**REPORT of ACC HONOURS 2015: INTEGRAL ECOLOGY WITH IPP**

A redesign of the SPC Environment course curriculum began in June 2015. By July, a week by week syllabus had been developed following a four-question format identical to BTD 2014:

1. Where are we? (what are our issues) ii. How did we get here? (sense of separation)
2. What’s the hope for the future? (fourfold wisdom conversation) iv. What are you going to do?

These questions serve both as a structure to hold course content as well as move students from alienation to connection –transformation/awakening/metanoia—the ecological conversion and integral ecology mindset as per *Laudato Si.* As per the BTD 2014 report, they also align themselves to facilitate the integral application of IPP in the context of an evolutionary universe.

*Context/Experience*: Where are we, where did we come from? ‘wonder and awe’. *Reflection:* issues a result of a sense of separation, discernment, humility, conversion. *Action*: Hope for the future. *Evaluation:* Are my actions through an integral mindset and do they integral ecology?

To foster group work and trust, we assigned 14 of the registrants of ‘Awaken to Cosmic Compassion’ (ACC) Honours Course to take leadership of 8 or so of their 130 classmates. Rather than ‘lecture’ from the text book, we encouraged the SPC groups to read the text, and offer the class a summary of their learnings in creative ways, led by the ACCers. They creatively presented the various chapters of the book linked with current burning issues as a part of the CIA 2 in August. 11 students of the SPC Environment course completed the ACC successfully.

**EXPOSURE:** Like last year we began the ACC exposure with a visit to the Pardhi tribe now living at the slum near Reay Road. Anthony Dias, SJ (Director of XISR) circulated an article on the Pardhis to prepare the 15 students before he gave them an orientation on the day of the site visit, 31 August. Some of the Pardhis remembered us from the last visit and one woman said ‘You came last year but they did not do anything’. The students invited them to visit St Xavier’s college. Susanne Rodrigues, the student coordinator of DIRS, who had done the BTD course last year, took the initiative to eventually hold the Medical Camp on 20 Sept. at St. Xavier’s college. A few women invited the class inside their homes - perhaps a level of increased trust from the last visit. The contrast of outside filth with clean, orderly interiors, TVs, satellite dishes set off judgmental questions in some journals-as if things can’t be that bad if they have TV’s, where are their priorities when they have no toilets, etc ….’blaming the victim’, with the historical and ongoing displacement of people in India going unnoticed. The visit helped to dispel prejudices, see how others live in spite of adversity, what keeps their community together, etc.

**RETREAT**: Prashant, Orla Hazra and Candice Menezes, accompanied 11 students to Khandala for a retreat from 11-13 Sept. The site was chosen for its ecological beauty and links to social injustices so that we could hear the cry of Mother Earth and the poor more clearly. We dynamically integrated didactic presentations, integral movement, reflection and sharing.

A review was given of ‘Sense of Separation’ (see Awakening the Dreamer) showing the root cause behind our three interconnected issues of social justice, spiritual alienation, and ecological destruction. Prashant gave a history of the place and also what had happened to the Katkari tribals in the Khandala area in the 1960’s - all government approved yet illegal, land grab and development (ecology/social justice link)…linking it again back to Reay Road tribals.

Before meals we observed a creative grace meditation reinforcing the Mystery of where our bodies come from daily- Earth- as well as appreciating the kinship and interdependency (ecology) with Earth’s creatures and people (social justice) who worked interdependently along the way to become seed, to be harvested organically and made edible for us. Students after washing their own dishes were asked to look into the waste bucket to notice the amount of food wasted from their plates. (what is the carbon footprint of what they see…what is the lack of reverence for the 13.7 BY of work they just ‘threw away’….and where is ‘away’?)

The film *Journey of the Universe* was shown*-* stopping periodically at the various Cosmic thresholds for meditation, expression of observations, movement and journaling. Continuous links were made between the didactics of the film, experience/reflections, to emphasize the 13.7 BY integral journey of our bodies, ourselves as an integral Earth inter-being (also back to the grace….where did all of this rice, mangoes etc come from?) Time was spent to differentiate between scientism, conceptualizing the Universe as a premade machine vs. an integral and evolving Universe in the making.

Students used art supplies independently to make their personal shrines. Although aspects like - cyber bullying, molestation, having to be perfect etc, had been killed through a culture of separation they identified “what” had died, and were able to resurrect and heal that aspect. The Cosmic Walk ritual further internalized these integral understandings and ongoing cosmogenesis.

The exercises helped them to delve deeper into the mysteries of the universe, both inner and outer, in a rejuvenating way thus relieving stress, the most repeated word in the student journals.

In keeping with the papal encyclical, *Laudato Si*, which uses an integral ecology to address our three intertwined issues of spiritual alienation, social injustices, and ecological devastation, we have fostered ecological conversion in three courses at St Xavier’s. We propose:

1. Train teachers by reviving IPP, familiarizing them with *Laudato Si,* and Earth Charter. This could be done through retreats/workshops facilitated by Prashant and Orla. They would be ready to supervise the teachers so that the new IPP methodology is followed.
2. Redesign the Environment course, naming it ‘Integral Ecology’, ground it in the context of an evolutionary universe (as per IPP) and follow the flow of the four questions for ecological conversion. Orla is ready to take the initiative as part of her post-doctoral thesis.