



St. Vincent College
(Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University)
Pune -411037

Title of the Event	Interreligious Dialogue		
Date of the Event	19th December 2024	Place of the event	Online Mode
Objectives of the Event	To promote and facilitate interreligious dialogue on various themes		
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Fr. Lumnesh Swaroop Kumar, SJ		

A short narration of the program

On Thursday, 19th December 2024, an engaging online interreligious talk was held on the topic, "What is the importance given to Nature or the Earth in my Religion?" The session was conducted via Zoom from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM (IST) and featured Fr. Lumnesh Swaroop Kumar, SJ, who shared insights on the topic from the viewpoint of Christianity.

Key Highlights of the Talk:

1. Introduction to the Topic:

Fr. Kumar began the session by reflecting on the profound connection between humanity, nature, and God as envisioned in Christian teachings. He emphasized the sacredness of the Earth as part of God's creation and humanity's role as stewards of the environment.

2. Biblical Perspectives on Nature:

Drawing from the Bible, Fr. Kumar highlighted key verses such as:

- o Genesis 1:28: The mandate to "fill the earth and subdue it," interpreted as a call for responsible stewardship rather than exploitation.
- o Psalm 24:1: "The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it," signifying that nature is a divine gift to be respected and cherished.
- o Romans 8:22: The concept of all creation groaning in anticipation of redemption, reflecting the interconnectedness of nature and human destiny.

3. Christian Teachings on Stewardship:

Fr. Kumar discussed the principle of stewardship as central to Christian thought. He explained how it entails protecting the environment, ensuring sustainable use of resources, and addressing ecological concerns as part of moral responsibility.

4. Encyclicals and Church Teachings on Ecology:

The talk highlighted significant contributions from the Catholic Church, particularly Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si' (On Care for Our Common Home). Fr. Kumar elaborated on the encyclical's call



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for ecological conversion, which urges individuals and communities to embrace lifestyles that honor and protect the Earth.

5. Practical Steps for Environmental Care:

- o Promoting sustainable practices within faith communities.
- o Advocating for justice for marginalized communities affected by environmental degradation.
- o Raising awareness about climate change and ecological crises.

6. Interactive Session:

The talk concluded with an engaging Q&A segment, where participants asked thought-provoking questions about the Christian approach to contemporary environmental challenges. Fr. Kumar provided insightful answers, encouraging collective action rooted in faith and love for creation. He not only deepened participants' understanding of Christianity's perspective on nature but also fostered a sense of shared responsibility for the Earth across different faiths. This event exemplified the importance of interfaith dialogue in addressing global challenges and reaffirmed the commitment to promoting ecological sustainability through spiritual and communal action.

Name of the Collaborating Agency	Snehsadan Institute
Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants	The participants learnt about the Christian perspective on ecology
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	Interreligious dialogue and understanding on different issues was facilitated
No. of Participants	20
Faculty in Charge	Dr. Gilbi John
Documents Attached	1. Photographs



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ST. VINCENT COLLEGE, PUNE 37

in collaboration with

SNEHASADAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION, PUNE 30

Inter-Religious Talk On

**What is the importance given to Nature or
the Earth in my Religion?**

Christianity

On

Thursday, 19 December 2024

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Link

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/
82114257423?pwd=lcrfqG
sybkHunyUYzi0bXEWor
Veklk.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82114257423?pwd=lcrfqGsybkHunyUYzi0bXEWorVeklk.1)

Zoom Meeting Details

Meeting ID: 821 1425 7423

Passcode : 228706



Fr. Lumnesh Swaroop Kumar, SJ

