

LAUDATO VOICES

Newsletter

Third Edition May 2023: Laudato Si Months



Pope Francis has invited all Catholics and people of goodwill to celebrate the fifth anniversary of his encyclical letter Laudato Si' by protecting families and future generations through action to care for our common home.

Laudato Youth Initiative

UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION



*Creativity and
Innovation away
to respond to
Laudato Si*



Fr. Berry, CSC and Brian inspect Pillows made from waste materials by young people who are utilizing material waste as a resource.

LAUDATO VOICES THIRD EDITION, MAY 2023

From May 21 to 28, we will celebrate Laudato Si' Week 2023!

What is Laudato Si' Week?

Laudato Si' Week began as a way to celebrate the first anniversary of Pope Francis' papal encyclical letter, "Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home." Since then, the annual celebration has become a way for all Catholics to unite and rejoice in the progress we've made in bringing Laudato Si' to life and to commit ourselves to further prayer and action for our common home.

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You can Only Save water by recognising that its not a luxury for all

**Close Taps after use * Stop Leaks*

**Plant the right plants and in the right season*

**Provide water to only plants that need it*

**Harvests and save rainy water*

*Forests are
the Air we Breathe*

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” — Lao Tzu

By reducing waste, choosing energy-saving options, cutting out single-use plastics, and taking other simple steps, we can strive for a more planet-oriented and frugal lifestyle as a community, individuals and as a family. The key is to make small, manageable changes that will add up over time. That way, the whole family can adjust seamlessly and feel like they are making a positive difference. Consider this simple but powerful quote when embarking on your journey to be more environmentally friendly this Laudato Si Week month of May 2023

We are quickly losing the Forest Cover

According to Uganda's leading Daily New Vision newspaper article dated 24th February 2022, it will take 75 years to recover Uganda's lost forest cover. The article reported that from 1990 to 2017, Uganda lost 58.9 % of its forest cover. The auditor general's report further mentioned that government intervention through National Forestry Authority (NFA) contributed to a dismal forest cover restoration of only 0.8%. The message in Laudato Si and these statistics have been my drive to do whatever I can to be part of the 75-year journey that other generations will complete for me.

The Laudato Si Youth Initiative is a very timely, action-oriented response group. Through this youth initiative, young men and women have started the march towards achieving this target. Once all young people embrace it, we will achieve results that practically contribute to the Climate action our Country and world need to respond to the rapid climate changes, a threat to the livelihood of the future generations that we see starting today and the reason we are engaging the youth to be aware and be part of the change they want to see in future.

The reality of the increased charcoal business as a means of quick money has only accelerated the reduction of our forest covers. Another challenge is the need for affordable energy alternatives for households. You can stop people from cutting trees, but they will ask what alternatives are available. We encourage peo-

ple to plant portions of fast-growing trees specifically for their firewood needs but also refrain from cutting the traditional trees that take a long period to raise.

We encourage other stakeholders to consider helping people with more options for energy needs in their households. These are critical issues to be addressed. As part of the Laudato Si youth initiative, we will have to explore other tree species grown for firewood. We will see how we can raise nursery beds with the help of other partners and hence popularize the growth of those fast tree species for firewood. The use of additional energy-saving or eco-friendly stoves is a good idea. Getting communities into groups to Training of women since they are the people in most of rural Uganda and take care of the households. Training them in making eco-friendly cheap stoves would be worthwhile.

Youth training on growing bamboo since bamboo can also be used for cooking and making other valuable items. The road to 75 years of recovery of Uganda's lost forest began with the Laudato Youth Initiative, and indeed we are discerning the signs of the time. We can target 5 million trees in the next five years. That can be something, as we also sensitize and explore other cheap renewable energy initiatives by exploring technology and innovation in the high schools we work with. Reach out to us and share your ideas about the above cause.

Fr. Apire Berry, CSC



What is Laudato Si

? Praised be to You

It is Pope Francis' 2nd letter about care of our common home.

Be an Earth Advocate



The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor are connected.

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Ecology
Conversion

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**RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT LAUDATO SI
AND LAUDATO SI WEEK 2023**

Laudato Si' Week launches a journey of transformation to pray, prepare and act for our common home and for a better world to come tomorrow. Let us respond to Pope Francis' invitation to join this year' Laudato Si' Week.

It will be held from May 21 to 28 to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the publication of the encyclical Laudato Si'. The theme of this year is **"Hope for the Earth. Hope for humanity"**.

According to Laudato Si movement, the film "The Letter," which tells the story of four "social poets" affected first-hand by the climate crisis who travel to Rome to meet Pope Francis, will be the main resource guiding the week's events, encouraging people to organize institutional and community screenings.

Several global events will take place during the week, including an event dedicated to **"The Letter"** on Saturday 27, and the conclusion of the Week on Pentecost–Sunday 28.

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The event is organized by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and facilitated by Laudato Si' Movement together with other partners. we the Laudato Youth Initiative also exist to unite young people for Climate Action as per the inspiration of laudato Si

For more information visit the laudatosiweek.org and Laudato Youth Initiative on different media platforms.

Its important to consider the greatness of the little things we can do and just do them, Change begins with you.



Br. Adolf, CSC
Laudato Youth Mentor



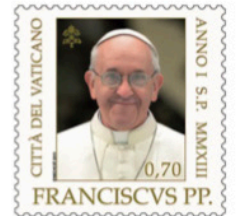
Latest News and Information

Have you

Watched the letter film?

*Are you planning to respond to the first ever letter
written to all people of the world?*

**FROM: POPE FRANCIS
TO: YOU**



THE LETTER

A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH



SCAN ME!

TheLetterFilm.org



HAVE YOU HEARD OF
the new Penalty schemes
for environmental breachers in Uganda?

Did you know that NEMA is Implementing
an Express Penalty Scheme for
environmental breachers?

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
The National Environment Management Authority informed the general public that effective 1st, April 2023 they shall in addition to existing criminal prosecution measures; commence an Administrative Penalty Scheme for environment breaches in line with Section 172 of the National Environment Act, No.5 of 2019. The express penalty scheme is intended to deter non-compliance to environment laws and to prevent environmental degradation through payment of monetary penalties (fines).

Under the Express Penalty Scheme, the offender will be required to pay a fine within the prescribed time frame and in a specif-

ic bank account. The notice will specify the date and nature of the alleged contravention, a summary of the facts that NEMA or authorized officer alleges, and the amount payable. The fines payable for specific environmental breaches are a computation of currency points where one currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings (UGX 20,000) only. Some key offences are listed below; Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and Audits

Failure to conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Environment Risk Assessment for the projects that require ESIA or ERA will attract a fine

A Moral and Spiritual Challenge.

The ecological crisis, Pope Francis writes, is a summons to profound interior conversion to renew our relationships with God, one another, and the created world.

We are All Connected. We are connected to the rest of the human family, to the created world, and to those who will come after us in future generations.

Impact on the Poor. People in poverty have contributed least to climate change, yet they are disproportionately impacted by it. As a result of excessive use of natural resource by wealthy nations, those who are poor experience pollution, lack of access to clean water, hunger, and more.

Laudato Si Call to Action

Called to Solidarity.

We are one human family and have a shared responsibility for others and for creation. Wealthy countries have a responsibility to reduce consumption of nonrenewal resources and should help poorer nations develop in sustainable ways.

A Time to Act.

Pope Francis calls for a change in lifestyle and consumption. We can make important changes as individuals, families, and communities, and as civil and political leaders.



Turning Waste to Wealth, Energizing Youth, a strategy to Safeguard their Future and create self employment.

Shifting institutions, parishes and churches from a linear “use and dispose” system of waste management to a circular economy to ensure a green, sustainable future.

Processes involved include:

- i. Develop waste management student centered projects
- ii. Source segregation of waste material
- iii. Strengthen national policy governing waste management in schools
- iv. Developing projects that inspire innovation and creativity around waste management.



Become more aware of our connectedness.



Care for one another and creation includes understanding that “everything is connected” and that the economy, politics, community involvement, and technology all affect the future of the planet and humankind. How can we become more aware of our connectedness?

Make changes institutionally at your parish, school, or workplace. For example, start recycling and composting, use washable and degradable utensils, share electronically instead of printing, do an energy audit, and install solar panels Plant trees

Skilling the youth through re-using waste generated in schools and communities a way to form

Our Laudato Clubs focus on mitigating environmental degradation; through innovations and creativity, they learn skills that can open the way for future career development and innovation. These activities also benefit the new curriculum needs for students to exercise and apply the acquired knowledge and skills to start their sustainable jobs to better their lives and transform the environment, home, and communities.

By recycling the waste materials generated in schools, homes, and communities, Laudato youth actively participate in Environmental sustainability efforts/ climate action initiatives as recommended in Laudato Si thus forming responsible citizens.





Sr. Martha, Ale & Br. Adolf on Earthday



www.laudato-youthinitiative.org Find us on [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [y](#)

Support local efforts to solve environmental problems in your organisation, schools, parish, Community groups can make a big difference. Find out what the the Laudato Si circle of San Antonio, Laudato Youth Initiative and others are doing with Laudato Clubs in schools and communities.

God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. Now we have the responsibility to care for and protect it and all people, who are part of creation. Protecting human dignity is strongly linked to care for creation.

University of Incarnate Word and Incarnate Word High school Laudato Si Activities Animated by the Laudato Si Circle of San Antonio



Bridging the generation gap



Explore the Fort-portal Crators, River Nile and Lake Victoria
Photo adopted from a synonymous source



Above the three crator Lakes around Saaka Fort- portal
From left Lake Kyeganywa, Kigere & Saaka

Laudato Si Simplified


Laudato Si focuses upon the theme
“Care for our common home”

we need to examine Laudato Si in our cultural religious and societal context

- CHAPTER ONE** – An environmental assessment of what is happening to our common home in terms of climate change, water, loss of biodiversity, human life, & inequality
- CHAPTER TWO** – Theological reflection of how faith can challenge and motivate us to act – Think about the creation story and the role entrusted to us to care for creation not to exploit it
- CHAPTER THREE** – Prayerfully Reflecting on some core causes of the Ecological Crisis whose biggest contributors happen to be us.
- CHAPTER FOUR** – Integral Ecology: The common good embedded in the principal of subsidiarity highlighting the significance
- CHAPTER FIVE** – Identifying and coming up with creative solutions to the problems paving way for action response•
- CHAPTER SIX** – Raising awareness by educating about the need for ecological conversion and adopting a simple lifestyle adopting a simple lifestyle



IWH students' activities



*Laudato Youth
Journeying with young
people in institutions and the
community to appreciate
and participate in creative
creation care programs.*

Photo Credit: Lucas DeBlase

As young creative environmentalists, we use talent, art, innovation, and the media to raise climate change awareness and inspire climate action. Laudato Club members in schools gain life skills to transform their environment and use waste materials for profitable products that benefit the school and community.

Climate change has a direct impact on the future of the youth. As a way to reduce the study-to-get-a-job syndrome, we feel that enforcing climate change in the form of self-employing skills could reduce future unemployment and poverty that have a direct negative impact on the environment, especially in forest communities instead of youth also resorting to cutting trees for timber, firewood, and charcoal burning which degrade our forests they will use the abundant environmental waste to earn a living.

LYI

Laudato Youth Initiative

United For Climate Action



We are a nonprofit Catholic Religious Youth-led initiative in Uganda that promotes the encyclical Laudato Si and Environmental Action to create more sustainable communities.

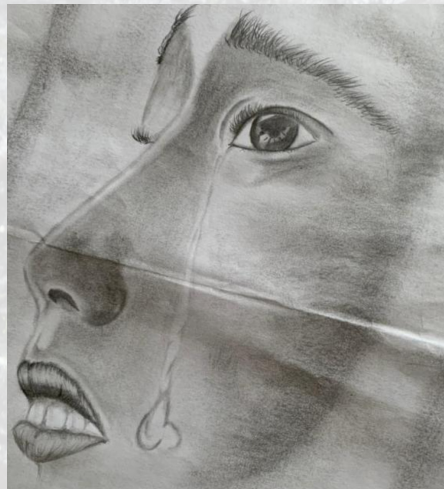
Our activities and programs are focused on responding to climate change through clubs in institutions that focus on tree planting & green zone creation, climate education, Laudato Si training/seminars, and sustainable environmental projects in institutions. Plant a tree to celebrate any special event in your life and your family's life.

Things one can do during Laudato Si Week!

- *Plant indigenous/fruit trees
- *Practice the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle)
- *Set up an organic Composite and practice simple organic farming by setting up a home vegetable garden.
- *Collect all waste in your home or organize a church/school/community clean-up event.
- *Raise awareness about climate change *Watch the letter film documentary come up with action points (what will you do to impact the desired change?)
- Community Spring Cleaning
- *Go for a nature walk and reflect on the importance of ecosystems.
- *Eco- Contests and day without using plastics.
- *Read the encyclical letter Laudato Si and respond by taking action.



Laudato Voices through Art & Design



The Cry of the Earth is the Cry of the poor and the young people

When I joined the Laudato Club, I didn't know how much this problem of climate change is our generation's problem. We will feel the consequences of what is happening today. Our club is to unite us to step forward and take action in response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. I am passionate about using Art to communicate the Climate Change Challenge for people to see that the planet and our future are being plundered as young people; we need to wake up and take action: Art and design are powerful ways of communicating what we feel in our hearts. I hope my two pieces above inspire you to think about climate action.

Pictorial



Portal Diocese: Fr. Paul, Edward & Sr. Margret inspect the nursery bed



Humura Secondary School kyegegwa



secondary school



Fort Portal Diocese



Fort - Portal Diocese Laudato Youth



St. Joseph's Hill S.S.S



REUSING POLYTHENE BAGS AS A MATERIAL FOR WEAVING UPHOLESTRY

A number of polythene bags are used and disposed on streets which are later eroded into soils and water bodies leading to soil degradation and water pollution that is a great impact on climate change.

I am imagining of re-using these polythene bags as a structural textile material straight from primary user for making upholstery products like seat benches, bags and sofa, thereby reducing the carbon footprint and other environmental impacts.

Through this project, sensitization towards the negative impacts of these polythene bags to the environment is addressed and solutions like the use of more paper bags, refuse, thin bags made and where necessary to use these polythene bags in construction projects are also included. These young people are encouraged to participate in the other recycling projects.

This project focuses on using weaving techniques to create upholstery as a way of appreciation and to bases on re-using polythene bags as a structural textile material.

The purpose of this project is to analyze, design and reuse polythene bags by re-using these polythene bags instead of the usual practice of re-use of these polythene bags to make more products for benefiting the public and for aesthetic in Uganda hence concerning the environment and reaching the common vision '2030 Goals'.

Facilitator: Mukibi Yvona

PAINTING INSPIRED BY IMAGINATION

Paintings were done with young people...



Climate Change

As in temperature and rainfall impact the type and amount of vegetation, which in turn impacts the animals that feed on the vegetation. Researchers predict that species could lose most of their habitats in the next 30 years due to the effects of climate change. Apes are very vulnerable because their restricted range of foods that are restricted to particular locations.

Rising temperatures, droughts and extreme weather may force species out of their natural habitats and communities in the future and lead to accelerated conflict.

Activities that cause habitat loss will increase the effects of climate change on apes and other species. Given their large size, slow growth and restricted ranges, apes are limited in their ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Thus, conserving suitable habitats and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases are critical needs for ape survival.

Great Imagining Exhibition on Earth Day



Krystal W

The secret behind the blue and green couple.

This edition features Krystal and Gerald, who will wed on 27th May 2023.

They are a fantastic couple that loves God and serve Him in Music ministry but also care for creation. Ask Gerald about Laudato Si - He will tell you I planted the bamboo trees and birthday fruit trees. Ask Kyrstal. She will say to you. The Laudato Youth President

Sarah is my daughter (Mentee). What a gift to the church and the world. On their introduction day. They decided to represent the beautiful blue waters and green Uganda with the traditional green Suuka worn by Krystal and the blue suit by Gerald. We are proud of them as they prepare for their holy marriage late this month. Be part of their story by praying for them.





eds Gerald



*"There is a nobility in the
duty to care for creation
through little daily actions"*

(LS 211)

(LS 211)



ACHIEVING A GREENER UGANDA A RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL

Protecting the environment and utilizing reusable products is the process of turning our country into a better place to contribute to a better world. Green as color means fresh, reusable, and sustainable, to mention a few.

One may ask themselves; **How can we create a green fairer Country/World/?** Let me share with you a few thoughts.

1. **Loving one's country above all comes first. We then need to be aware of our surroundings and how we treat them. This love should drive us to conserve flora and fauna, planting and protecting the natural products available, for example, flowers, indigenous trees, etc**
2. Sensitizing people about the importance of a green environment and the dangers that can occur, such as drought and floods that claim lives. Many of us may be familiar with what happened in classes when river Nyamwaba Flooded. See link video on the link
3. **Planting more indigenous trees and taking care of them. This could reduce calamities like floods and droughts that threaten human life.**
4. Avoid deforestation, that is, cutting down trees. And if unavoidable, when you cut one tree, please plant three to avoid deforestation's effects.

In the past few months, I have come to learn, and like Laudato si, "praised be" in this letter by Pope Francis is. I encourage all young people out there to read because it is addressed to everyone on this planet. It focuses on caring for and conserving the natural environment as well as establishing and maintaining a relationship between God, humans, and the earth, not forgetting a healthy relationship between the poor and the rich are all aware that you can only know the plight of the poor when you interact with their environment. Many of us who grew up in villages or even in town have in one way encountered a poor person. The question remains what has been our role in transforming their life and giving them hope.

I am part of the Laudato Si Clubs, which inspires young people in institutions and dioceses to respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of people experiencing poverty mentioned in Laudato Si. **This has changed my life and worldview. Looking at the world**



**Kisembo Immaculate
LAUDATO YOUTH CLUB
Kyambogo University**

in its reality has motivated me to work hard and be part of the change the world needs to see, and as a teacher in the making, I will inspire my students to reflect on this reality by striving to put it into action what Pope Francis mentioned in his letter. Fellow youth, we are the world's light and more energetic. Let us use our time and energy well, investing in our future. Some activities include planting trees, sensitizing people to the knowledge of the green environment, discouraging activities that may lead to negative climate change, training leadership skills in the youth, and teaching them to respect God in all their endeavors that take place in our initiative. Don't be left out. Join us in your institution or follow us on our social media for inspirations.



Hello friends of Laudato Youth Initiative. It is yet another opportunity to be part of this month's NewsLetter more, especially in the Laudato si month that starts on the 21st to 28th of May 2023, knowing that the earth is our treasure is fundamental.

His Holiness Pope Francis remarkably states the urgent need to fight climate change, a big threat to us. Climate change is also the root cause of the many problems we face today. Meanwhile, the LETTER is a concretized document in which the Pope calls upon all the people in the world to watch it, analyze it, and finally spread it.

St. Francis of Assis clearly states that "All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle," and he continues to say that It is the only action higher than words. This means that we should be ambassadors of light and not darkness. It is the responsibility of you and me to take care of Mother Earth.

Let me ask a question, how do you feel when you see the trees being swayed by the wind? It's a nice experience that even drives you to sit under the trees and feel the fresh air. So this same way we enjoy a preserved, protected environment should be the spirit to carry on the green, clean water, and fresh space, most of which were created on the third day. If we do not, then we shall continue crying and carrying on constraints of poverty, unemployment, and death which truly show that we are the cause of the new era of climate change. Can we be the cause of an era full of light? Yes, it is possible only if we are **UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION** together with Laudato Youth Initiative.



SARAH KIRIKUMWINO
LAUDATO CLUBS'
PRESIDENT

AND STUDENT AT
HOLY CROSS LAKE VIEW S.S.
WANYANGE - JINJA

Hope for the Earth.

Hope for humanity.


This year Laudato Si' Week 2023 will be celebrated May 21-28, to mark the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on care for creation.

This global celebration will unite Catholics to rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life, and show how the protagonists Hope for the Earth.



LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2023



 YouTube Originals

THE LETTER

A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH





Follow us on our social media plat forms

Intagram: [laudatosi_response](#)
FaceBook: [Laudato Youth Initiative](#)

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

Email: laudatoyouthinitiative@gmail.com

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

Laudato Youth Initiative

UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION

