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for Climat

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Laudato Youth Uniting young people for Climate Action

Laudato Youth are voung people dedicated to amplify voices of the youth and respond to Laudato Si and Climate Change through action



Word from the Director

Laudate Deum. Young people are advocates for systemic change: so worried about their future this we can practically do by; because of the effects of climate Empowering young people to change. In this edition of Laudato engage in advocacy efforts and Voices, I want to reflect on how influence policy decisions. we can be their hope in the face Encourage them to of the negative impacts of climate environmental change.

As the Laudato Youth Initiative Help them understand the role leader, I interact with a number of youth, and this has informed my knowledge about how much this whole issue of climate change is to helping them understand the causes and consequences of climate change by sharing information and resources. As energy the Laudato Youth Initiative, we conservation to amplify their voices, seminars, and discussions to teach them about sustainable practices and solutions. Most importantly, we involve them in the solution by planting trees in their schools and collaborate on projects tackling undertaking sustainability-related climate projects.

More so, we encourage individual community-based actions, emphasizing the impact Promote collaboration as a means of individual choices on the to amplify their efforts and create environment. Promote eco- a sense of collective impact, friendly habits like recycling, something we try to educate our reducing waste, conserving Laudato Youth. energy and water, and adopting sustainable methods. To show them that form the bigger significant part of small changes collectively make a our Country's population return to significant difference and can be a hope for their future.

The talk out there is COP28 and We need to grow more into

organizations and volunteer for local initiatives focused on sustainability.

of collective action in driving systemic change for a sustainable future.

affecting and worrying our young Highlighting success stories people and the poor. We need to and sharing inspiring stories of take various actions, ranging from individuals and communities educating and raising awareness working towards mitigating climate change would also give hope to our young people. Showcase examples of renewable projects, successful efforts, organize club-based workshops innovative sustainable practices. These stories can inspire hope and motivate them to take action.

> Lastly, let us foster collaboration to encourage young people to change. **Facilitate** platforms for sharing ideas, organizing events, or initiating initiatives.

transportation As we end the year and young who their families, remember to keep them engaged; your support,

guidance, and dedication can help instill hope in them, reminding them that they have the power to shape a sustainable future.



Mr. Kahwa Benard

Laudato Youth Initiative Fexecutive Director

Young people are so worried about their future because of the effects of climate change.

COP28 Explained

COP28 will provide a platform for countries to submit their national climate action plans, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), outlining their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

COP28 is the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Topic Copy 28

Training Copy 2

The UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty established in 1992 to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

The conference aims to assess progress in dealing with climate change since the Paris Agreement was adopted at COP21 in 2015 and to strengthen global efforts to address climate change. COP28 will focus on key issues such as implementing the Paris Agreement, setting more ambitious climate targets, and mobilizing finance and support for climate action

COP28 will bring together representatives from almost 200 countries, including government officials, scientists, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

Matis involved?

The conference typically features side events, exhibits, and workshops where participants can share knowledge, showcase innovative solutions, and foster collaboration.

Alongside the official negotiations, civil society organizations often hold parallel events and protests to raise awareness about climate-related issues.

COP28 is expected to play a crucial role in the global response to climate change and in advancing the goals of the Paris Agreement, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future for all.



As the world gears up for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to address the pressing issue of climate change, there is an urgent need for a powerful awakening. "Laudate Deum," meaning "Praise God" in Latin, which serves as a call to action, reminding us of the collective responsibility to protect our planet and inspire hope for future generations. The world must reflect on the significance of faith, unity, and sustainable action in tackling climate change issues.

First, by recognizing the urgency. It is essential to understand that the current state of our planet and the necessity for immediate action thus highlighting the role of COP28 as one that should come up with practical global climate policies.

Secondly, besides my own religious beliefs that clearly explain that the best policies that have inspired the moral stance in our world have been inspired by faith, so wakening this challenge is exploring the moral and ethical dimensions of climate change through religious perspectives by examining various faith-based initiatives and their impact on environmental stewardship. This explains why Pope Francis is interested in attending COP28. His presence will increase the spotlight on the talks and build a bridge of unity and peace for all.

Fostering Unity for Sustainable Change is a value that the Laudato Youth initiative strives to instill in young people, allowing them to Showcase their gifts and talents by applying them creatively to inspire climate action. I also believe that successful collaborations between institutions, governments, organizations, and individuals can equally help identify barriers to unity and propose strategies to overcome them.

Lastly, inspiring Hope for Future Generations is practically shedding light on innovative solutions and technological advancements in sustainable practices. These will signifi people and their role in shaping a preferred future. Every month, we publish a Laudato Voice Magazine. It's incredible to see what young people think through their writing.

As we look at the COP28 coming soon, we need to think critically about what needs to be done for it to be a turning point for practical solutions. With the urgency of climate change becoming more apparent than ever, 'Laudate Deum" serves as a profound wake-up call for COP28 and a source of hope for future generations. By embracing faith, unity, and sustainable action, we can pave the way for a greener and more sustainable world by putting nature, people, lives, and livelihoods at the heart of climate action. Let this publication be the catalyst for change as we collectively work towards a better future for all.

> Br. Adolf Mugume Laudato Youth Initiative Mentor

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Laudate Deum's wake-up call for COP 28 and the survival of future generations



pre-COP27 event with the Jinja City Council and the community fruit trees to promote the annual Conference of the Parties (COP), which brings together Countries environmental issues.

released another message, Laudate Deum, which emphasizes that the made me happy our Laudato Clubs young people. in school strive to empower and with action as inspired by the motto: United for climate action.

COP28 is coming soon! Last year, generations. If I may ask? What, our school participated in the then, is your planned action response as we approach COP28? Your contributions to young people of Wayange. We planted many in helping them drive Climate change and champion sustainable practices in their schools and communities for me are nothing in the World to address pressing short of inspiring but most needed. Let us think, for instance, of the youth's significant role in This year, Pope Francis has just shaping climate discussions and offering insight into their creative and hopeful initiatives like our COP conferences must go beyond Laudato Clubs in different schools the meetings but act as a turning in Uganda, which are shaping point for action response; this the minds and sowing the seed in

inspire young people to respond As a youth leader, who was very glad to see Laudate Deum point out the role of meetings like COP28 and challenge each of us, whether I honestly think Laudete Deum young or old, church leaders or is timely and wake-up for all political. I relate it to the inspiration who will participate in COP28, of our Laudato Youth Initiative including you and me. We are motto (United For Climate Action). challenged to contribute tangible I know everybody may not read action to the survival of the future my article. Still, my thought about

COP28 is it should give birth to an implementing body that will be tasked to look at each Country independently, assess its Climate Change impact level, and then come up with an implementation plan that they go to execute every year. When they return for the meeting, we can hear the updates on how much they have reduced the threat of climate change so that Countries Can plan on improving more by discussing new methods and learning from each other. We do that in our Laudato Clubs and have learnt a lot from each other and worked harder to improve how and what we are doing in our school clubs. This has helped us to realize the desired change, track the impact, and see where we need to work more.

Secondly, schools must be tasked to teach students about climate change and involve them in creative projects that can begin within the school and reach the community. This will empower young people to work for the change they want to see in their future besides sowing the seed that will make them environmentally positive citizens. On the other hand, empowering young people can spearhead an action if guided by elders. We do that a lot in Laudato Clubs with our patrons. The young leaders and elders teach by inspiring and guiding. I like what we do in Laudato Clubs. For instance, initiatives such as Laudato Si walks, waste-free schools, community engagement, school green gardens, Laudato Si Masses, encouraging our schools to go solar, students to use water and electricity reservable and green festivals in schools that involve massive tree planting and teaching the community about solid waste management., we are creating a powerful voice for change. Our passion, determination, and unwavering belief in a sustainable future have caught our school leaders and visitors who visit our schools.

Recognizing the importance of including younger voices in decisionmaking processes during COP28 is vital; I know many countries appointed youth delegates to participate in international climate negotiations. It is an opportunity, and the young representatives bring fresh perspectives, new ideas, and an unwavering commitment to achieving climate justice; however, we need to see more involvement in the action part. Their presence at COP is a vital reminder that the decisions made today will have lasting impacts on future generations, so actions taken will do the

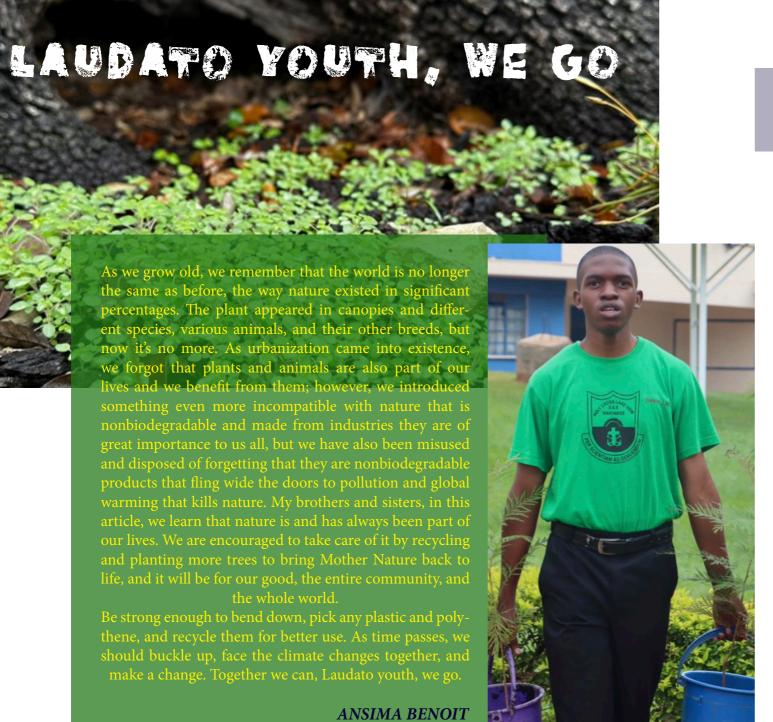
The youths are innovators and entrepreneurs; if well utilized, they can be at the forefront of developing groundbreaking solutions to combat climate change and, from renewable energy startups to sustainable agriculture projects, using technology and innovation to redefine the possibilities for a greener future. Our ideas, driven by a desire to protect Mother Earth, can revolutionize industries and pave the way for a more sustainable world we desire to see in our future.

I have seen young people take it upon themselves to educate their peers and raise awareness about climate change. We do that in our Laudato club and our schools. The clubs organize workshops where young people learn about sustainability. We recently saw that at Holy Cross and Divine Mercy, our schools create educational resources and engage in grassroots campaigns to inform communities about environmental issues and inspire sustainable actions. By empowering others with knowledge, they foster a culture of environmental responsibility and encourage collective action.

The way to go is collaborating with the church, Government bodies, NGOs,







Laudato Youth My Pride and an Inspiration to Environmental Conservation

In this world, everything
That does for us something
It needs to be appreciated with something
The environment is our home
And so conserving it is appreciating it

More trees need to be planted.
So as to increase the rainfall formation.
Material waste needs to be handled well
Overgrazing, bush burning, charcoal burning
Should be stopped
So that our responsibility is met

If the environment is not conserved,
Drought will become a song of everyone,
We will receive no rainfall for a long time,
Diseases will become stories to tell
We will no longer see the green covering
Why can't we be responsible for it by
conserving . So that we cannot get those negative results?

As a Laudato youth, I have learnt from this club that it is entirely my responsibility to care for the environment. Too many complaints and talk about the environment may not help much, but we need to act. I see much change happening in our school because of what we planted.



BY KIRUNGI SUZAN BRIDGET



LAUDATO CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

OUR ENVIRONMEN **OUR RESPONSIBILITY** You are something in this world that helps living organisms to survive when you are conserved. But when you are destroyed, famine, drought, landslides, changes in seasons, and floods all will hit the land, leading to the destruction of farmers' crops, houses, and property and some-UR ENVIRONMENT times causing death to

animals and people. The people who live on the radiations from the sun and the outcome is deland destroy you through carrying out deforestation, sertification.

bush burning, swamp

and construct roads and

industries, not knowing

the dangerous fumes they

produce, hence destroying

the ozone layer and expos-

ing the earth to hazardous

Our role is to carry out drainage, and industrializa- agroforestry reforestation to get land for farming tion, preparing for future generations.

> UNITED WE STAND" "DIVIDED WE FALL, UNITED FOR CLIMATE **ACTION**

It is where we stay together. The environment is our mother home So she needs a lot of care. Through conserving her. Let's conserve her to getpositive results

Planting more trees should be practiced. Instead of cutting them down. Pick all plastic waste everywhere you see them to keep her green

Unless we conserve her, Drought will be everywhere Animals and people will die Plants will all dry up, causing hunger Let's convince her to get positive results.

BY A. JULIENT **DIVINE MERCY S.S** F.2B

Laudato Club of Divine Nercy S.



IT IS NOT ONLY TRUE BUT REAL

To stand and be at the top of the world Turning my glossy eyes around the nature of Fort Portal City

It's at the top of the world, the mysterious area where you can conclude nature or continue about the elegance of nature.

From the raised plateau in the North Eastern direction, you get a glance at the prestigious peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains. Then you feast your eyes on the glamorous blue skies in the southeastern direction, not forgetting the pride of Tooro, the Royal palace. In the North is the sighting of the great Lake Edward waters in Kasese; still clockwise in the southwestern direction is the Kamwenge hills.

Due to its black waters, the top is also surrounded by fresh crater lakes, i.e., the Nyamwirima Lake, Nyabikere, and Mother Lake. That is its loyalty to being endowed by nature's blessing.

ENVIRONMENT ENVIRONMENT

It's good for you, it's good for me What else will we ever look for? When we have the best environment

Do the right thing because it's the right thing to do Even when you know that nobody is

watching you Everyone should do it; a child or leader

Because when you have a good environment, you do whatever it takes to preserve its majesty

Make the right choice when there is so much to choose from Even when there might be something significant to lose Everyone can it – it's your voice You have someone who's always going to make the choice For Environment for Nature

> BY; PROSSY S.3 LYI OF DIVINE MERCY S.S

MOTHER NATURE MOTHER NATURE

You are beyond man's imagination Are you the plants, the fresh waters, or the singing melodious birds? Not because of your neither natural fragments nor elegance But all I know is that it's all nature.

The sun is bright on the upland slopes The wind stirs, soft through the springing grass

The rivers flow like a stream of grass When the birds sing, the first buds are opened

It's all for Mother Nature

For what man discovered and rewarded to you There will always be a conservation of your fauna and flora It's you, Mother Nature

UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION BY; ANNA LISA S.2 LYI OF DIVINE MERCY S.S



ENDVOUR TO PROTECT **MOTHER NATURE**

Whenever I widen my ears, I understand who she was. hear sweet melodies of different I used to see the trees, the lake, bird species, which gives me a the birds, and the animals, but I lot of peace. But as time passes, the melodies I hear every Nature." But no sooner had I time are nowhere to be heard known her than I started to because their homes are BEING conserver her. DESTROYED.

like deforestation, bush burning, happening because of neglecting and destroying Mother Nature.

practice swamp preservation and many others. Everyone must but only because I had left my develop that love for Mother responsibility to my parents. Nature through writing articles, When I returned home, my tree announcements, and posters had grown and was bearing fruits. that help educate people about I felt happy and said that I was crucial things one obtains after a mother who gave birth to a caring for the environment. If we conserve Mother Nature, we will have saved the future

"PLANT A TREE, PLANT A LIFE"

Compiled by; **MARTHA KASEMIIRE F.2B**

THE BEAUTIFUL **ENVIRONMENT**

It took me much time to

never knew that she was "Mother

I used to hear people say that Spontaneous changes are hitting nature is life, but I didn't believe our evergreen environment, it until my dad forced me to plant which is filled with distinct a tree. Planting a tree was a waste plant and animal species, but all of time, but when he told me that in vain. It hurts me a lot when oxygen is plants, it became my I see people practicing activities concern. Look how I forcefully planted a tree; it felt like I had and swamp drainage that make given birth to a baby because our marvelous Mother Nature I always felt sad whenever it perish like nothing. All of this is experienced drought. I was afraid that it could die.

Now, imagine when I returned Everyone is responsible; let's to school and left my responsibility of caring for my tree. It hurt me,

Now, I agree when one says that nature is life. Planting a tree doesn't take time, but it means a lot when you tend it.

Let's all plant a tree; it's our responsibility, and the Laudato Club affirms and empowers to care for creation.

MUSIIMENTA MONICA

F.2 DIVINE MERCY



A SPEECH TO THE ENTIRE WORLD FROM THE **ENTIRE WORLD**

I am beginning to fear tomorrow, not because of what might happen but because of what is happening today. It is more worrying when I look at us, ignoring everything that is going on, pretending as though we are not moved even one bit, hiding our abilities in disguise of being blind and deaf. It's not as Guilty or not, we will equally though whatever is happening is only happening in a few places; think it is a responsibility for this is a global situation. Every country, every city, every town, village, home, and house is and will experience it equally.

Aren't we tired of singing the same line? ACTION! ACTION! ACTION! It's too old a song to blaming and act on combating repeat. We're wearing ourselves out talking about the same thing repeatedly. I have planted a tree; should unite to do everything to please do the same; we should spread this message! Share and inspire others to do what we chance to blossom with nature. have done. Words alone won't create the change we want to see. will do the same." Planting a

We have discussed this for far than struggling to breathe clean too long; how about we act now? Before you preach about it, what have you done about it? Before more climate change problems, you condemn others, have you there will be absolutely nothing owned up to your own actions? to adapt to! Know this: you are Much as we don't contribute entirely responsible for shaping equally to this calamity, the the tomorrow you expect to see. fact still stands that each one of ACT RESPONSIBLY, and you us has had a hand in this. The will be proud of every tomorrow. blame game should be put aside, ANSWER NATURE'S PLEA and and we should do what we must save yourself. do.

BY **SWABURA** NAHIA HCLV

suffer its consequences. If you only a few, I pray for you because your end is too close. How about you blame yourself for failing to do what you ought to rather than pointing fingers at those you are considering culprits? This is the message: drop this climate change. You are so far away, I know, but in spirit, we overcome this problem. Before giving up, consider another "Serve her, save her, and she tree is more accessible work oxygen. Mitigation is an easier way than adoption. If there are no





COP28 MUST CONFRONT TWO CRITICAL PROBLEMS

We need to work together to implement a range of comprehensive measures and sustainable strategies to reduce carbon emissions in our homes, communities, and Countries that pose an existential threat to humanity. Through collab-

How will the world reduce emissions that pose an existential threat to humanity?

orative efforts of synodality and Corporate social responsibility, technological advancements, policy changes, and public awareness initiatives, work to transition towards clean and renewable energy sources, promote energy efficiency, enhance green transportation options by controlling high carbon emitters, and encourage responsible consumption patterns. We can ensure a safer and more sustainable future for all with a steadfast

commitment, global cooperation, and a shared sense of urgency. The Laudato Youth Strive to Unite Young People for Climate Action is guided by the encyclical Laudato Si and Laudate Deum, which challenges us to take responsibility.

What happens after the CDF meeting is often a big question, and now CDF 28 challenges us to think critically about confronting these two pertinent questions.

How will the world reduce emissions that pose an existential threat to humanity? The young people are so worried about their future. How can I be their hope? What am I doing to be part of a lasting solution to the above crisis?

How is COP28 going to convince the wealthy nations of the world to reduce global inequality and persuade them to realize that the time to act is now and pass resolutions so that they will have a strategy to follow up and implement what they discuss?

of Call by the Youth to Protect the Environment



In recent years, a powerful and inspiring accountable for their environmental movement has taken shape worldwide: the youth-led call to protect the environment. This generation, often called "Generation Z" or "Gen Z," has recognized the urgent need to address environmental challenges and is taking proactive steps to safeguard the planet for future generations. As Laudato Initiative, we join the same call to a cause that concerns us all. Our unwavering commitment to environmental conservation is reshaping how we think about sustainability and paving the way for a more eco-conscious future. We have witnessed devastating wildfires, extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and biodiversity loss. The dire consequences of these environmental issues have left an indelible mark on their collective consciousness, motivating them to take action. One of the most remarkable aspects of this youth movement is its ability to mobilize through social media and online platforms. The power of digital connectivity has allowed these youth activists to transcend borders and communicate their message with unprecedented reach.

The Intersection of Science and Advocacy

Laudato's commitment to protecting the environment is not limited to online activism. Many young people have immersed themselves in environmental outreaches to understand better and address ecological issues.

Furthermore, young climate activists are increasingly holding public officials policies. They are pushing for bold and science-based policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to clean energy sources and promote sustainable land use. The youth are leveraging their voting power and engaging in advocacy to ensure politicians prioritize the environment in their decision-making.

Another significant contribution of youth environmentalists to the environmental movement is their focus on education and awareness. Youth-led organizations and laudato clubs in schools and universities organize nature walks, ecological visits, and awareness campaigns to educate their peers and communities about pressing environmental issues. They believe that by spreading knowledge and fostering a sense of responsibility, they can inspire meaningful change.

The youth are also at the forefront of developing innovative solutions to environmental challenges. They should create startups and projects that harness technology for the betterment of the planet. From apps that promote sustainable consumer choices to inventions that combat plastic pollution, We can harness our creativity and technological savvy to drive change.

The youth-led movement to protect the environment is not merely a call for action; it's an invitation to collaborate. Laudato Initiative recognizes that solving global environmental problems requires a collective effort involving people of

all ages, backgrounds, and sectors. They encourage intergenerational dialogue and partnerships, believing that together we can create a more sustainable and resilient

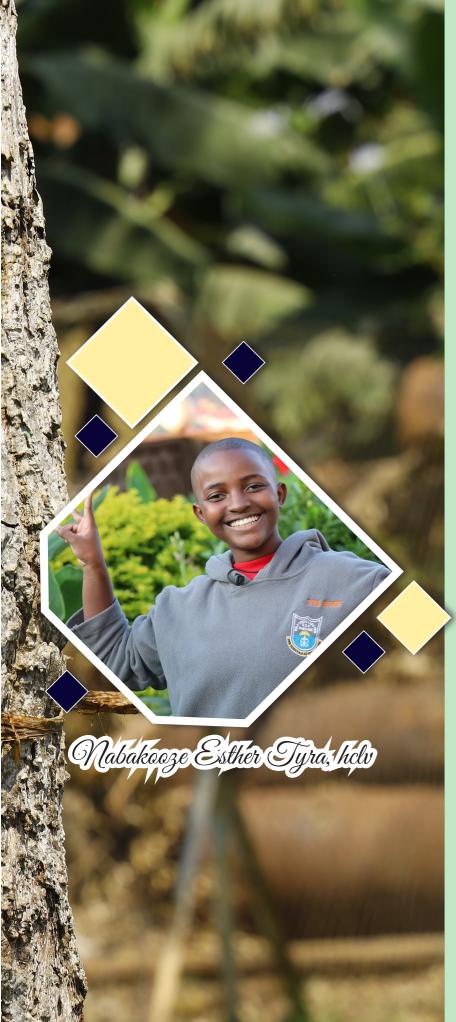
The ability to mobilize are driving positive change at a time when it is desperately needed. Their commitment to science, advocacy, education, and innovation is reshaping our approach to environmental conservation, inspiring people of all ages to join the fight to preserve the planet. We can look forward to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future as we heed their call. Together, as a budding age, we can protect the environment by fostering innovative ways like the Laudato Youth Initiative call to action campaigns and modeling action activities in schools, Parishes, and communities.

By RUSAHURA DANIEL Chairperson Laudato youth initiative-Fort portal Catholic Diocese









Loving our environment is crucial for the well-being of our planet and future generations. It's about recognizing the beauty and value of nature and taking action to protect and preserve it. When we love and care for the environment, we become stewards of the earth, working towards a sustainable and harmonious coexistence with all living beings.

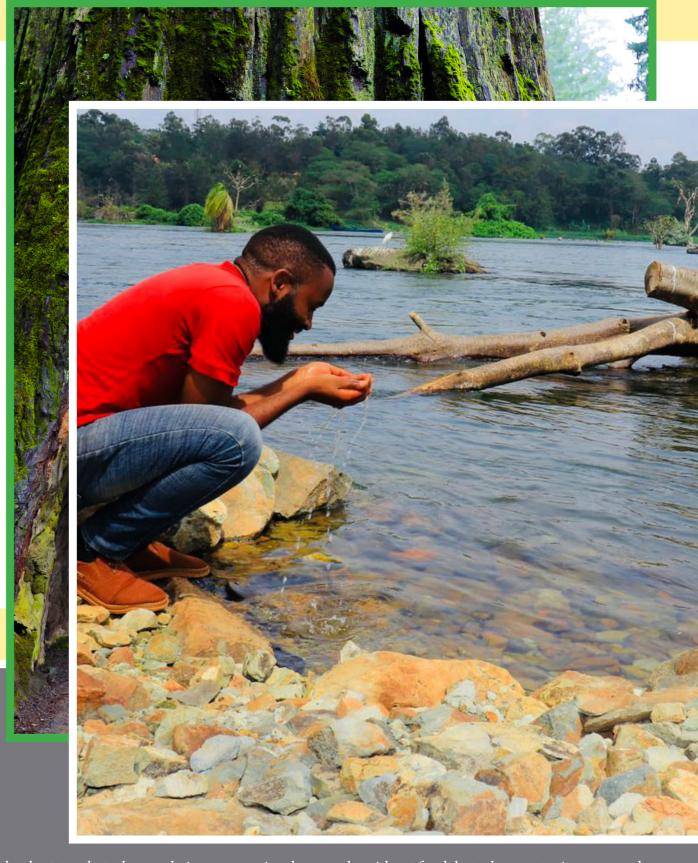
ur forests, rivers, lakes, and soils provide us with the food we eat, the air we breathe, and the water we drink and use to irrigate our crops. We also rely on them for numerous other goods and services we depend on for our health, happiness, and development.

by nurturing and protecting biodiversity. Every living organism plays a vital role in maintaining the delicate balance of ecosystems. By preserving habitats, supporting conservation efforts, and advocating for the protection of endangered species, we can contribute to preserving the earth's incredible biodiversity.

oving the environment also means being mindful of our energy consumption. We can opt for renewable energy resources, such as solar or wind power, and reduce our reliance on non-renewable resources like fossil fuels. Conserving energy in our daily lives, such as turning off lights and electronics when not in use, we can make a big difference in reducing our carbon footprint.

ducation and awareness are essential in showing love to our environment. We recently had a Laudato Si walk; the primary purpose was to create awareness and share this knowledge with our neighbors around the school. We cannot only stop there; we also have environmental campaigns and supporting organizations dedicated to environmental protection for positive changes.

conclusion, loving our environment is not just an individual responsibility; it's just a collective effort that requires the participation of everyone. This is our home and the legacy we leave for future generations.



Science clearly states that a human being can survive three weeks without food, but where water is concerned most people can't go on 3-4 days without it! Dehydration sets in, and even if the person continues to breathe, they will go into shock and become vegetative. In other words, water is the primary necessity. Without it, a living being simply cannot survive. Yet, it is a horrific fact that there are billions of people around the world who do not have access to clean drinking water.

Tackling Climate Change Challenges Through Youth Mentorship







The Laudato Youth Initiative, a group of young people I mentor through "Laudato clubs" in different schools in Uganda and beyond, creates opportunities and platforms for young people to unite for climate action and voice their concerns through writing, poetry, art, digital media campaigns, community service programs, sharing innovative ideas, and devising solutions regarding climate change in their families, schools and community guided by the encyclical Laudato Si.

It encourages them to think critically and act practically, engage in open dialogues, discussions, and debates where they can share their knowledge, experiences, and aspirations related to environmental

By giving them a platform, the initiative empowers them to sow the seed of Climate Action sensitivity and actively contribute to shaping personal and locally manageable policies, strategies, school and community service-based projects aimed at mitigating climate change.

Furthermore, the initiative provides young people with the necessary skills and information required to take action. It educates and raises awareness among youth about the spiritual and scientific evidence behind climate change and its devastating impacts. By equipping them with knowledge, they become better actors and advocates for climate action, capable of effectively communicating the urgency of the issue to others.





This also made me think of the Notably, ongoing activities at COP28 recognizes the importance and the church's challenge to of mentorship and guidance us through the recent Laudate in nurturing young climate Deum extortion by Pope leaders. It pairs experienced Francis as efforts that inspire | mentors (teacher patrons) with us to foster collaboration and aspiring young individuals networking with the youth to provide guidance and in different schools, enabling support as they embark on them to work together towards | their climate action journeys. pursuing a moral cause for the This mentorship helps develop common good.

Through this collective effort, of agency and responsibility young people pool their skills, in young people, empowering expertise, and resources, them to make a meaningful amplifying their impact and thus driving systemic change.

leadership skills, builds resilience, and instills a sense difference.

In summary, the Laudato Youth Initiative taps into the power of the youth by uniting them for climate action and creating spaces for dialogue, providing climate education, fostering collaboration, and offering mentorship. By engaging and empowering young individuals, the initiative recognizes that they are essential drivers of mindset set change in combating climate change since it ranks among the most critical dynamics shaping the livelihoods of young people because they hold the power to shape the future of our planet.

voice we raise, and every idea we share has the potential to create a ripple effect that transforms our world. The Laudato Youth Initiative believes in the boundless potential of youth and their ability to lead the fight against climate change.





So, young warriors for the environment, let us harness our passion, creativity, and determination to be the change we wish to see. Let us collaborate and build generational bridges, for we can achieve much more when we work as a team.

Remember, our planet is calling out to us, and it is our duty to answer. We have inherited a beautiful home, and we must protect it for future generations. Let us not falter in the face of challenges but instead be resilient and courageous in our pursuit of a sustainable, thriving world.

It is time to rise, young leaders. It is time to step up, take action, and be the change-makers who drive the transition to a greener, more sustainable future. With hope in our hearts and our eyes steadfastly fixed on a better tomorrow, let us embark on this journey together. Together, we can and will make a difference in our common home. You may check out our work on the website and social media platforms "Laudato Youth Initiative."



BENEW S

In Uganda, the climate crisis is a child rights crisis because it is the greatest threat facing Uganda's children and young people. As we speak, whole communities have been rendered homeless, some children are forced to migrate, and they are no longer able to attend school because of climate effects. Food insecurity and drought continue to affect children and families in some parts of Uganda, and lives continue to be lost.

This is not the time to be complacent but the time to act and work together for a more sustainable environment. So, as Ugandan youths, we need to prevent the worsening of the crisis for the children and future people by securing rapid emissions reduction (mitigation) and the transition to renewable energy through creating a livable planet by shifting to renewable energy sources, improving air quality, transforming industrial Agriculture and fisheries, protecting biodiversity and ensuring access to clean water.

Prioritizing climate education is another way we, as Ugandan youths, can deal with climate change. With this, we need to ensure that every youth and child understands the impacts of climate change and is equipped with tools and skills to meaningfully participate and contribute to climate action and solutions.

As young people of Uganda, we believe in the power of collective action to combat the climate crisis and safeguard our rights. With hope in our hearts and determination in our voices, we stand ready to create a brighter, more sustainable future for Uganda. The time to act is now to ensure a livable Uganda for every child.

Kafuko Mininah



LEADERSHUP

There is a growing emphasis on the importance of environmental sustainability and conservation. With the looming threat of climate change, it has become crucial for us the younger generation take up leadership roles in addressing these issues. Our initiative has successfully empowered us through Laudato Clubs, which are youth-led but focused on promoting environmental protection in schools and churches. These clubs provide an excellent platform for youth leadership, enabling us to take charge and make a positive impact on our communities and the planet.

I have had the opportunity to participate in the media campaigns of Laudato youth trust me it has empowered me to believe in myself and express my opinions, empower fellow young fellows at Michaud Girls to develop a sense of responsibility and ownership of our school environmental. This hands-on involvement allowed me to enhance and gain valuable skills in communication, and teamwork. By actively participating in these initiatives, I have developed a deep understanding of the importance of environmental preservation.

Another thing is youth leadership in Laudato Clubs plays a crucial role in promoting creation care efforts. By empowering us to take charge, then we can actively contribute to our schools, churches, communities and the planet. Through our involvement, as a leader I have gained valuable skills that foster innovation, and helped me experience personal growth, and had the opportunity to met mentors and think of how I will strive to make a lasting impact. I believe the youth-led approach of Laudato Clubs is a testament to the power and potential of we the youth in shaping a better, more sustainable future us for all.



Green Awakening: African Youth Leading the Way in Living "Laudato Si" for Environmental Stewardship



Pope Francis' "Laudato Si" whispers a hymn of unity between the spiritual and the ecological, a plea from the heart of the Vatican Gardens to the vastness of our shared Earth. It sings of preserving the green mantle of our planet and a deeper communion with it, where each creature and creation is part of a sacred tapestry woven by the divine. This encyclical, echoing the gentle verses of St. Francis of Assisi, calls us not to view the Earth as a warehouse of expendables but as a family home filled with life, to be tended with love and respect.

This call takes on a profound urgency in Africa, where horizons stretch unbroken, and wildlife roams free. The continent's natural glory stands at a crossroads, beset by climate's wrath and the march of progress. Pope Francis sees our environmental plight as not just a crisis but a summons, a drumbeat calling for a shift in policy and the soul, urging a walk down the humbler paths of reverence and wonder towards the natural world. The encyclical reaches Africa's vastness, seeking to stir an awakening that is less about altering courses and more about altering hearts.

In the heart of Africa, a clarion call resounds a summoning by "Laudato Si" for the youth to rise as stewards of an ancient land. This is a call to weave forebears' wisdom with today's insights, crafting a matrix of life where nature's cadence harmonises with human progress. It is a vision that positions the young as architects of fate and guardians of a splendour that stretches from the Saharan expanse to the cape's floral kingdom. With the encyclical as their blueprint, they are poised to sculpt a future where the continent's pulse, the vibrancy of its ecosystems and the spirit of its people are more vital than ever.

However, this vision confronts stark realities: the emerald canopies that once danced to the rhythm of the wind are now stilled, their whispers fading under the relentless march of saws and axes. Once thick with life, Nigeria forests, for example, are now gasping for breath; the desert encroaches with an unsated hunger, reflecting our collective neglect. These forests, cradles of biodiversity and custodians of the African soul, are in jeopardy, with over a million species ensnared in the web of human folly, their

futures, as well as those of the millions

who find solace and sustenance in their shade, hanging in the balance.

Thus, the air that should be life's sweet chorus is thick with the dissonance of pollution; once a mosaic of fertility, the soil now lies parched and barren. The Nile and Orange River plains, which should be life's nurseries, are stark symbols of what is lost. Climate change, like a sinister shadow, looms over the continent, a threat penned with foreboding clarity by the IPCC. At the same time, the water, the lifeblood of civilisations, grows scarce, forecasting a thirst that could yet leave the land and its people. Within this crucible, the youth must mould a new destiny, turning vulnerability into strength, scarcity into innovation, and challenges into opportunities for growth and harmony.

A new generation stirs, poised to redefine the narrative of a continent through the lens of environmental guardianship. With their numbers vast and spirits undaunted, the youth are the torchbearers of change, their hands ready to sculpt a future where nature and humanity flourish in a delicate, deliberate balance. They stand as the vanguard, merging the wisdom of ancient customs with the urgency of modern crises, a blend of old and new that whispers of a world where every step and action is a dance of respect for the Earth, our shared home.

Amidst this renaissance of care, young leaders emerge, bright as the equatorial sun, forging paths through the wilderness of indifference. They are the heralds of a new age, where the entrepreneurial spirit of Kenya's Wanjuhi Njoroge and the legal acumen of Uganda's Immaculate Akello become the sinews binding community to conservation. In their hands, initiatives blossom, rooting the principles of sustainability deep within the soil of society, ensuring that the echo of their deeds reverberates through the savannahs and the halls of power alike.

The tapestry they weave is one of vibrant threads of activism and advocacy, of learning and leading. Their voices carry

"Laudato Si" scatters seeds of verdant virtue and mindful stewardship in the nurturing bosom of educational gardens. As a sower of wisdom, Pope Francis calls for the cultivation of conscience through learning, rooting the ideals of ecological care deep within the fertile minds of youth.

a symphony of stewardship that resonates with the deep-seated African virtue of living in harmony with nature. Father Godfrey Nzamujo's fingers trace the lines of this melody, nurturing barren lands back to life, while organisations like CYNESA conduct the chorus of vouth, orchestrating a movement of minds and hearts towards a crescendo of environmental sustainability. These rhythms celebrate life, the anthems of a generation that holds the keys to tomorrow, and the songs that will guide As exemplified Africa and the world towards a greener, more gracious future.

"Laudato Si" scatters seeds of verdant virtue and mindful stewardship in the nurturing bosom of educational gardens. As a sower of wisdom, Pope Francis calls for the cultivation of conscience through learning, rooting the ideals of ecological care deep within the fertile minds of youth. This education blossoms into simple yet profound actions, sprouting a legacy of conservation and a life harmoniously attuned to our planetary home. Through the diligent tending by institutions like Catholic Earthcare Australia, these seeds are watered with the waters of knowledge, marrying the sacred and the scientific, urging a blooming of green consciences in school corridors and classrooms, prepping saplings of society to grow into mighty oaks of environmental custodianship.

Upon the mallage of Africa, community conservation stitches a vibrant mosaic of local wisdom, collective endeavour, and reverence for the wild. Namibia stands as a testament to the power of autonomy in nurturing nature. By embedding environmental guardianship within

the very tendons of its constitution, it has birthed conservancies that are sanctuaries of biodiversity and bastions of local empowerment. Here, the land thrives, wildlife returns and communities prosper, weaving a narrative where the conservation of nature and the nurturance of human potential are entwined in a dance as old as time, resonating with the spirit of "Laudato Si" in each heartbeat of

Namibia's conservancies, this ecological and social symbiosis renaissance heralds a new era where humanity does not lord over nature but walks alongside it as a humble partner. As the Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) demonstrates, the accurate measure of success is found not just in the numbers of animals conserved but in the upliftment of human lives, the smiles of children, and the prosperity of villages. This is a call, as clear as the African dawn, to carry this chorus of conservation across savannas and seas, to lands where the soil awaits the touch of a conservationist's hand and the people the embrace of nature's bounty.

Africa's journey toward a sustainable tomorrow is charted in the constellations of Agenda 2063, a map drawn with aspirations for a continent blooming in harmony with nature. However, this path is strewn with hurdles, not of resource scarcity or lack of knowledge, but the need for governance that nurtures the seeds of environmental care. Since the pivotal 1992 UN conference, a global chorus a beacon of this philosophy, its narrative has swelled, calling for the integration of developing lands into the embrace of environmental guardianship, and Africa's voice, through AMCEN, CAHOSOCC,

and AGN, rises in unison, yearning for a climate policy that reflects its minimal carbon footprint yet the disproportionate burden of climate change's wrath.

The matrix of policy and performance is marred, however, by the blemishes of corruption, the frays of governance that hinder the growth of green virtues. The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) paints a clear and stark picture: the quality of governance is the palette from which environmental success is drawn. The tendrils of law, the strokes of regulatory quality, and the erasure of corruption are the artistry needed for a verdant Africa. In this, "Laudato Si" whispers of wisdom deep, policies steeped in ethics, transparency, and the active participation of society's chorus, crafting not just a shield for nature but a crucible for community prosperity, echoing the encyclical's hymn for a holistic ecology.

Thus, the vision for Africa unfurls, a vision where the youth, imbued with "Laudato Si" and the vivacity of their spirit, dance at the forefront of innovation and sustainable practice. It is a call to policymakers to weave environmental and social threads into the fabric of governance and to the global kin to foster these efforts with equitable support. This is the blueprint for an Africa where human advancement and nature's chorus harmonise in a symphony of balance, ensuring a crescendo of flourishing for all beings, a testament to the integral ecology that "Laudato Si" envisions, a tapestry of life, woven with care, respect, and dignity for every thread in nature's grand design.

Br. Benard Omukuyia

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Laudato Youth Initiative Laudato Clubs in Schools **Uniting Youth for Climate Action** @LYI| www.laudato-youthinitiative.

Uganda Climate Change Updates

FACTS ABOUT THE

ENVIRONMENT IN UGANDA TODAY

WITH THE LAUDATO YOUTH VOICES

EST.2020

Conserve wetlands to reducing effects of climate change

KAMPALA, Nov. 19 (Xinhua)

Uganda's wetland coverage has reduced to 8 percent from 13 percent of the country's land surface, according to the Ministry

of Water and Environment

Conservation experts argue that because of the depletion of wetlands, parts of the country receive long dry spells leading to the destruction of crops, and when the rain season starts, it is erratic leading to loss of lives and prop-

Climate Change Department in Uganda

Uganda like the rest of the world and more particularly the Least Developed Countries with the least capacity to adapt, is vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. It is a threat to its fragile ecosystems, people's livelihoods and ultimately the national economic development efforts. Ugandn youth need to be encouraged and supported in devising ways to address the problem in a time frame safe for life and development sustainability.







PLant a tree to care for creation

What Does the Climate Crisis Mean for Uganda

It is not unusual to see these natural disasters making the global headlines. But, it is poorer countries and communities who continue to face the brunt of these changes on a daily basis. These are the communities who are already struggling with other problems like the effects of Covid 19 Uganda has always experienced a heavy rainy season.

The season runs from March to May and from September to November. Over the past 35 years the rainy season has increased by two months and now commonly runs from March until the end of the year. The increase in rainfall impacts Uganda in many ways, one significant way is flooding. Flash flooding and slow-onset floods impact nearly 50,000 Ugan-

dans every year. These are particularly common in urban areas such as Kampala. Poor sewage and sanitation systems in Kampala's low lying slums mean that flooding has a devastating impact on our communities and their livelihoods thus Food Insecurity Rise in Disease etc all these challenge each on of us on the need to care for the





Nyakasura School was established in 1926 by a Scotsman known as "Commander." It quickly became popular due to its high standard of European education and Scottish wear uniform.

The school is a boarding secondary school with ordinary and advanced levels located in Nyakasura, North division Fort Portal tourism city near Amabere caves. The Laudato Club of Nyakasura is composed of dedicated students who work hard to maintain the glory and beauty of their green and clean school. You can see an eye-catching site of beauty and intelligent students when you visit or join our school community in the words of the club

learnt at school. Let us also transform our villages and make them better places a message he gave in his recent Laudato Club environmental youth program at Jubilee radio 105.6 FM. For more information

Nyakasura, contact Nyakasura School PO box 76 Fort portal -uganda or Call

Madam Elizabeth, deputy HM academic Phone1: 078214114

Phone2: 0782141141

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), culture defined as a "complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by [a human] as a member of society."

As the mother continent and first inhabited region on earth, Africa is characterized by vast lands and one of the largest populations on the planet with rich human heritage and cultural diversity. The broad history of Africa tells the world about the story of her civilizations ranging from the first artists that left impressions on their rock shelters to the scholars who built great universities in the Sahara. As Laudato youth we aspire to learn from the above and use them as means to conserve mother earth. #LaudatoSi/LaudatoDeum

The treasure of East Africa's unique identity encompasses iconic natural biodeversity in places like Ngorongoro & Serengeti National Parks with endangered species of animals/flora and fauna

The first step to harnessing the potential of East African youth in protectiong the environment and culture is to create to raise awareness of about the contribution to modern life and global culture on our environment.



Dance Green

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT



30th Nov 2023

COP28 12/12 With global temperatures hitting record highs & extreme weather events affecting people around the world, this year's conference is a pivotal opportunity to correct course and accelerate climate action.



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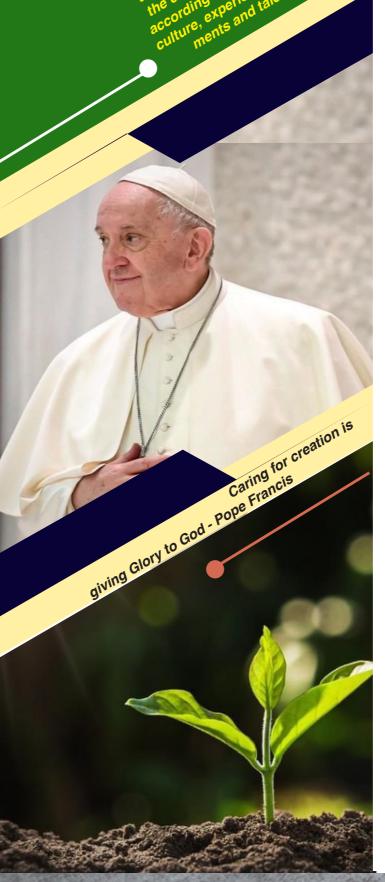
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Together we can keep 1.5 C with in reach

To do so, we must take significant, meaningful, and intergrated immediate action according to COP28 analysist



AUDATOSI RESPONSI



The Divine's love for all of cre-

ation prevails, encompassing not only ourselves but everything that surrounds us. Nature, with its breathtaking beauty and awe-inspiring wonders, should never be overlooked. It serves as a constant reminder of the Creator who brought it into existence. Nature holds an inexhaustible beauty that defies comprehension – from the twinkling stars to the captivating sunrise and sunset, the harmonious melodies sung by birds, and the diverse array of animals, all point to the ingenuity and artistry of our Divine Designer.

Every facet of creation belongs to

the Lord, and as its stewards, it is our responsibility to safeguard and preserve the environment. By doing so, we honor our calling and fulfill our purpose. Let us be mindful of our duty to protect and conserve the natural world, as it is an integral part of God's creation. Through our actions, we demonstrate our gratitude for the unending love and care bestowed upon humanity by our Divine Benefactor, who has blessed us with everything we need.

May we give all glory and honor to

the Divine for the profound affection and provision granted to humankind."

Nandaula Catherine











is committed to unleashing the power and promise of family prayer worldwide and to families in Kenya. While visiting families for ministry, we realized climate change and waste management challenges are prevalent in our community. Most families live around the Dandora Dumping site. Brother Andre church is also one of the neighbors to the dump site. Laudato Si's message is critical for our people and families; since we deal with the family, we look forward to collaborating with the Laudato Youth Initiative to unite young people for Climate Action as a way of fostering the well-being of families and encourage young people to be agents of sustainability in their families and communities. To encourage families to be involved in Laudato Si in Kenya, particularly around the Dandora dumping site, Holy Cross Family Ministries will consider the following.

First and foremost, as the mother of Jesus Christ, Mary holds a unique and revered position within Christianity. She is seen as a model of faith, humility, and love for both God and humanity, and so did our founder, Fr. Patrick Peyton. Her example encourages believers to live virtuous and compassionate lives. Laudato Si, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, also urges individuals to adopt a similar mindset of care and compassion, but towards all of creation.

Mary's role as the mother of Jesus makes her intimately connected to God's creation. She witnessed firsthand the beauty and wonder of the natural world as she traveled with Jesus throughout his ministry. Therefore, Mary can be seen as an advocate for the environment and a symbol of the interdependent relationship between humanity and the natural world.

Furthermore, Mary's Magnificat, her prayer of praise and thanksgiving in the Gospel of Luke, reflects themes found in Laudato Si. Mary acknowledges God's greatness and recognizes the importance of justice, mercy, and respect for the marginalized. Similarly, Laudato Si emphasizes the need for social and environmental justice, calling for a more equitable and sustainable approach to caring for our common home.

Holy Cross Family Ministries Kenya Mother Mary and Laudato Si intersect compassion, justice, and care for creation. Both invite us to embrace a holistic and interconnected view of our responsibilities towards God's creation and our fellow human beings. On this account we moved to introduce our youth to Laudato Si activities and Laudato Si Masses, Praying the rosary in natural environments and helping our youth to be part of the change as inspired by the Laudato Youth. Our main target will be to help young people experience and appreciate God's gift of creation in the following

> Youth Engagement: Organize youth meetings or gatherings around Dandora dump site to raise awareness about the principles of Laudato Si and its relevance to the local context (families). Invite families to participate and learn about sustainable practices, such as waste management, recycling, and water conservation.

> Education and Training: We shall consider workshops or training sessions on sustainable living practices, emphasizing the importance of caring for the environment and the impact of human activities on natural resources. Teach families about simple actions they can take, such as composting, energy conservation, and planting trees and flowers for Mary to make our home dandora a better place to pray and stay.

> Collaboration with Local Leaders: Reach out to local leaders, including religious leaders, community elders, and where possible government officials, to advocate for environmental initiatives in Dandora. By involving key stakeholders, Holy Cross Family Ministries can help create a supportive environment that encourages families to engage in environmentally friendly practices.

Children and Youth Involvement: Engage children and youth through educational programs, including school-based initiatives or afterschool Laudato clubs focused on environmental sustainability. Encourage them to be environmental ambassadors within their families, educating their parents and siblings about the importance of Laudato Si principles.

Initiating community projects through their emphasis on love, that directly address environmental challenges in Dandora. These could include clean-up campaigns, treeplanting drives, or sustainable agriculture projects. By involving families in these projects, they will have firsthand experience of the positive impact they can make.

> Supportive Resources: Develop and distribute informational materials and audiovisuals and participate in Laudato youth publications and online materials that explain Laudato Si's teachings and provide practical tips for implementing environmental stewardship practices at home and in the community. Offer resources in local languages to ensure accessibility and maximum impact as we go about our spiritual programs.

> Networking and Partnerships: Build partnerships with other our other ministries, that are also working towards environmental conservation and sustainable development. By collaborating, Holy Cross Family Ministries can leverage resources, expertise, and collective efforts to amplify voice of young people as stipulated by the Laudato Youth Initiative and the message of Laudato Si in Dandora.

Through these initiatives, Holy Cross Family Ministries can inspire and empower families in Dandora, Kenya, to embrace the principles of Laudato Si and become active contributors to environmental conservation and sustainability through prayer of the rosary and action. *The family that Prays* together Stays together.



Fr. Steven Mburu, CSC Director Holy Cross Family Ministries Nairobi - Kenya



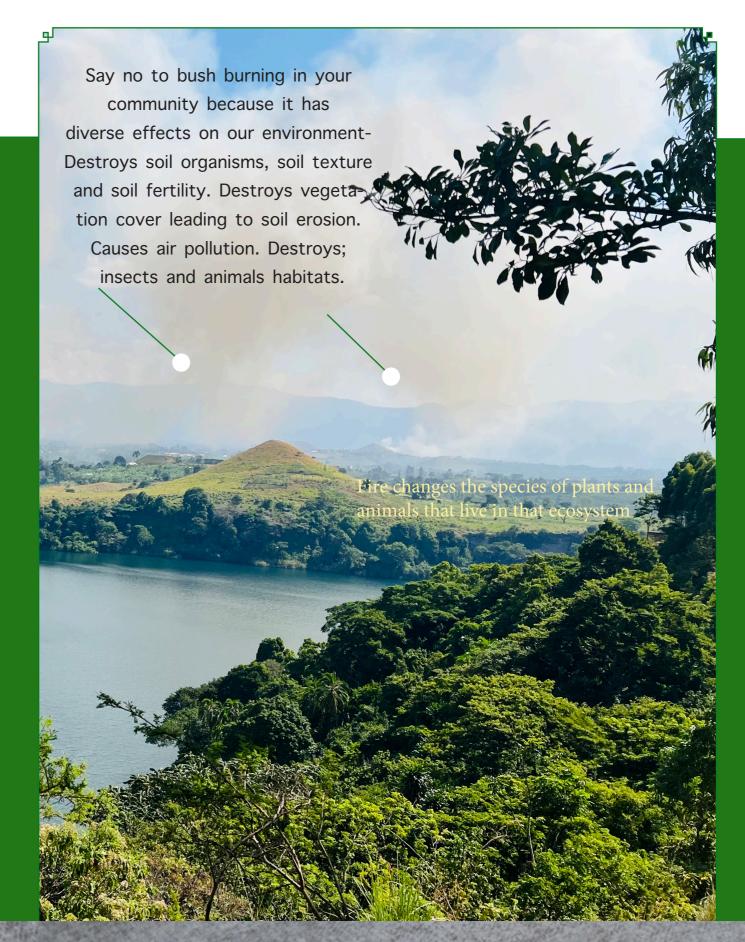
Responsible Tourism helps to improve Mother Nature. Fort Portal is known as a tourist city, and I come from there. When the town was granted city status, it brought excitement among the people; looking at it from the environmental point of view, it comes with a responsibility for everyone. We need to invest in proper waste management. People who live in cities need to be extra careful to maintain clean rivers and water channels. Keep water channels clean, avoid unnecessary dumbing, and support existing environmental policies. Our leaders must take the lead in engaging the youth in climate action. I have seen what the Laudato Youth are doing in school, and it's the way to go for all of us. Let us all play our part in conserving the environment.

Tourism



Tourism should be seen as an advantage to protect and preserve the ecosystem. This will benefit the local community but also preserve our mother land.

Ayebale Fred









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