

## Urban Gardening in Duisburg, Germany



Sr. Belen Anuncio reflects, "The call of Pope Francis brought us into a realization that in our own small way we can be co-creators in nurturing and caring for the earth. It is in this context that as a community we dreamt of having an urban garden together with migrants and refugees who also have a passion to care for the earth. Our dream came into reality when the nearby school offered us a vacant lot where we can start our gardening. Last December 2018, we were happy to tend the earth and just recently we also planted vegetables and flowers at the back of St. Barbara Church."

*"We require a new and universal solidarity.*

*All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents."*

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si*

The Earth is our common concern. We have been entrusted with the gift of nature that refreshes and sustains us in many ways. It is our responsibility to use its resources with care and to participate in co-creation. Therefore, we are grateful for the help of so many hands, donations and prayers for all our projects.

Enjoy the coming summer time and marvel at the wonders and the endless beauty of nature!

*Your Medical Mission Sisters*

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Please pray for Medical Mission Sisters in: Belgium, England, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, The Netherlands, Uganda, USA, Venezuela.

We are grateful for your interest in our work and your support. We hope to keep in touch with you from time to time through this newsletter. If you would prefer not to hear from us, please contact us by phone or email, as above. Visit our website for full privacy policy.



## Medical Mission News Summer 2019

*Earth is our Common Home*

*"We experience nature as the revelation of God's presence and action...  
Earth is the fascinating and awe-inspiring manifestation of the divine presence as  
creator of life, sustainer, nurturer and wellspring of healing energies."*

*Reflections on Religious Life and Vows, MMS Asia*

The ecological crisis urges us to hear the cry of the Earth. Increasing numbers of environmental disasters, pollution and the exploitation of natural disasters are putting the health and integrity of communities that depend on them, at risk. This disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable communities. We recognize the exploitation of the Earth as one important sign of this time which needs an urgent response. Earth is our common home and we all must foster a sustainable lifestyle to preserve it for the next generations to come.

We, **Medical Mission Sisters**, are coming to see that in whatever mission we are involved, we have to include the awareness of **being a healing presence to and with the Earth**. Even our option for the poor has to be seen in connection with the lessons Earth teaches us and the resources she provides. Our choices in mission and the way we use the resources of our Earth, as persons, communities and nations must be made within the reality of our planet.



Worldwide the preservation of nature and sustainable use of its resources have become an integral part of our communities and projects:

### Organic Farming in Sunyani, Ghana

Sr. Lilian Mukabwa writes...

“Our healing charism invites us to respond more passionately to wounded Mother Earth who cries out due to the harm humanity continues to inflict on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the resources God has granted to us. My experience of organic farming and working closely with farmers has enlightened me to cherish and love Mother Earth. Whenever I step out into the garden, especially in the early morning hours after it rains, I commune with whatever is there.

I have recognized that the most important things surrounding me in the garden are the forces of life which are the key to existence on this planet. Organic farming has enlightened me and has made me aware that everything that is alive is dependent upon everything else that is alive. Diversity retains its oneness by means of interdependence. Everything is related; nothing can exist apart from the rest. The challenge that we are facing now is that we human beings have not yet internalized that sense of dependency. We do not realize that we are constituted by our relations with the rest of creation.”



### Earth Day in Fox Chase, United States

Medical Mission Sisters and Associates in Unit North America, Fox Chase, celebrated the Earth Day on 22nd April 2019 with a beautiful prayer service and planting of a tree in the grounds of Fox Chase, our MMS centre in Philadelphia. This tradition has been taking place since 1985 and many trees have grown since then.

### Gardening project with the homeless in Southall, London

Sr Jyoti Kujur and Sr Jayshree Macwan have been working with Hope for Southall Street Homeless (HSSH), a local charity established in 2016. HSSH provides a night shelter for 14 (mainly Punjabi-speaking) guests and support with legal issues, health and alcohol or substance misuse related problems. Last year HSSH opened a weekly Day Centre. Here guests can access various activities which promotes and supports their health and wellbeing.



In Spring 2019, the charity started to explore a gardening project with the guests. James, a park ranger, helped to find a piece of land in a community allotment. Guests and staff are very happy to work with their hands and to do something that they are so familiar with. They cleared and prepared the ground and have planted new seeds of tomatoes, cabbage, spinach, onion, pumpkins and sunflowers. In

time, they are hoping to harvest and provide food for the night shelter.

Sr. Jyoti reflects, “In India, we refer to soil as ‘dharti mata’ - which means Mother Earth. Mother Earth is our ‘home’. It connects us to our family and cultural roots. Wherever we are, we are closely drawn to the earth and have deep longing to touch, to plant, to grow and to harvest the fruits of our labour. Each time we go to the allotment, I am happy to see our guests enjoying the work of their hands and nature. It brings people together and creates natural bondedness among them.”

### The Walk for Creation, Quezon City Philippines

Medical Mission Sisters in Philippines joined the Walk for Creation held at Christ the King Seminary compound in Quezon City. The event was initiated by Global Catholic Climate Movement to mark the opening of the Season of Creation which starts on 1<sup>st</sup> September and ends on 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The focus of the 2019 Season of Creation will be on biodiversity.

