Mother earth is rendered wounded and traumatised by the greedy, selfish, and apathetic exploitation of her wealth by humanity. Human beings have destroyed the grandeur of nature, a citadel that nourishes the spirit of humanity, in their never-ending quest for comfort and pleasure. Man has pushed the earth to the brink by engineering biodiversity loss, increasing pollution, ecosystem collapse and climate change. The extensive damage to the environment is a crying testimony of how human beings have conveniently forgotten their God-given duty to be responsible stewards of the earth and all that it contains. “We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time” (Romans 8:22). Humanity needs to listen to the groaning of the creation and make efforts to reconcile with nature with constructive and corrective measures.

The dangerous climate change and plummeting air quality are only early signs of the annihilation that is bound to come if corrective actions are not urgently taken, and the greed of humanity is contained. God had entrusted the entire creation to human beings to live responsibly and make it a better place for generations and for the entire creation. However, what human beings have done so far is to the contrary. “I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable.” (Jeremiah 2:7). World needs to realise that the earth is the only planet endowed with everything that sustains life of humans and other beings. Humanity should not miss this last opportunity to repair and protect the earth, ‘the womb of life’ and should start a spiritual and cultural transformation that will pay due respect to the ‘equilibrium’ that God placed in the nature. Only when the planet earth is healthy, biodiversity can thrive and humanity can get the resources for its sustenance and survival.

“Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years”. While warning the world of “unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequence for all of us”, Pope Francis urged stopping of all human activities that befoul the nature. Laudato si’ also established the inseparable link between environment justice and social justice and exhorted the world to “hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor”. Humanity while it fights all forms of poverty, needs to reconcile with the nature by learning to coexist peacefully with all creations. The world will become a better place for all only when humanity starts to 'rethink, reduce, recycle and repair'. The world needs to rise to Pope Francis' call with the affirmative action to recognise that “all of creation is a kind of universal family” and the nature must be seen as an organic part of the humanity.
Covid-19 pandemic has taught the world many new lessons and have shown us how nature cleansed herself when human activity reduced. The pandemic taught the world why healthy planet is vital for fighting diseases and why we should have 'safe food' for enhancing immunity. The pandemic served a reminder that healthy life holds key to human survival during health disasters like pandemic. Healthy life is a combination of physical and mental wellness. Wellbeing through physical activity, balanced food, energizing and refreshing recreation, immunity-building and a switch from fast food to 'slow-food' will greatly increase the capacity of humanity to fight even the most virulent pathogen like Covid-19.

Let us pledge

- Reduce fossil fuel use: (Walk, use Cycle, take transit, Pool vehicle).
- Increase green cover and forest density: (Plantation drive, Prevent cutting trees & Forest fire, etc.)
- Reduce carbon emissions promote bio-compost, use waste bin, use public conveyance, promote renewable energy: (water, solar, wind), promote local market to reduce carbon footprint).
- Conserve soil and water: (rainwater harvesting, treat wastewater for use, promote locally viable agriculture practices, collective farming, fodder crops for soil & livestock health).
- Adopt environment-friendly technologies: (Household waste management, Promote Bio-gas etc.).
- Conserve and preserve biodiversity: (Promote local species, crop & farm diversity, agro-ecological practices etc).
- Do away with 'throw-away' culture: (Say no to plastic, use jute or cloth bags, reduce paper towel/tissue paper use etc).
- Avoid the use of non-biodegradable materials: (Educate individual and community to say no to plastic and other non-biodegradable materials).

Therefore, let us pledge and commit ourselves to the above affirmative actions and implement them wholeheartedly at our own individual, organisational and Community level.

Reconciliation with human beings and with nature calls for greater respect for the nature and human body. For realising the dream of good health for everyone, healthier ecosystem must be created everywhere. For, stability of human body necessitates stability of nature. Humans are called to be compassionate; not only with themselves but with every creation because, “The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.” (Psalm 145:9)