



Dear sisters and Family of the Incarnation,

We invite you on this occasion to contemplate the trees and learn from them.

Trees are admirable beings that find a way to subsist without moving. We see only the above ground part of the tree, but the root system beneath the ground is just as extensive as the outer part, as if there were another tree upside down and hidden underground.



Roots interact with the world of microbes, bacteria, viruses, small animals and especially fungi. Fungal filaments cohabit with tree roots. The mission of these filaments is to absorb minerals such as nitrogen and phosphate from the soil and transport them to the root. Dissolved in water, they rise to the leaves, which are essential nutrients for tree growth. In return, the tree will provide the fungi with sugars obtained during photosynthesis.



LS nº34: *"The good functioning of ecosystems also requires fungi, algae, worms, insects, reptiles and an innumerable variety of microorganisms. Some less numerous species, although generally unseen, nonetheless play a critical role in maintaining the equilibrium of a particular place."*

The reality is that the tree is a being in relationship. Beneath the ground, a fantastic network connects all the roots of all the trees and between them they exchange nutrients.



All the height and splendor of trees depend on their roots and their multiple interconnections that enrich them.

LS nº2: *"We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters."*

Our life also depends on our roots, planted in a specific place and family. Like the roots of trees, throughout life our roots have been establishing connections and enriching themselves, taking in nutrients through training and relationships, which have strengthened us and made the foundations that support our active life more solid.

Among the powerful nutrients we find beneath the soil is the presence of our ancestors who have already been planted in the ground. How different it can be to visit a cemetery with the gaze of one who knows s/he is in a place that is the seed of life.



On this day of the year when we remember those who have gone before us, may our attitude of gratitude for so much received be transformed into a commitment to preserve the planet for future generations.

LS nº 159: *"Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us."*

A sisterly hug.

St. Kateri Community, UJ
November 1, 2022