

The Global Healing Lenten Series, February-March 2021

As the Laudato Si Animators UK (LSIUK) members watched the series of six *Global Healing/Caring* (GH) videos the idea emerged to promote a wider viewing of such a valuable and relevant resource.

The videos are designed primarily for Catholic parish members but are highly relevant to all Christians concerned about the environment. They were produced by Catholic Faith Exploration (CaFE) for the Bishops Conference of England & Wales. They can be found on the CBCEW website under the “Environment” section. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/environment/global-healing/>

LSIUK has a wide network of partners including key members from the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), Westminster Archdiocese J&P, CAFOD and the Ecological Conversion Group (ECG) /Journey to 2030. They had the technical and logistical skills, range of contacts and networks to organise such a major event which the GH screenings was fast becoming. Lent seemed the ideal time to be reflecting on our global reality in the light of our Christian faith.

With some very promising speakers lined up, would anyone sign up? Simply using Catholic and Christian networks, as well as local contacts, over 600 signed up for the first week and over 900 people registered in total.

On February 18th we were launched by a most touching and sincere introduction from Bishop John Arnold, the “Environment Bishop”. We watched the first video “The Beauty of Creation” and Dr Carmody Grey from Durham University shared passionately from her own experience and expertise. The creative prayer slots created a sacred space which lasted throughout the series. The warmth, sincerity and passion of the hosts (from GCCM and ECG) enabled a faith-filled virtual learning community to emerge. Each week a handout gave us follow up ideas.

In following weeks, we watched the other five videos and heard from Jane Mellett (GCCM) on *Eco-conversion*, Emma Gardner (Salford Diocese) on *the Holy Spirit*, Shirley Aeria (Franciscan Sisters) on *Harmony with Creation*, Graham Gordon (CAFOD) on *Cry of Earth* and Paul Kelly (LiveSimply) on *Hope*.

At the end of the series the organisers were thrilled with what had happened. It was beyond expectations. The Holy Spirit had moved powerfully among the participants:

“Many thanks for this fantastic series! I have been so inspired and in awe, a bit overwhelmed ... now I need time to begin to digest all I have seen and heard!”

“I was moved to tears when you showed the video 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong! It really summed-up the whole series for me and just how much damage we are doing to God's 'wonderful world'.”

“As a Christian, Global Healing has been a wonderful, uplifting, inspiring and confidence-building experience. It has changed my life and I am enormously grateful for having the privilege of being accepted into an RC organisation.”

“This series has helped us reflect on a necessary balance of local activities, such as litter picks and tree planting, with larger scale actions like demos, discussions, committees and letter-writing to dioceses, MPs and the PM.”

“One of the things which resonated with us was your gentle approach which we find is more likely to bring change than to plough in. I call it the 'butterfly' move.”

“What a powerful evening. It has plunged me into deep thoughts, tears mixed with that message of hope.”

The recordings of this series are available on Youtube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdu7tsNYIRxmD05GCWeCEAafqW7N0hdf2>

As a summary, a fantastic online booklet of resources and Toolkit with links attached was produced by the Laudato Si Animators to help our churches respond to the present ecological and humanitarian crisis through community action, which is attached separately.

If you wish to find out more about this series and how you might organise a similar one, please contact jane@catholicclimatemovement.global

If you have watched the Global Healing films and would like to network with others in your area, please email [John Woodhouse at johnwoodhousecat@gmail.com](mailto:John.Woodhouse@johnwoodhousecat@gmail.com) (this is an ongoing link).

If you would like to become a Laudato Si Animator and lead locally, the next free online 5-week training course begins on April 14th. Here is the link: <https://laudatosianimators.org/>. It runs biannually.

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Credit Laudato Si Animators UK

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