

***Laudato Si'* Mysticism 6**

MYSTICS IN THE MAKING

This is our sixth reflection on the mysticism of *Laudato Si'*. Look back for a few moments on what is happening to your heart as you move along. Are you becoming a mini-mystic by now? This is important, and also thrilling! The theologian Karl Rahner remarked in the 1980's that '*the Christian of the future will be a mystic, or will not be a Christian at all.*'

You may not be a person who spends much time alone with God—which is how we used to think of mystics—but as you contemplate nature is your capacity for wonder being enriched? Are you growing in awareness that every bit of creation is singing a song to you, and is wondering when you'll catch on to its melody? Do feelings of awe arise in you as you spend a little moment now and then marvelling at what nature is coming up with? When you are worried about the state of human affairs can you switch to gratitude for the steadiness of nature's laws of growth? Can you hope that perhaps God hasn't abandoned this chaotic world of ours to its own destructive devices, but is creatively at work to bring it to its intended beauty? The Pope says:

'To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope. This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice' (85).

To be a mystic, then, you don't have to be a person of long silent prayer, shut away from everything—though God draws some hearts to that silent intimacy. All you have to do is to look long and lovingly at creation, and let it speak to your heart. Do this for a while today, and you will experience what it is like 'to live joyfully in God's love and hope'. Every garden is a divine school-room.