

Report of Udaipur Diocese on implementation of Laudato si to be presented at the Joint Northern Region meeting on Integral Ecology at Delhi on 25th -26th August 2024

The following is report of Udaipur Diocese for the Joint Northern Region meeting on Integral Ecology on 25th- 26th August 2024.

Following the publication of the Pope's encyclical Laudato meetings of priests, laity and people from other religious denominations were held in the Diocese. Viren Lobo who is working on these issues and who studied the document carefully presented a gist of the document highlighting two major aspects

- Sin means distance from God, neighbour and nature
- The need to rebuild broken community ties

The detailed presentation by him is given in the url below

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/A-Call-for-restoration-of-broken-societal-threads-as-a-precondition-for-ecological-democracy.pdf>

Given this understanding, Udaipur Diocese has acted proactively in building up local communities around the activation of the parish council. In a number of parishes, the call for synodal church was used to have a discussion with the parishioners as to how to activate the participation of the parishioners and reach outward as well. They are as follows

a. During COVID 19, a series of seven plays were written placing different aspects of the issues related to establishment of ecological democracy at the local level. These have been published in two volumes, url given below

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/A-Tryst-with-Mother-Nature-and-the-Beast-within.pdf>

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Think-Globally-Act-Locally-The-Family-within-the-world-without.pdf>

b. Following this there was an attempt to develop an understanding on the SDGs. An intern with Institute for Ecology and Livelihood action (IELA), Anjali D'Cunha prepared slides on each of the 17 Sustainable development goals (agenda 2030 which emerged as sequel to the Millenium Development Goals and was the concrete way outlined by the UN to take forward the Sustainable development agenda (SDGs). The slide presentations can be viewed at the following url

<http://ielaind.org/internship-by-anjali-dcunha/>

c. Considering the deep knowledge of IELA on the SDGs , St Mary's of the Angels Fatehpura and a part of Udaipur Diocese asked them for assistance in developing their response to the same. This resulted in a plan for St Mary's to operationalise the SDGs given in the url below.

http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Operationalising-the-plan-of-action-for-development-of-of-Childrens-parlaments-around-the-SDGs-by-SMA_Fatehpura-and-IELA_Udaipur.pdf

St Mary's also partnered with IELA to celebrate world Wetland Day, the reports are given in the urls below

<http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/The-Wetlands-of-Menar-beckon.pdf>

http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Report-of-World-Wetland-Day2024_IELA-Partners_FINAL-compressed.pdf

Further plans are being developed which will be reported as they develop.

d. In Rajasthan, IELA is developing partnerships with organisations across the State around issues related to the Aravallis, this is being mentioned as the work being done in udaipur Diocese will be formatted in this framework. The url of the policy document prepared by IELA in this regard is given below

http://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Ecosystems-approach-to-land-use-ecology-and-livelihoods-in-Rajasthan_A-policy-brief.pdf

e. Recently Grandparents day was celebrated by a number of parishes across the diocese. As part of its preparation Udaipur Cathedral parish prepared a video reaching out to 45 families with the help of the area representatives and others.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKxLG3HwDck>

How this initiative can be used to develop the agenda to rebuild broken community ties will be taken up over the next year.

f. In the schools of Banswara, Udaipur, Kankroli, Bhilwara Chittaurgarh solar panels have been installed to reduce electricity consumption. In Gogunda school a solar pump set has been installed.

g. St Mary's and St. Anthony's Schools from Udaipur also participated in a training programme called Pragati media shala organised by Sceince Centre Bhopal and support of the National Council for Science and technology. This programme involved how to use the Eco Eureka kit a tool kit for children to study soil, water, biodiversity, atmosphere and other aspects related to nature. Both schools are actively involving school children in developing an appreciation of science through study of nature.

h. Udaipur diocese has a majority of tribals and this representation is among the priests of the diocese as well. Education has been the main reason for the upliftment of tribals in the diocese. Considering the tribal deep relation with nature and ecology, how this strength of the Udaipur can help respond to the agenda of integral ecology will be explored further.

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