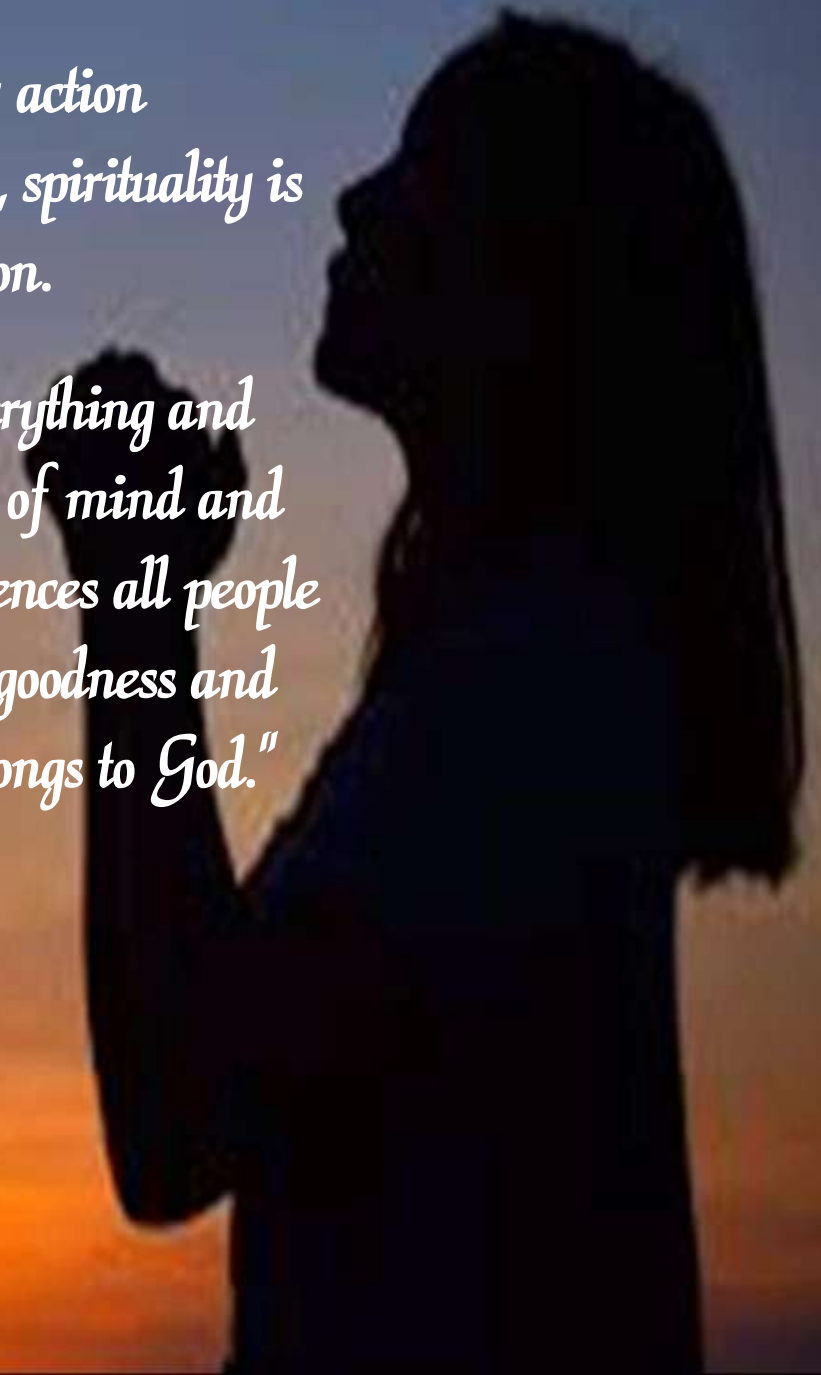
He speaks of this as a Kairos moment.

Our Chapter's closing message describes the meaning of this Kairos, in beautiful and inspiring language:-

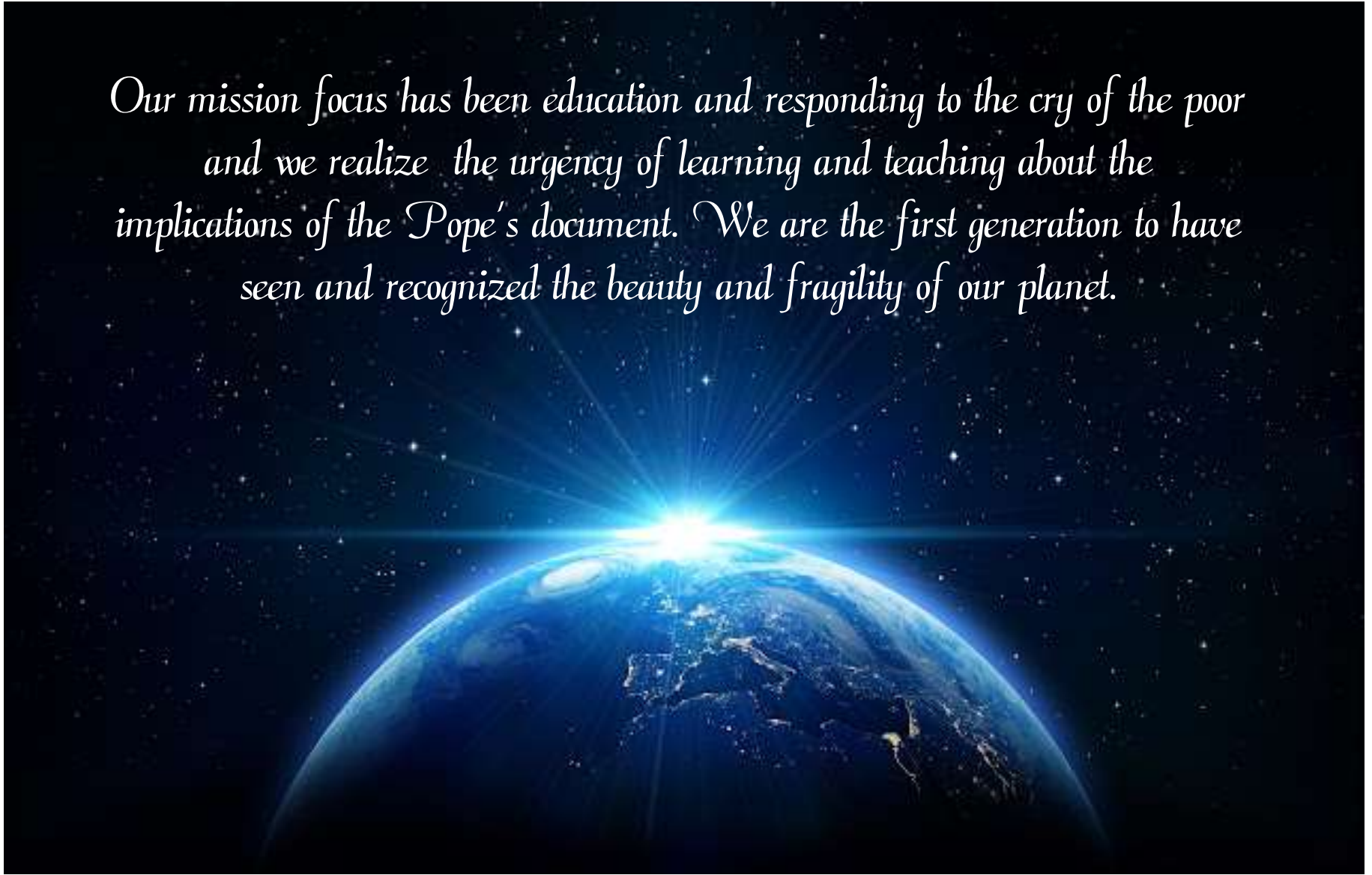
"Now is our moment, day, era, to be the place where God dwells in mystery to make Goodness known in the world".

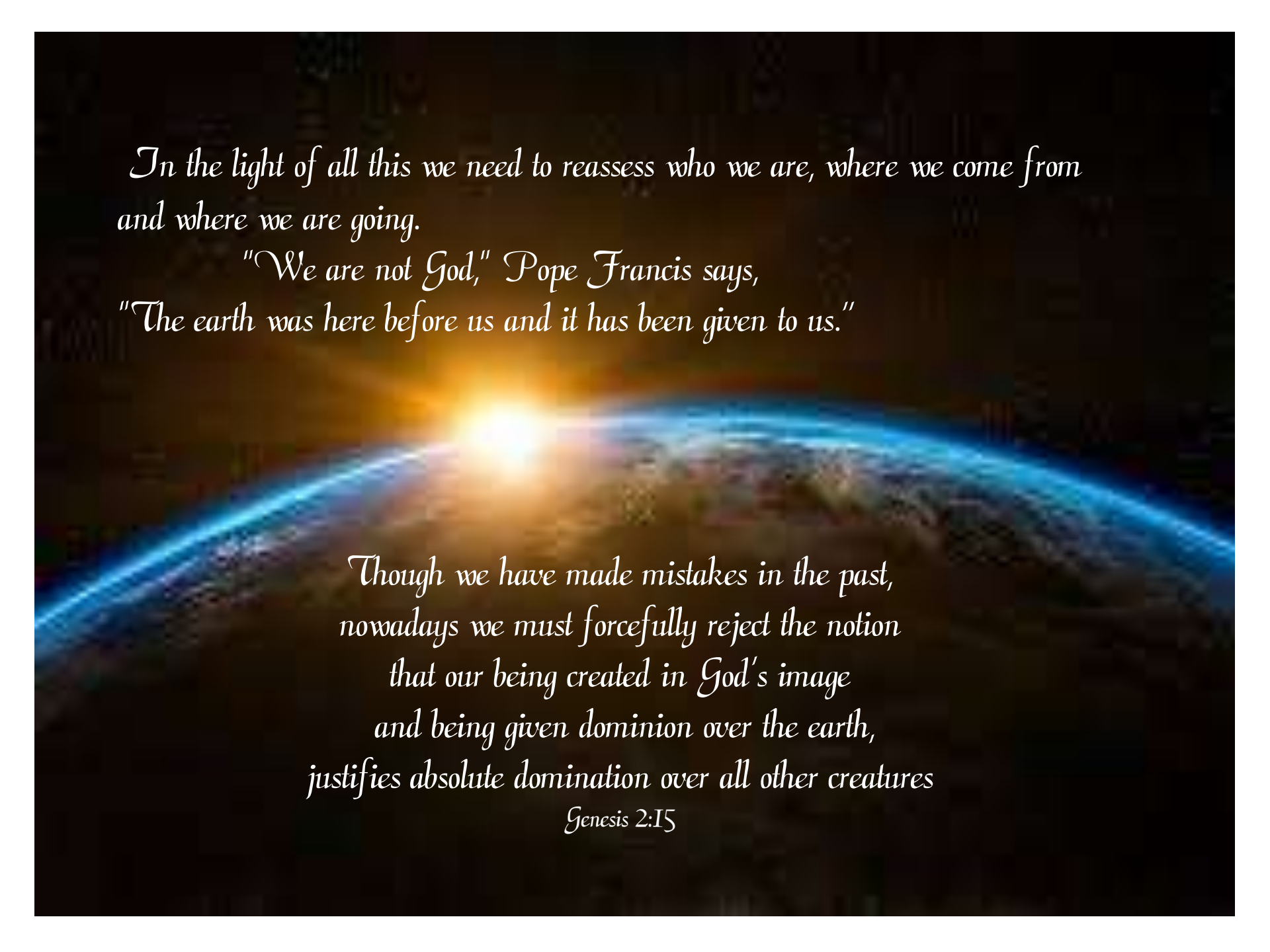
*"Whether we start with prayer or action
in caring for all life in our common home, spirituality is
a unifying force and foundation.*

*The spirituality which sees God in everything and
everything in God leads us to an attitude of mind and
purposeful action which respects and reverences all people
and all creation as expressions of God's goodness and
signs of God's loving care for all that belongs to God."*



Our mission focus has been education and responding to the cry of the poor and we realize the urgency of learning and teaching about the implications of the Pope's document. We are the first generation to have seen and recognized the beauty and fragility of our planet.





*In the light of all this we need to reassess who we are, where we come from
and where we are going.*

*"We are not God," Pope Francis says,
"The earth was here before us and it has been given to us."*

*Though we have made mistakes in the past,
nowadays we must forcefully reject the notion
that our being created in God's image
and being given dominion over the earth,
justifies absolute domination over all other creatures*

Genesis 2:15

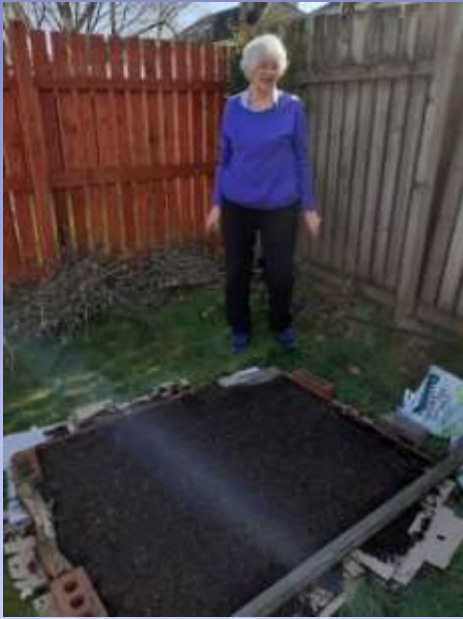
Laudato Si, therefore, should not end up as a mere bureaucratic tool to get us all recycling

but requires a whole new way of looking at/ understanding ourselves, our planet and the universe.





So loving the wonder and beauty of it all motivates us to do what we can to simplify our lives. And as our recent chapter states, "Sow new seeds of hope and unity," as we deepen our commitment and act with reverence for Gods creation.



"Perhaps we are all called to be "midwives" of new life; called to assist at the rebirth of wonder, and to embrace "psychic entrancement" with all of God's Creation.

*We are the ones who wonder like a little first grade child, and ask, 'How does God DO it?'
But first, we must take off our shoes."*

Elisabeth Tiernan, SND



What are we already doing?



*Many of us are in the third age of Wisdom and
we continue to pray and believe in the
power of prayer.*

We continue to Care for our Common Home in many different ways as best we can.

tilling



sowing



growing



We continue to Care for our Common Home in many different ways as best we can.



Switching off unnecessary lights; using energy saving bulbs; not using 'Stand By,'



Campaigning / Protesting



Eating less meat



No running taps



Wait for a full load!



Boil only what's needed!

Conserving water



Recycling as many things as possible



Cutting out plastic as far as possible

Working with others in response to the Cry of the Poor



Hosting asylum seekers



Interfaith Dialogue



Crafts
Veronica says, "If you know or can do something pass it on"



Mary's Meals

At home





South Africa



Peru



Zimbabwe

"Our charity must not be limited by the love we have for one another. It must make our hearts as Wide as the World."

St Julie Billiart




Kenya

*And
Abroad*



Nigeria



God of love, show us our
place in this world, our
common home,
as channels of your love for
all the creatures of this earth
for not one of them is
forgotten in your sight.

L Si