



Care for Common Home Newsletter RNDM

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide news of RNDM involvement in actions and activities related to our ministry of Caring for Our Common Home.

***This week we are presenting a recent message from Pope Francis:***

## ***Custodians of Beauty***

Pope Francis addressed the **Custodians of Beauty in Rome**, an organisation set up by the Italian Bishops:

Caring is a community effort to protect the dignity of all

Caring, Pope Francis said, involves protecting, preserving, and defending, and it requires constant attention and personal commitment as opposed to the current tendencies in our society to avoid engagement.

It is a community effort in which each person, with their abilities and skills, with their intelligence and heart, can do something for others, for our common home, from a perspective of integral care of creation.

True care, Pope Francis remarked, must extend beyond the environment to an ecological vision that includes the protection and dignity of all people, especially those who live in the margins and are discarded by society: the poor, migrants, the elderly and disabled who are alone, the chronically ill, because each one of them "is precious in the eyes of the Lord."

Restoring true beauty in neglected areas

Pope Francis therefore encouraged the project participants in their endeavour of revitalizing many places left to neglect and decay, to prioritize the people who live there and frequent them. "Only in this way – he said – will you restore creation to its beauty."

Trending models of beauty lead to degrading humanity and nature

In this regard, Pope Francis criticized modern society's superficial understanding of beauty, which is often reduced to ephemeral and commercialized aesthetics degrading both humanity and nature. Instead, ***true beauty is something sacred, unique, reflecting God's creation, that combines grace and goodness, uniting aesthetic and moral perfection.***

Concluding, he therefore encouraged the project participants to embrace their role as co-creators with God in restoring beauty and harmony to the world, citing Saint Joseph of Nazareth, "the humble and silent" guardian of Jesus, as a model in their commitment: "With his discreet and diligent faithfulness, Saint Joseph contributed to restoring beauty to the world," he said.

\*\*\*As RNDM women let us continue our own efforts to be Custodians of Beauty.