

God in all creation



I had the privilege to attend the International Ignatian Ecospiritual Conference held online from 25th to 30th April 2022. There were 170 participants from many countries in Southeast Asia, India, America, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and Australia.

It was an opportunity to reconnect with all creation through lectures, prayers, and sharing in small groups during each morning session and in the afternoon, we had quiet time in nature with prayer resources, and then group work for sharing our reflection.

Here, I would like to share my reflections during this conference.

Reflection 1: Finding God in a leaf? And chat with a leaf.



It's spring in April, so new buds were sparking in the sun. When I looked at a leaf, it looked very vulnerable. Suddenly, I thought each leaf provided the nutritional needs of the tree. What it told me was as if my being seemed to be very venerable like a leaf, but God did his work of creation in me and through me.

However, while deeply recognizing that we have destroyed nature in the name of development for human beings, I wanted to deeply apologize to nature that had endured even this destruction.

I thought it was important to find a way to recover from the broken relationship with nature. It meant that I needed to recover my relationship with myself and my brothers and sisters in the world.

Reflection 2: Befriending a tree

I was invited to befriend a tree. *Sit against the trunk or lay beneath the leaves. Simply be.... See what emerges.*

I closed my eyes and tried to look at a tree with my heart. After a while, I was thrilled with myself when I could feel the tree breathing like me. *I felt that the tree did not just exist as a material, but lived with me as a living creature.*

Perhaps this was the discovery of the life of God in all creation.



Reflection 3: DADIRRI



It is inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness. Dadirri recognizes the deep spring that is inside us. We call on it and it calls to us. It is something like what you call "contemplation".

*By Aboriginal Elder
from Aaiyn*

Dadirri invited me into the deep inner space in me. I learned from the indigenous people that I was connected with nature and my neighbours through being in a relationship with myself. After a long period of silence, I was aware of my being which was truly a gift from God.

God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. (Genesis 1:35)

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