



**My dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,**

Greetings! May the joy of the Lord be our strength!

It is quite some time already since the whole world witnessed another shocking event – the devastating Earthquake in Nepal! It affected some parts of India as well. The damage and horror that ensued was unimaginable. Of course, support and humanitarian aid has been pouring in from all over the world. We know from past instances too, that the positive response of many good willed people and nations is a great sign of human solidarity in such calamitous events, whether natural or 'man-made'. But we increasingly experience that many natural calamities or disasters – floods, volcanoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme temperatures, etc., keep repeating with greater frequency. The main reason, the scientists and geologists explain, is the ecological imbalance created by us human beings by indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources and destruction of nature. All this, we know has serious consequences on the future of the world.

The Church is certainly much concerned about this reality. Our Pope Francis, true to his name, is a great exponent of the protection of nature. This concern of his has resulted in the recently publication of his Encyclical, “Laudato Si”.. mi' Signore!– Praise be to you.....my Lord...

'LAUDATO SI': Taking the cue and inspired by the Canticle of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron of our Archdiocese, the Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis highlights his deep concern for the care and protection of mother Earth who sustains and governs us...

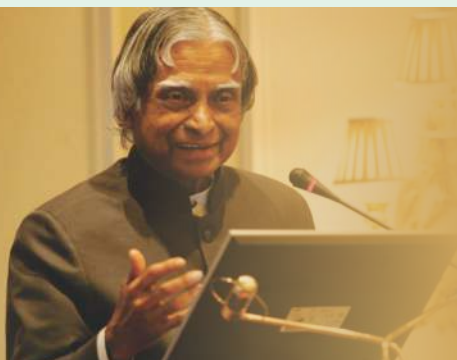
The Pope reminds us that more than 50 years ago when the world was confronted with a nuclear crisis Pope St. John XXIII wrote an Encyclical 'Pachem in Terris' which rejected war and offered a proposal of peace to all people of good will. Eight years later Blessed Pope Paul VI referred to the ecological concern as a “tragic consequence” of unchecked human activity – an ill-considered exploitation of nature, which could result in the whole humanity becoming victims of such degradation. And now, Pope Francis reflects, faced as we are with global environmental deterioration, this Encyclical 'Laudato Si', is an attempt to “enter into dialogue with all people about our common Home”- the EARTH!

I encourage everyone to read and also reflect on our individual as well as common response to this Encyclical and so also our responsibility towards the protection of the Earth.

**+ Leo Cornelio SVD**  
Archbishop of Bhopal

*Wish You all Happy Independence Day &*

*Feast of Our Lady of Assumption.*



*“Goodbye to all ....  
Motivate others  
by your life”*

