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Care for Our Common Home

RNDM News

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.

Good news story from India North East

Peace with Creation in the Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope

On the occasion of the **Season of Creation 2025**, St. Mary's Community, Shillong gathered to celebrate with prayer and reflection on the theme "*Peace with Creation*", closely tied to the Jubilee Year's call to be "*Pilgrims of Hope*."

The celebration began with a symbolic **centrepiece**: a living plant surrounded by elements of creation — a candle (the light of Christ), water (the source of life), the Bible (the Word of God), and a Cushion (rest and silence). These symbols expressed the **4 Rs of the Jubilee pilgrimage: Return, Release, Restore, and Rest**.



Through **scripture readings, reflections, and symbolic gestures**, the community was invited to:

- **Return** to God, to our first love, and to a simpler way of living in harmony with creation.
- **Release** burdens such as grudges, selfishness, and wasteful habits, embracing forgiveness and ecological responsibility.
- **Restore** relationships, our mission, and the woundedness of creation, committing to healing and renewal.
- **Rest** in God and in creation, learning from nature's rhythms to pause, encounter, and be renewed.

*A significant moment was the invitation for each sister to make a **personal resolution** and share it with the smaller group, then pray for one another for the grace to live out the resolutions and the fruit of the heart. This was followed by a **community resolution**, in which we collectively committed ourselves to the following:*

Return

- As a community, we will return to a simpler lifestyle, reducing unnecessary expenses.
- As a community, we will return to communal prayer with greater faithfulness and depth.

Release

- As a community, we will release negative speech, criticism, or gossip, choosing instead to encourage one another.
- As a community, we will release wasteful habits and adopt more eco-friendly practices (segregating waste, reducing plastic, conserving water).

Restore

- As a community, we will restore our environment by planting trees, maintaining a small garden, or adopting a local eco-initiative.
- As a community, we will restore broken relationships by practising dialogue, reconciliation, and fraternal correction in charity.
- As a community, we will restore our mission focus by reaching out to people living in poverty, children, or marginalised with renewed zeal.

Rest

- As a community, we will slow down the pace of our activities, valuing presence and prayer as much as work and mission.

The celebration concluded with a blessing and prayer of thanksgiving, entrusting our lives and mission to the Triune God, source of creation and hope.

*Through this prayerful encounter, we experienced the Jubilee call to be **Pilgrims of Hope** — consecrated women walking in faith, living our vows as a witness of peace, and journeying in harmony with creation, our common home.*

