



“The relationship between individuals or communities and the environment ultimately stems from their relationship with God. When man turns his back on the Creator’s plan, he provokes a disorder which has inevitable repercussions on the rest of the created order.”

**Pope Benedict XVI**

**SCRIPTURE  
of the DAY**

1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Psalms 102: 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

1 Corinthians 15: 45-49

Luke 6: 27-38

The Pope also points out that the Judeo-Christian tradition speaks about the unique place and role of human beings in God’s creation. Not only are human beings created in the image and likeness of God, they have also been created with the responsibility to cultivate their abilities in order to protect creation and “develop its potential” (n. 78).

In fact, according to the Pope, the ultimate destiny of all creation is God. Therefore, instead of destroying one another or dominating nature, human beings, having been endowed with intelligence and love, have the responsibility to lead each other and all other creatures back to their Creator. As such, says Pope Francis, the Church has the duty to remind everyone of their responsibility to care for creation, as well as, to protect humanity itself from self-destruction.

It is important for us, as such, to heed the words of Jesus: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly...” and “Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; grant pardon and you will be pardoned...”.

In the first reading, David is shown as being compassionate when he spares Saul’s life because David says, “I would not lift my hand against the Lord’s anointed”. Seen in this light, **since all of God’s creatures have been created and are loved by Him, should we too not “raise our hand” to destroy another human being or nature itself?** As Pope Francis reminds us, “Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to the problems of society.” (n. 91). ❖

# NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time | 23 February 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

**MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE ECOLOGY – CALLED TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THE URGENT MISSION OF SAVING MOTHER EARTH**

## I Would Not Lift My Hand

In the encyclical *Laudato si*, Pope Francis states that in the Judeo-Christian tradition, the word “creation” has a wider meaning than “nature”. “Creation” has to do with God’s loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance (n. 76). Every creature is the object of God’s tenderness. Not only human beings but even the smallest of creatures are loved by Him (n. 77). “The Lord is compassion and love” proclaims the psalmist, and He truly is.

