

Don't

Be

Afraid

To

HUG

A

TREE

By Eliza Eljano

A book for
young people,
made by one.

Don't be afraid to hug a tree
This world was made for you and
me



With love and kindness being swirled
We can't forget to care for our world

**The world is being squeezed in our hands
But is it that hard to loosen the grip?**



**Our generation being trapped in screens
The grip of life will slowly lean
Though it may not seem like an issue**

**But sometimes nature needs to be
seen**

Or you'll have to grab a tissue

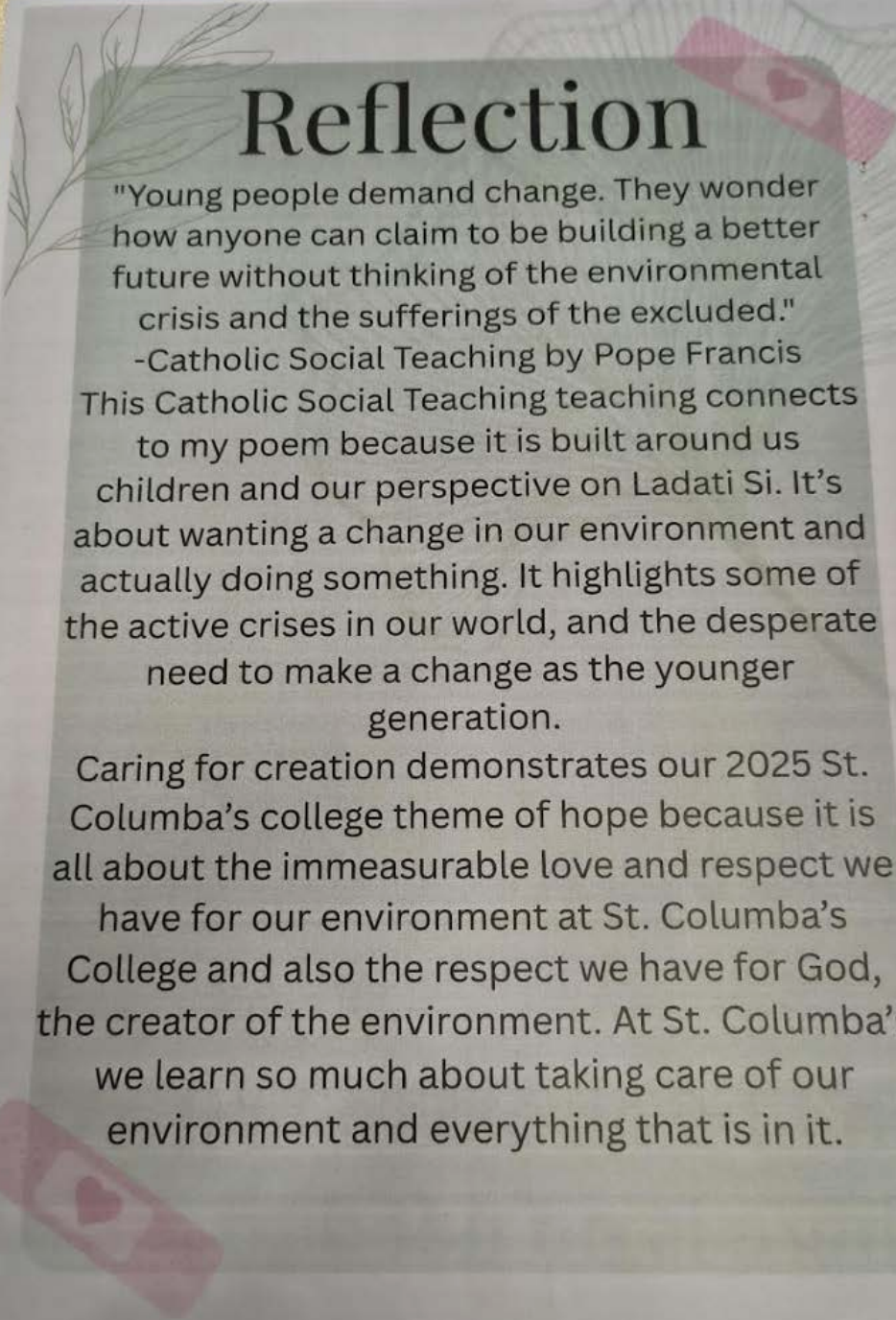


**We have the power to end the spreading fires
To begin a cycle of Ladati Si
Taking in the world around us with our young
hearts and growing minds**

**Just step outside
Clear your mind
Release your stress and worry**



**Don't be afraid to hug a tree
There is no need to hurry**



Reflection

"Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded."

-Catholic Social Teaching by Pope Francis

This Catholic Social Teaching teaching connects to my poem because it is built around us children and our perspective on *Ladati Si*. It's about wanting a change in our environment and actually doing something. It highlights some of the active crises in our world, and the desperate need to make a change as the younger generation.

Caring for creation demonstrates our 2025 St. Columba's college theme of hope because it is all about the immeasurable love and respect we have for our environment at St. Columba's College and also the respect we have for God, the creator of the environment. At St. Columba's we learn so much about taking care of our environment and everything that is in it.