

Laudato Voices 2nd Edition, April 2023



Laudato Youth Initiative

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The Drum Voices

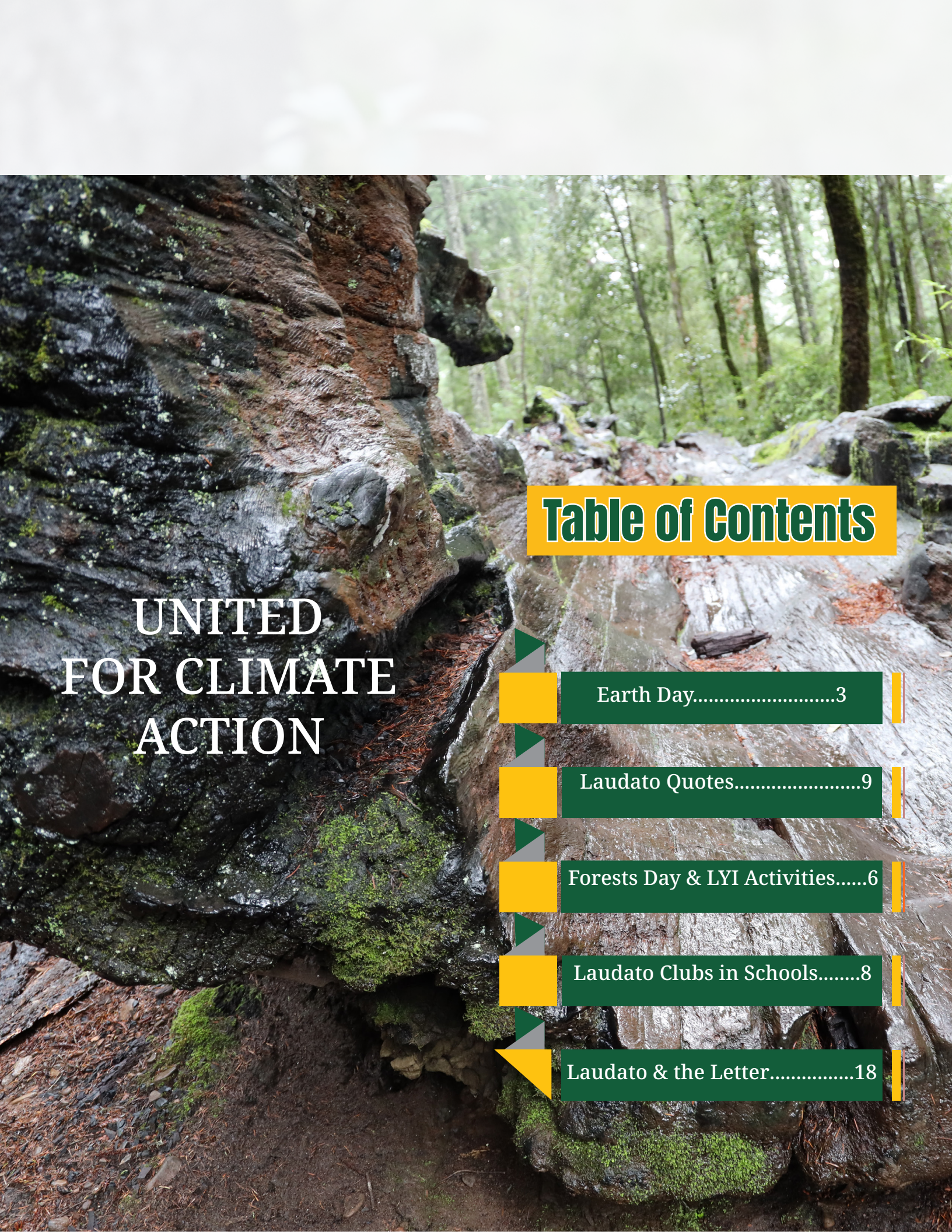
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THEME: Invest in Our Planet



UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION

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EARTH DAY

Together we can take action to protect our mother Earth. You may get involved in Earth Day events in many different ways, from educational awareness programs to community activities like tree planting clean-up projects and inspirational writing that inspires responsible Climate Action

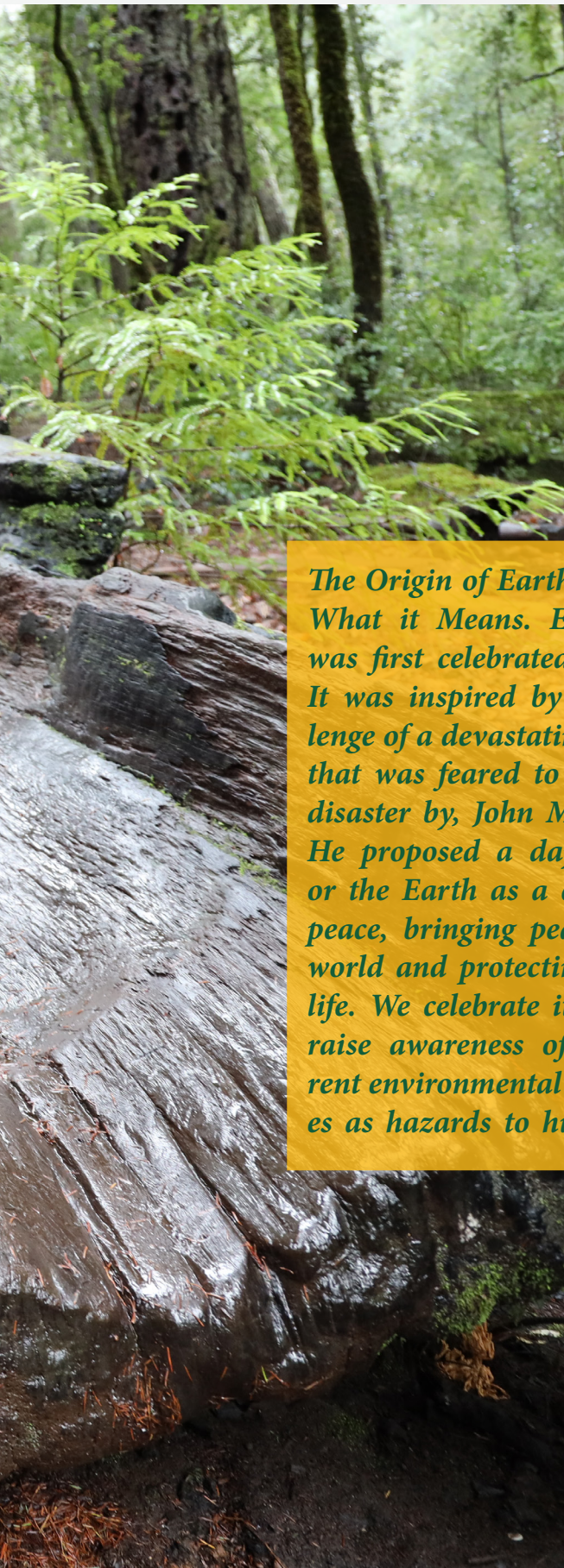
Our planet is an amazing place, but it needs our help to thrive.

That's why, every year, on April 22, earth day is celebrated. This year the theme 'Invest in Our Planet' was selected. It is intended to invite people to protect the planet from practices that destroy or lead to climate change calamities. Environmental researchers say Uganda's greenhouse gas

emissions are dominated by the agriculture sector, with enteric fer-

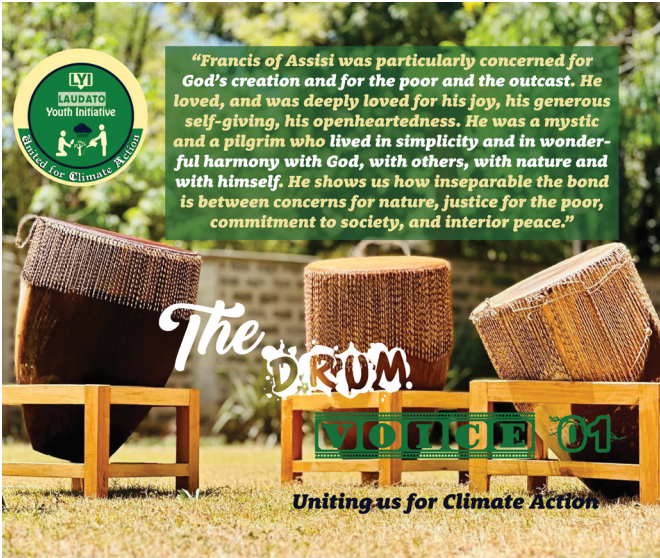
mentation and inefficient animal waste management systems as the leading contributors. Other contributors include; pollution, deforestation, among others. By participating earth day activities and the Laudato Si message that says that climate change is real, urgent and it must be tackled, asking us to remember that the climate is "a common good, belonging to all and meant for all". This animation is based on the teachings found in the encyclical Laudato Si', by Pope Francis.

We strive to foster this message in the hearts of young people to nurture a happier, healthier common home to live in.



The Origin of Earth Day and What it Means. Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970. It was inspired by the challenge of a devastating oil spill that was feared to lead to a disaster by, John McConnell. He proposed a day to honor the Earth as a concept of peace, bringing peace to the world and protecting human life. We celebrate it today to raise awareness of the current environmental Challenges as hazards to human life.

Compiled Br. Adolf Mugume, CSC

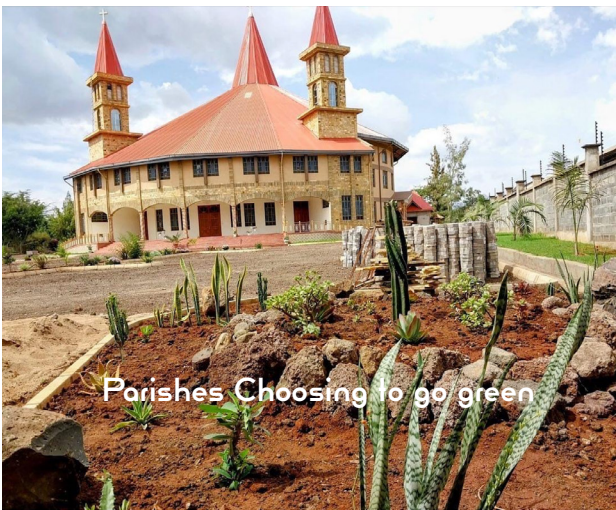


URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED TO BUILD A CLIMATE-LITERATE GENERATION

The time is now to nurture a generation of citizens in institutions and mentor student leaders ready to inspire Climate action for Climate change. We need a societal understanding of how to stop climate change and environmental harm.

I thank all of you who follow us on social media and take action in your different capacities. I hope you enjoy reading through articles from our second edition of Laudato Voices in this particular month of the Earth. Our various Laudato clubs in schools all over the country and beyond are planning many activities like tree planting, community awareness on the need to care for the environment, showcasing their creative projects in schools, and attending

different fairs. Be sure we have the best for you. We are doing a lot in our schools, and we would be grateful if you could join our initiative. As you may know, in May, we have Laudato Si week. It's an opportunity for us to reflect deeply on the Pope's message to the Earth, which we shall be commemorating. It also talks of the environment as our common home, inviting everyone to work together to create a better world. Laudato Clubs inspire and mentor young people to be responsible citizens who are concerned and work with the elders to care for the environment from their schools to their homes and community, experiencing total conversion and growing up responsible humans.



Laudato Si Chapter 01: What is happening to our Common Home?

“What is happening... more intensified pace of life and work which might be called ‘rapidification’, the speed with which human activity has developed contrasts with the slow pace of biological evolution.”

The DRUM VOICES for Nature

Watch us on YouTube, Instagram & Twitter more “Drum Voices of Nature”

21. “Each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive, from homes and businesses, from construction and demolition sites, from clinical and industrial sources. The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth

The DRUM VOICES for Nature

Watch us on YouTube, Instagram & Twitter more “Drum Voices of Nature”

22. “Throwaway culture... we have not managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and the future generations.”

The DRUM VOICES for Nature

Watch us on YouTube, Instagram & Twitter more “Drum Voices of Nature”

50. “Besides we know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and “whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor.”

The DRUM VOICES for Nature

Watch us on YouTube, Instagram & Twitter more “Drum Voices of Nature”

Laudato Si Quotes

From the drum voices of nature by Laudato Youth

Take ACTION to Inspire Green Schools, Parishes, Homes and Communities

INTERNATIONAL FORESTS DAY IN MARCH

*Healthy Forests
For Healthy People*

The International Day of Forests was established on the 21st day of March, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2013

According to the United Nations When we drink a glass of water, write in a notebook, take medicine for a fever or build a house, we do not always make the connection with forests. And yet, these and many other aspects of our lives are linked to forests in one way or another.

They further wrote that Forest sustainable management and their use of resources are key to combating climate change, and to contributing to the prosperity and well-being of current and future generations. They affirm that Forests also play a crucial role in poverty

alleviation and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet despite all these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, forests are endangered by fires, pests, droughts, and unprecedented deforestation.

Forests give us so much to our health. They purify the water, clean the air, capture carbon to fight climate change, provide food and life-saving medicines, and improve our well-being.

It's up to us to safeguard these precious natural resources.

UN challenged us to give not just take in the year 2023, because healthy forests will bring healthy people.

*Compiled
Mr. Benard Kahwa*



TREE PLANTING AS A WAY OF GIVING BACK TO MOTHER EARTH.



MR. GERALD TESTING THE FRESH WATERS OF RIVER NILE SHARING HOPE AND NEED TO MAINTAIN WATER BODIES CLEAN.



ST. JOSEPH'S HILL LAUDATO CLUB PROJECT OF MAKING DUSTBINS, DOOR MATS, SKIPPING ROPS, FLOWER VESSELS GOES ON AS FR. PETER LOOKS AT THE AMAZING WORK OF HIS STUDENTS

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ECOLOGICAL TOUR BY THE F/P DIOCESE LAUDATO CLUB HOSTED BY FR. EDWARD MUHUMUZA AND FR. PAUL MUGABIOMU



ECOLOGICAL WALK AROUND SAAKA BY NYAKASURA SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND LAUDATO CLUB MEMBERS.



REV BISHOP ROBERT MUHIRWA AKIIKI THE ORDINARY OF FORT PORTAL DIOCESES INSPECTS THE CREATIVE RE-USE PLASTICS PROJECTS OF THE ST. JOSEPH'S HILL S.S.S LAUDATO CLUB



PLASTIC SORTING IN PROGRESS. AS THEY ARE BEING MADE READY FOR RE-USE BY THE LAUDATO CLUB OF ST. JOSEPH



MR. BENARD KAHWA AND SARAH INTERVIEW MR. MUGISHA AT THE FORT PORTAL CITY WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANT



GO CREATE, PRO-CREA

GO CREATE, PRO-CREATE AND BE IN CHARGE



**AMPUMUZA LALA DENISE -
LAUDATO CLUB- NYAKASURA
SCHOOL**

The Darkness of the World is born by man created for the World. In the book of Genesis, we learn that God created what He was proud of, but I wonder if what I see today is what He is really proud of. The Green has been burnt down, contaminated with waste are the waters, and drained are the swamps due to construction by some people who basically think all was not right with God for how he created them.

In moments of thankfulness and hardship, I turn to God. Like the scripture says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27) so do I. self." (Luke 10:27) so do I.

Look, as human beings, God commanded us to co-create, and I also don't deny the fact that we were at the same time told to pro-cre-

ate but with all that goes around, weren't we offered the greatest gift of all and that is a will to think, plan and implement? Unlike animals, man was put above all and in charge, but if man is letting the World apart, then who is to protect it?



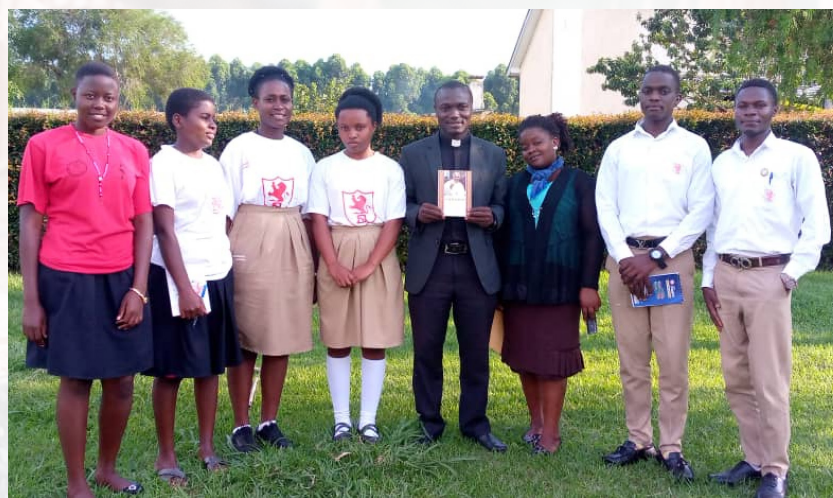
TE AND BE IN CHARGE

The water table is reducing time and again. Scientists claim that due to the increased burning of wastes, bushes, and forests, the ozone layer has decreased thus, the sun's rays hit the earth at a higher rate than before, thus, the World is drying.

We as human beings are letting the World wonderfully made to be raptured by the ignorance and irresponsibility that we astonishingly harbor. So I call unto all of us to work together, solicit all the ever-needed effort to make sure that what God has given us to save is not destroyed because, with all honesty, we should remember that as we grow, the young generation is being brought to life.

We work together because we are better together at getting the World moving since we are the co-creators, and many appreciations go to the LAUDATO YOUTH INITIATIVE, who are uniting the young generation

with mentors to bring some light about the beautiful nature and how to contribute to a green home, to love and care for our schools, our Country and World. We are making strides in new discoveries all the time that are inspiring our young Innovative Minds. At Nyakasura School, one of our Club members recently innovatively Invented a dustbin made out of plastic bottles and wires.



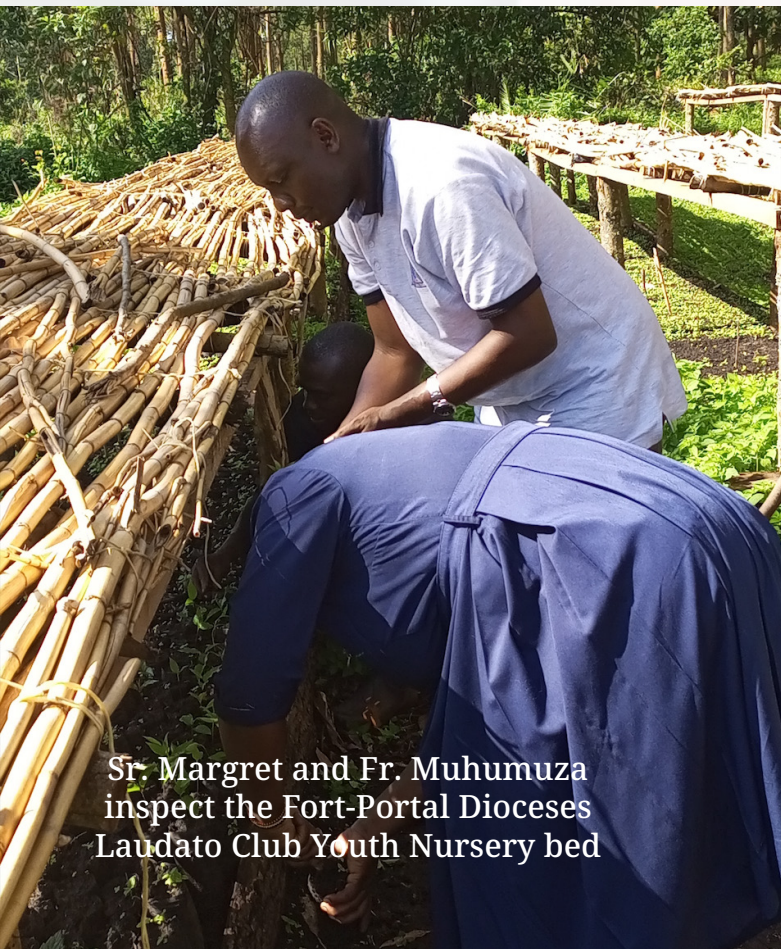
LAUDATO CLUB LEADERS OF NYAKASURA SCHOOL WITH FR. PAUL MUGABIOMU THE FORT PORTAL DIOCESE YOUTH CHAPLAIN WHO HANDED THEM AN PHOTO OF POPE FRANCIS

Mr. Benard the programs director and Sarah the Laudato President shoot a film documentary on what is happening to our common home in Mubuku Kasese, where a hospital was swept by floods and many people lost lives find out more from the documentary our one YouTube channel



Vacist Moses Engages his siblings in Laudato activities at home

Br. Adolf and Mr. Benard behind the scenes in filming the what is happening to our common home documentry that you must watch on our YouTube "Laudato youth Initiative"



Sr. Margret and Fr. Muhumuza inspect the Fort-Portal Dioceses Laudato Club Youth Nursery bed



From the first moment, I decided to commit myself to environmental conservation as a student. It looked like it was something other than something worth doing. Many of my peers' priorities were focused elsewhere but not anywhere close to environmental conservation. Unlike them, I saw a second chance in the broken, forgotten, and lost pot destroyed and neglected out of selfishness because we already got the best out of it. I think it is the same way many people look at the environment forgetting that we need to value it for the good benefits it gives us. Having been inspired by the Laudato Club of Holy

Cross Lake View, my world view of nature changed. When I started my vacation late last year, I knew I would do more to improve my home and neighborhood environment. Right from recycling broken pots and planting fruit trees to collecting all nonbiodegradable material here. "My environment, my responsibility" is my motto. It keeps me focused on uniting with other people for Climate Action. It keeps me going and going till my target is archived. I encourage young people out there to follow keenly the Laudato Youth. They have something unique to offer to the World.



AYO MARK SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE AS A VACANT ABOUT HIS INSPIRATION TO LIVING LAUDATO SI AND CLIMATE ACTION WITH PEERS



United for Climate Action



Interview

Br. Adolf, CSC, and Joanna Kagezi, a Nature Poet



I have heard a lot about you, Joanna! Can you tell people who you are?

Well, I am just a normal person; Kagezi Joanna is my name. I grew up taking care of my grandfather's goats and sheep, that's where I got so much connected to nature, seeing birds every day, feeding on wild fruits, nectar from flowers, and that gave me the peace I couldn't find anywhere since I was staying with people who didn't embrace me like other kids. The bush has always been comforting. I got to learn bird's stories and their names. So besides emotional poems, I write nature-related powers. Some I post on my social media accounts. Others I keep to myself.

Amazing! What more should our readers know, Joanna?

Oooh! It is good to know that while conserving nature, we're conserving wildlife and human life because animals, birds, and insects are indicators of the environment. When there are no trees, we can

never see animals and birds. So when they're in danger, we, too, are in much danger.

How about your nature inspiration?

There's so much inspiration from nature. Have you watched sunbirds suck nectar from flowers, bees buzzing around, and monkeys search for fruits from trees. That's where I base my poetry. I relate to what I have seen before. This way, I learnt about animal species, birds, insects, plants, herbs, and shrubs and the reason to why these living things depend on them. Remember, some insects and birds, like plants and trees, are named before their habitats.

Anything else?

I am a Birder too

Thank you, Joanna, for sharing your gifts with us and the inspiration for all the young people out there to learn about the connection we have with nature and why we must conserve the environment. Laudato Voices are out for this. Please wait for more in our next edition.



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

PEOPLE YOU WANT TO KNOW.
NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW.

SERVING THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO SINCE 1892

Our Club activities were published in
TODAY'S CATHOLIC
a catholic News Paper in San Antonio Texas

Laudato Si and caring for creation in San Antonio

Written by **Alejandro Balderas**, for Today's Catholic

The world is beginning to see what Pope Francis means when he says that everything is interconnected and that we all have a part to play in building up the common good.

Since 2015 when *Laudato Si'* was released, many people have embraced the call of integral ecology to protect Mother Earth for future generations. However, much still needs to be done to protect our common home – the only thing we share as humans – and connect us to other created things.

As *Laudato Si'* animators, it began with a connection of call to action. The formation of a circle was inspired to do more but also connect with others doing something. The warm welcome by the archdiocese was a motivation to start something beyond that. Interacting with teams and individuals to amplify *Laudato Si'* voices in the archdiocese, this included screening the "Letter movie" by Pope Francis in parishes, forming green teams and nurturing young leaders with groups such as Pax Christi, and demonstrating the preferential option for the poor with the homeless and immigrants around the archdiocese, etc. These were important commitments for us as parishioners working with religious, schools and the community to promote *Laudato Si'*.

The reality for us has been that all ages need each other in this effort. The old need to mentor the young and the young to inspire action and take up mobilization to action and leadership for the shared value of uniting to protect our common home and response to Pope Francis' call to an integral ecology, which many other popes have talked about and is rooted in the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi.

For the past months, we have been focusing on:

- Ecological education: Working with university students to think of reforms in the spirit of integral ecology to create environmental awareness and call to action to foster the ecological vocation of young people, teachers, and leaders of education at the University of Incarnate Word and Our Lady of the Lake University.

- Response to the cry of the earth, promoting the recently released movie "The Letter" on YouTube originals. Some schools, in their response to

Laudato Si', have screened the movie already. Many parishes have busy schedules but are promising to create time for it and we are reaching out to more.

- In response to the cry of the poor, a religious sister works with students and immigrants and sets up green gardens for vegetables in her community.

- With an emphasis on institutional, national, and global participation, we have been involved in meetings and connections with other *Laudato Si'* animators in the region. Our global response has been sharing the inspirations of Brother Adolf Mugume, CSC, in his work with the *Laudato* youth initiative in Uganda, where he mentors and inspires *Laudato* clubs in schools and dioceses to care for creation by tree planting activities, ecological education, control of plastics, community cleanup which encourages rootedness in the local territory and neighborhood ecosystems, and looking at the world as the common home that we treasure.

- Adoption of simple lifestyle: Another religious sister has done a lot of work with plastics, focusing on using resources and energy, avoiding single-use plastic, adopting a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption, using public transport, avoiding polluting modes of transportation, and working in collaboration with San Antonio city environmental groups.

- Alejandro Balderas and Pax Christi President Arthur Dawes have worked tirelessly by connecting with other like-minded organizations and mentoring youth leaders. Dawes gave a talk to Our Lady of the Lake students about care for creation and *Laudato Si'*.

Moving forward, we look for more action. Through our Texas regional coordinator we are hoping for the *Laudato Si'* San Antonio Chapter, which will bring together all animators to work together, ensure more animators are trained, and encourage institutions to participate in major *Laudato Si'* activities such as *Laudato Si'* week and season of creation, among others. We are also looking towards inspiring green teams in parishes, communities and homes. Our Lady of Schoenstat Shrine, led by Father Hugo Tagle, is preparing for a movie screening and tree planting activity. Young team members are taking on leadership and enrolling for *Laudato Si'*



Brother Adolf Mugume, CSC, from Uganda who serves as animator/spiritual guidance for the *Laudato Si'* Circle of San Antonio, planting a memorial tree with the *Laudato* Club of Buhinga Primary School in Fort Portal, Uganda.

animators. Through Pax Christi, we are connecting with other people of goodwill who want to participate in *Laudato Si'* activities.

We invite everyone to encounter *Laudato Si'* and Church teachings in general. It is not the sort of thing you do quickly. It's a relationship and a commitment you build by starting slowly. So give it a try start by watching the "The Letter" movie, find inspiration to action, read about *Laudato Si'* and talk to your pastor and institutional leaders about your inspiration. Think of green action and make a sustainability plan. Look into the eyes of the poor with a helping hand as Jesus did.

Our goal has been to encourage actions geared towards prayer, reflection, interconnection, and actions that promote deep appreciation of God's creations and inspire a swift unified climate action response to preserve our common home as Pope Francis encourages us to develop an "ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith."



Brother Mugume and representatives from Pax Christi and Eco Central examine a garden maintained by the University of the Incarnate Word Sustainability Club.



PROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE MATERIALS

In 2018, each person generated 4.9 pounds of municipal solid waste making it to 292.4 million tons for just a single year of 2018. Simple math would bring it to 877.2 million tons in just a period of three years. By late September 2022, the Antarctic ozone hole reached its maximum area of 24.5 million square kilometers; research has shown that the ozone layer is significantly losing its thickness. And who doesn't know of its importance and significance on biotic life?

For plants or animals to grow to life, it's the favorable amounts of sunshine that are required; low or more than that renders it dangerous. Uganda has held a pretty good record in environmental management and proper disposal of waste materials in particular.



Nyakasura school Laudato Club members

As a country, eliminating polythene and its management through the new policy is a good idea. However, still, the nation hasn't done up to the required standards due to the escalating number of water bottles, polythene papers, glasses, among other non-disposable materials, into the environment; this has come due to the increasing developments that comes with increasing industrialization and urbanization whose packaging hasn't harbored mother earth in a healthy state.

Specific measures have been put in place, such as the recycling measure, and re-using, among others. Whereas many people have taken it upon themselves to push out their voices like the LAUDATO YOUTH INITIATIVE, Many have remained adamant on such prudent issues. If you read this article and you are one, please!

Have mercy and comply. This is a hazard that is blinking read. Pope Francis, in the encyclical Laudato Si, says we need a **swift unified Action response**. The motto of Laudato Youth Initiative puts it clearly that we should be **United for Climate Action**. Put the word in quotes "Action" because this is a danger to our generation and the generations to come.





Holy Cross Lake View
Laudato Club Leaders

Laudato Si Response Club



The Laudato Si response club was formed as a result of the need to inspire the youth to respond to the message of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si. Since 2020, it has moved to other schools in different parts of the country. Inspiring them to make their schools Green Campuses



Our club aims at uniting members for Climate Change Action through projects and activities that foster climate change mitigation. We encourage fellow learners to reduce water and energy consumption. We work with our patrons to develop gardening skills like using water bottles to sow seedlings, making composite manure from decomposable waste, and tree planting. Furthermore, we prioritise waste management, separation, and recycling by applying the 3Rs of sustainability.

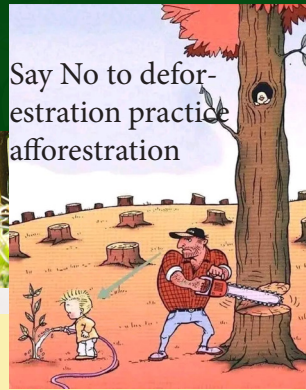


We have also planted trees in the school compound, and during weekends we spare some time to collect toxic litter and use it to make artificial baskets. This term, Uganda's pre-COP27 event was held at our school on 19th October 2022. Guests of the day included the Deputy Lord Mayor Jinja City, Jinja North area councilors, LCI Musima, Youth leaders, the Rotary Club of Jinja, and CSOs in Jinja city. We planted over 100 fruit trees in the school orchard. I encourage anyone reading this article to step up for action to save our world, which is facing the diverse effects of Climate Change. Together, we can create green zones in our schools, homes, and communities. Find out more about our club on the QR CODE below;

SARAH KIRIKUMWINO - PRESIDENT



Say No to deforestation practice
afforestation



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

The action taken by each of us will determine
the fate of the world's wildlife

JOIN US TO CARE FOR
CREATION



Laudato Youth Initiative

Albert Einstein once said, "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better". If we can build on nature, and not dig out nature with what we call development, we may not end well. The duty remains yours and mine; to clear the land and allow mother earth to flourish; it's about us; a generation we can save ahead. We do this together. Yes, we can! Together as a budding age, poor disposal, among others, can end.

RUSAHURA DANIEL
C/P LAUDATO YOUTH
INITIATIVE - Fort Portal
Diocese



Witness and Action are the ways to pass on the message and respond to the Letter by Pope Francis.

Br. Adolf Mentor of the Laudato Youth Initiative

LAUDATO VOICES ARTICLE BY FR. APIRE BERRY

Religious leaders have a role in promoting Laudato Si here is how Br. Adolf and Fr. Berry (of the Congregation of Holy cross) are witnessing to the message in Laudato Si.

Conservation of the environment is the most important single act of love we can show before we die and leave the planet Earth. It is a vocation. It is a noble duty. "it does not cost a penny." Yes, it doesn't cost a penny because it starts with our actions. It begins with a simple human principle of care and love for self which is transformed into care for our surroundings. I speak from an African context; I hail from the countryside and have transformed the surrounding of my village just with my simple acts of love for nature and care for creation. I enabled indigenous trees to sprout even when most neighbors have destroyed theirs in the name of the trees being bushy and carrying thorns. I bought other indigenous tree species cheaply and planted them around the homestead, and the transformation has been remarkable. I used to experience extreme tropical heat during the dry season, but that is now forgotten, given the trees that have grown in just a span of 4 years. Conservation starts with the ability to act on the immediate sur-

roundings to create an impact. May we all pursue this noble vocation and make a difference before exiting this World. Sometimes our neighbors and friends need to see us doing something to be inspired to ACT. I appreciate the inspiration from the Laudato Youth Initiative fraternity that is planting a seed in our hearts and the hearts of young people to respond to the cry of creation and the cry of the poor mentioned in Laudato Si.



Laudato Youth Initiative encourages you to watch the letter Film on YouTube Originals with your family, Institution, Organisation, Church, etc.
Draw a Lesson from the message and take Climate Action





YouTube Originals

THE LETTER

A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH

The Letter a message to our earth that tells the incredible story of the Laudato Si' encyclical letter by Pope Francis, through the eyes from frontline leaders battling the ecological crisis across continents. A powerful - and surprising - dialogue with the Pope in the Vatican brings new hope for our common home. Let us respond to this message in the letter, written to all people of the world encouraging us to work together because the earth is the only good we share in common!

Please watch the #Theletter with friends and family.

Email: laudatoyouthinitiative@gmail.com

Invest in our Planet

GO GREEN

Plant Trees & raise awareness on Earth day

Join us at the UIW Earth Fair have a chance to learn more about Laudato Youth Initiative and Laudato Si

Wed April 19th, 12 pm - 2:00 pm
at Westgate near Dubuis Hall. San Antonio Tx

SCAN ME

Follow us on our social media plat forms

Intagram: [laudatosi_response](#)

FaceBook: Laudato Youth Initiative

<https://laudato-youthinitiative.org/>

Scan the bar code to our youtube documentaries and more inspirations from our Laudato Clubs in schools

