

Laudato Voices **Magazine**

Amplifying Voices for Creation Care

Issue No: 8



LAUDATO YOUTH INITIATIVE
UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION
info@laudato-youthinitiative.org

Nurturing Greater Ecological Sensitivity and Action

Nature's Wi-Fi: [Click Links to Learn More](#)

It's all about those green bars

With the Laudato Youth Initiative



**Connecting you to the ultimate
network that is God and Creation**

Through Action Response

Learn more from this
8th Edition of Laudato Voices

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Plant your Lungs

Laudato Youth Initiative

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United for Climate Action





Don't Burn nor cut Your Lungs

Climate change signs vivid in Uganda; people need collective action to mitigate it.

[In a recent research survey by Makanga Ronald Kakumba 6 Sep 2022](#) among Ugandans familiar with climate change, eight in 10 (80%) want the government to take immediate action to limit climate change, even if it is expensive, causes job losses, or takes a toll on the economy.

Like many countries worldwide, Uganda is experiencing significant impacts of climate change. Weather patterns are changing, and water levels in several water bodies are dropping. Extreme weather events such as floods, landslides, and prolonged droughts are becoming more frequent in the country, threatening people's livelihoods (Irish Aid, 2016).

Landslides in the Busigu sub-region have reportedly killed at least 1,000 people over the past decade and left thousands of families displaced and homeless (Monitor, 2019). Less than a month ago, floods in the Eastern region, triggered by heavy rainfall, claimed the lives of at least 30 people, left 400,000 without access to clean water, and destroyed more than 2,000

hectares of crops (Relief Web, 2022; Guardian, 2022).

More than 900 people have died of hunger this year in the Karamoja sub-region of northeastern Uganda, mostly as a result of prolonged drought. In this region, eight in every 10 households are food-insecure, putting about 23,000 children at high risk of severe acute malnutrition (Monitor, 2022).

Uganda's economy is heavily reliant on agriculture, making the country highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In Afrobarometer's 2016/2018 surveys,

85% of Ugandans – more than in any of the other 33 countries that were surveyed – said climate conditions for agricultural production in their area had gotten worse over the previous decade (Selormey, Dome, Osse, & Logan, 2019).

Dear Readers,

In this 8th edition of Laudato Voices Magazine, our theme revolves around nurturing greater ecological sensitivity and action. As we witness Uganda facing the escalating impacts of Climate Change, it is eminent that we come together and take action. Through educational activities like debates, and other forms of advocacy for sustainable living practices, we can work towards a greener and healthier future for the generations to come. Together, we can strive to mitigate climate change and safeguard the well-being of our planet for present and future generations.

As a way to amplify voices for climate action and sustainable living in this edition we bring you the inspirational activities right from the Laudato Youth involvement in mother church activities to do with justice and peace/care for creation, more updates towards our one million tree planting drive, Laudato Si festivals from different Laudato Si Clubs, the Laudato Si week activities and youth Conference at Fort Portal dioceses, our international encounters, research, Creativity and innovation in schools, featured Laudato youth articles and works among others.

As you may know our Laudato Voices Magazine aims to amplify voices for climate action and raise awareness through sharing our work and activities bearing in mind that it is our responsibility to ensure that our young generation and interested readers understand the importance of caring for the environment. The reality is, if we neglect our planet, we jeopardize not only our own survival but that of future generations. We have already witnessed the devastating effects of climate change, with many lives lost as a result.

This publication also carries the wisdom of mentors, patrons, religious leaders, Club presidents, students and other people of good will.

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Kisembo Immaculate
CHIEF EDITOR

Let us come together to educate, empower, and inspire our youth to take action towards creating a more sustainable and resilient future. By nurturing their understanding and passion for environmental conservation, we can pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

As the publication editor, I am grateful to have you as our reader. I hope that this edition provides you with

information and knowledge you had not considered before, and after reading this edition you will stand out as a good example in your family, community, organization and home. May God bless you enjoy reading the lovely experiential stories and updates of what is happening in the world of the Laudato Youth initiative and Laudato Si clubs in schools who are going around fostering response to the message in Laudato Si and SDG 13.



Mark Alvin: Interning Student
Sarah Kirikumwino: Clubs' President



Press Release For Immediate Release

Or Contact:

Sarah Kirikumwino
laudatoyouthinitiative@gmail.com
Laudato Club's President

Or Contact:

Mr. Benard Kahwa
info@laudato-youthinitiative.org
Phone: + (256) 781 996 608
Laudato Youth Initiative Director

The Laudato Youth Initiative Launched a One Million Tree Planting Drive in response to Uganda's Need to restore forest cover and enhance food security.

The focus of this Campaign is on Indigenous and Fruit Trees; the Laudato Club's President explained. The compelling reason why we should plant native trees is that they offer great value and when you plant local trees, you help local wildlife live and thrive. Animals like birds and butterflies have looked to native plants for years. Fruit trees however are the ultimate double-duty plant, providing food for us all, for birds and insects as well as plenty of places to shelter and nest. It's important to note that fruit trees have higher chances of surviving because they are seen to be of more benefit to the communities and institutions by the fruits they provide.

The Laudato Youth Initiative was excited to announce the official launch of a groundbreaking One Million Tree Planting Drive that took place in Bugiri with a group of youth planting fruit trees, aiming

at inspiring their response to reforesting Uganda with a diverse range of Indigenous and Fruit trees. The initiative, that started January 2024 will continue through January 2025. It is a bold step we are undertaking to mitigate deforestation and promote environmental sustainability in our Country. Come this season of creation we are looking forward to do more with the upcoming Laudato Si Festivals in schools which will engage both the institutions and communities throughout our reach activities.

The Laudato Youth Initiative is calling on individuals, leaders, churches, organizations, and communities to join hands in this noble cause of restoring Uganda's natural habitats. Through the planting of indigenous trees, the initiative aims to revitalize the ecosystem and promote biodiversity. Additionally, the addition of fruit trees will provide food security and economic opportunities for local communities.

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Word of Gratitude

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024 – Father Leonard Olobo, CSC the chairperson board of directors JP2JPC and a dedicated advocate for justice and peace, was recognized with the esteemed Pope John Paul II Justice and Peace Award.

The award, established by the John Paul Vatican II Foundation, aims to honor individuals, organizations, or initiatives that embody the teachings and inspiration of Saint John Paul II, contributing significantly to the promotion of his legacy in the Church and the world. Father Leonard Olobo's unwavering commitment to promoting justice and peace through his religious, cultural, environmental, and social justice with a preferential option for the poor rooted in his Congregation of Holy Cross Charism earned him this prestigious accolade.

His tireless efforts in championing the values and principles espoused by Saint John Paul II have made a profound impact on the community and beyond through our partner John Paul II Justice and Peace Center which he leads as board of Governors Chair.

In receiving this esteemed

recognition, Father Leonard Olobo stood as a beacon of hope and inspiration, embodying the values of justice, peace, and a preferential option for the poor that are at the core of the teachings of Saint John Paul II.

His contributions not only enriched the Church in Uganda but was also a witness to the Exhortation Ecclesia in Africa by Saint John Paul II and the world but also served as a shining example of the positive change that can be achieved through unwavering commitment and dedication to serving God's people.

This was also a good lesson for both young and old people out there to work towards building justice and peace in their homes, schools, places of work, communities, country, and the world at large.

We congratulate JP2JPC and Father Leonard Olobo, CSC on this well-deserved honor and commend him and the Centre director Mr. Alfred for their outstanding efforts in promoting justice and peace in our society.

We thank God that this award involved our participation in tree planting and care for creation activities with the center and continue to be a strong arm in responding to sustainability needs in our schools, Universities dioceses and Parishes



Benard Kahwa

Director
Laudato Youth Initiative
+ (256) 781 996 608
info@laudato-youthinitiative.org



THE AWARD
COMMITTEE



Advancing Ecological Innovation



**Br. Adolf Mugume, CSC
Laudato Youth Mentor**

In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges, the pursuit of sustainable solutions has become essential. As we navigate the complexities of climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion, it's crucial to explore innovative approaches that promote ecological balance while meeting the needs of current and future generations. In this edition of Laudato Voices, I am happy to see young people delve

into the latest trends and advancements in ecology, using solutions in their means to highlight the contributions and efforts of individuals, Laudato Si clubs, communities, and organizations striving to create a more sustainable world.

Truly, as stewards of the planet, each of us has a role to play in advancing ecological innovation and promoting sustainability.

Whether it's advocating for policy changes, supporting sustainable innovations, or adopting eco-friendly practices in our daily lives, our unified simple actions can make a meaningful difference in nurturing ecological sensitivity and action.

I am always delighted to see the cry of earth uniting us to the ultimate network of knowing God the Creator and learning to care for his creation as a way of living the experience of Ecological Conversion. This year Mother Church through the Holy Father invites to reflect on the theme "Hope and Act with Creation".

To embrace a transformative journey of faith, charity, and hope in God from whom all good things come that will inspire us to bear fruit through action response.

Incorporating the theme of this year's season of Creation into youth ministry is essential for shaping the faith of future generations as well because our young people need both faith and action to stay connected with their faith and social networks.

Join us in exploring sustainable solutions and together, let's create a healthier, more resilient planet for generations to come.

"Small steps lead to big change." - Exploring sustainable solutions





JPIIJC AWARD CEREMONY
at the Vatican May 2024



POPE'S SEASON OF CREATION
press conference, July 2024



POPE'S SEASON OF CREATION
press conference, July 2024

Laudato news. These past months we have been blessed to be involved in important Church events May was a historical time to witness the reception of the John Paul II Award by Fr. Leonard Olobo, John Paul II Justice and peace Board Chairperson and In July Br. Adolf attended the Pope's Vatican Press Conference for the season of creation with a message of Hope that we are now boldly proclaiming in our SC activities.

Embracing Ecological Sensitivity as a **Matter of Justice and Peace**

I have learned that ecological sensitivity is not just an environmental issue but also a critical matter of justice and peace. The fact that we have been working at the elimination of social injustices reveals that, indeed, our activities should also involve a strong commitment towards environmental stewardship. This unity of the confrontation of ecological care and the need for social justice is vital if we are to develop a sustainable future and if we are to fulfil the responsibility that we share of preserving our planet.

The joint project with Laudato Youth Initiative, the Nature Walk for Environmental Awareness took place on June 8, 2024, providing a good example. The event involved Nyakasura School, Divine Mercy SSS, Mountains of the Moon University, and Fort Portal Diocese, and through this event, the students were able to get involved and learn about the local ecosystem and everything it entails. We enabled participants to better understand the causes of climate change and other environmental issues through activities like the guided tours of the ecosystem, the one on one sessions with experts on the issue and talking about sustainability in groups. It was very gratifying to see many young people who got involved in community conservation projects and they also emphasized the necessity of education in driving societal change.



Mr. Avuni Alfred
Director, John Paul II Justice
and Peace Centre (JPIIJC)
Kampala - Uganda



Yet another major project, Solar for Peace, is the latest evidence of our commitment to sustainable development. In late 2023 we embarked on Solar for Peace, a solar project to set up computer laboratory at Twajiji Hope Primary School in the Bidibidi Refugee Settlement. The lab includes 20 computers, high-speed internet, and it is run with 5.5 KW of solar energy, allowing refugee and host community students to have access to digital learning tools. Access to this computer lab not only boosts learners' academic capabilities, but it also provides a great model for energy diversification in educational systems and our dedication to sustainability.



Our activities in the environment are not the only ones that are between one and the other social justice areas; however, we are also engaged in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery. Our National Prayer Day on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Modern Slavery (MS), which is pencilled in for September 13, 2024, is expected to be dedicated to the topic "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Trafficking." The focus of this love will be the victims of smuggling who are children and the call to stop this criminal act is clearly stated. It is a reflection of our broader commitment to human



rights defense through advocacy, prayer, and community engagement.

In a similar manner, our participation in World Refugee Day on June 20, 2024, at Bidibidi Settlement was corresponded with the theme "In Solidarity with Refugees" which showed our dedication to social justice. The occasion revealed the need for people to be more supportive of refugees and resolve the adversities they face. It is what exhibited our role in providing global solidarity and local integration, thus it is our goal to help them out and further the cause of peace through our continued advocacy and support.

My belief is that ecological awareness has a direct connection to social justice. Our past initiatives are the like of Laudato Nature Walk and Solar for Peace Project, are concrete examples of such practices that can stir up positive change. By dealing with both these private needs and the long-term targets, we are not only transforming the existence of transient groups, but also helping to promote a healthier and more just future.

At JPIIIPC, our approach to justice and peace reflects this comprehensive perspective, where environmental stewardship is seamlessly integrated with efforts to combat human trafficking, support refugees, and promote civic engagement. Through our ongoing collaboration with the Laudato Youth Initiative and other partners, we strive to build a just and sustainable world for all.



Photo with the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda



31 May 2024, JPIIIPC officially received its prestigious Premio San Giovanni Paolo II (St. John Paul II Vatican Award) from JOHN PAUL II VATICAN FOUNDATION Rome. The Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda His Excellency Arch Bishop Lwigi Bianco was the chief guest.

The reception of this maiden prestigious award which was in the news all over the world from the time of its announcement in February through the process of determining the winner to the time of its release in the Vatican on May 22nd attracted media attention all over the world. Fr. Leonard Olobo the board chairperson, was invited to the Vatican to receive the award and was joined Br. Adolf upon arrival in Rome to receive the award. The reception of the Award in Uganda was officiated by His Excellency Archbishop Luigi Bianco, Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda who commended the center

for its work in promoting human dignity. Fr. Leonard Olobo, CSC the recipient of the award presented it to Mr. Alfred Avuni, the director of the Centre. In attendance were many guests including the Provincial Superior Congregation of Holy Cross, Province of East Africa Fr.

CAXTON PETER MAYANJA C.S.C., other representatives of the organisational founding religious Congregations, the representative of the archbishop of Kampala, political and religious leaders were present to witness this auspicious occasion.

Laudato leaders pause for a photo with Fr. Olobo and the Provincial Congregation of Holy Cross Province of East Africa

One of the key reasons

behind the success of the JP2JPC is their unwavering commitment to the values of faith and justice. Through their various ministries and programs, they have been able to touch the lives of many individuals and bring hope to those in need. By embodying the motto “**FAITH DOING JUSTICE,**” they have shown that even the smallest acts of kindness and compassion can have a significant impact on the world around us.

Through their various programs, such as seminars, workshops, and spiritual guidance, they have been able to give hope to refugees, raise voices against human trafficking, settle people in war torn areas of Northern Uganda, light refugee camps, care for creation in which we partner.

By advocating for social justice, human rights, and reconciliation, they have been able to address the root causes of conflict and work with Uganda Police Force to train security forces on ways of enforcing the law without too much force towards building a more peaceful and just world for all.

We have also been involved with them in creation care activities in addition to their birthday tree planting events, the one baptism one tree campaign and now with us empowering Laudato Clubs and taking action in the one million indigenous and fruit tree planting drive. This has led to promotion of environmental sustainability, and as a commitment to caring for God’s creation and ensuring a better future for generations to come.



*Fr. Leonard Olobo, CSC and
Fr. Caxton Peter Mayanja, CSC
with Laudato Youth Leaders*

The award received by the John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre is a well-deserved recognition of their tireless efforts in promoting justice, peace, and the spirituality of John Paul II within the community. Through our work together they have also shown commitment in caring for God’s Creation

and now we see resilience can truly make a difference in the world.

Our world needs peace and we need you to build peace. Let us all strive to emulate their example and work towards building a more just and peaceful world for all.



The PriceLess Weapon *Against Climate Change*

Did you know *Monodora meristica* is an indigenous tree which consumes less water and nutrients compared to other exotic tree species?

Fr. Berry fostering conservation efforts, while at Tooro Botanical Gardens where they gathered various indigenous tree species for planting. These actions are in line with our million tree campaign, with the intention of re afforesting Northern Uganda with indigenous and fruit Trees. The visit was a success and further fueled our dedication to environmental restoration. The staff at Tooro Botanical Gardens were impressed by our enthusiasm and initiatives, speaking highly of their love to see people dedicated to certain special trees which few people often look for and they appreciated the team us for contributing to the larger conservation initiatives. Special thanks to Fr. Berry, Fred, and Deo for spearheading these action activities.





The Bitter Tears of Mother Earth

When mother earth cries, the tears are very bitter and when experienced they affect everybody uniformly. The question is, why is Mother Earth crying when she is supposed to be our common home? After God had created man and woman, He put them in charge of the universe, meaning they were supposed to be managers of our common home. However, due to Adam and Eve's sin, the destruction of mother earth begun.

The recent floods experienced in Uganda in areas like Kasese with Rivers like Nyamwamba and Mubuku, Kenya, Brazil, and mudslides in Papua New Guinea and other parts of the world are a confirmation of the bitter tears of Mother Earth. The tears of Mother Earth are bitter because they cannot go unnoticed, a lot of properties are destroyed, lives are lost, transport systems are disrupted and even gardens of food are destroyed. Therefore we need to respond to this call by keeping the environment green.

Our Mother Earth does not cry without warning us we have seen

signs like changing weather patterns, unpredictable climate, and many others. However, all these have been ignored until Mother Earth has cried and we have consequently experienced her bitter tears. Therefore we need to work together in unity and harmony so as to put a smile on her by making our world green.

It's ironical that the Humanity that was entrusted with the care of our common home by God at the time of creation, is now at the forefront of abusing our common home either knowingly or unknowingly. Our leaders have not done enough to save and protect our common home from abuse and mismanagement. Greed for money/wealth, development, and industrialization have sacrificed our common home whereby forests have been cleared for factories, swamps reclaimed for agriculture and settlements, the air has been polluted by ever-growing industrialization and our common home is no longer conducive for living. This is a shame.

Great appreciation to Pope Francis who has awoken a spirit of taking care of our common home through

the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*. He is inviting all of us without segregation of religion, country, race, color, and age to engage in activities that will protect Mother Earth and our common home. The littering of the environment has to stop, trees have to be planted, wetlands have to be restored and the environment respected. Taking care of the environment gives us joy and gladness instead of bitterness. Rivers will flow normally, our seasons will be without prolonged droughts and abnormal rainfalls. Therefore His call is for all of us people of goodwill.

We all have to appreciate and come to a realization that taking care of our common home is our united effort. I treasure the work of *Laudato Si'* youth under the *Laudato Si'* Club in my school. How I wish many schools would take up Climate Education and Action as a priority value. Let us be people of action and unite to mitigate climate change. 'United For Climate Action'.

God bless you all.

Fr. Prosper Atukwatse, CSC.
Head Teacher Holy Cross Lake View

Restoring Environmental Integrity:

YOUNG PEOPLE CHALLENGING THE WORLD

The Judeo-Christian scriptures reveal to us a glimpse into God's intended order of creation. We also learn and appreciate the interconnectedness of humankind and nature as portrayed in the two creation accounts: God charged us with the dual responsibility to have dominion and protect his creation (Cf. Gen. 1:26-29; 2:7-24). In *Replenishing the Earth*, (2010) Wangari Maathai puts it well when she says our interconnectedness with nature is so critical that humankind would perish without nature; but interestingly, nature can subsist without humankind. The creation narratives reveal another critical, albeit subtle, aspect about nature: It is regenerative. In other words, God made creatures in such a way that they can multiply in order to sustain human life.

Environmental integrity essentially refers to the expected relationship between humankind and nature in hindsight of the order of creation, which reveals the interconnectedness and regenerative dimensions of nature. However, the imminent ecological crisis only reveals how much we have ignored these critical two-fold dimensions of nature going by the scale of human activity around us: indiscriminate tree cutting, bush burning, irregular fishing, and plastic pollution, etc. Consequently, the earth has reiterated with deep cries of form of desertification, warm temperatures, erratic weather patterns, rainfall variability and flash floods only to be presumed as natural calamities. So they are, but to what extent have we contributed to their occurrence? What are we doing to reduce on the likelihood of their recurrence?

Inspired by the spirit and tone of *Laudato Si'*, young people across the world have taken up the responsibility to remind the world about our dependence on nature; and hence our obligation to care for it.



Mr. Augustine Bahemuka
Researcher - LYI

The Laudato Youth Initiative (LYI) is one such group of young people driven to create greener and healthier spaces. Pope Francis proposes change as the most fundamental remedy for combating ecological crisis: We need to embrace new attitudes towards nature. Through climate education of young people in schools, universities and parishes, LYI advocates for care of the environment and, creative and sustainable ways of using resources through the 3 Rs: Reducing, Recycling and Reusing. For instance, Tyra Nabakooza, a high school student at Holy Cross Lake View Secondary School in Uganda applies her arts skills to reuse plastics into flower vessels and

stationary holders; which she also attests as a constructive way of spending her time. Through their Laudato Si Clubs, students engage in planting indigenous and fruit trees, which they nurture to ensure growth. For learners like Tyra, it is evident that by striving to restore environmental integrity, young people can also equip and empower themselves with life skills, such as creativity and innovation; which subsequently protects them from engaging in self-destructive behaviour. This underscores a likely relationship between environmental education of young people and integral human development, which may require further exploration.

Go Green Laudato Club, Nairobi KENYA



ROLE OF LAUDATO CLUBS IN THE CARING FOR MOTHER EARTH

It was not until the inception of the Laudato clubs that we realized our voices could be heard and our commitment towards care for creation would be realized having reflected on LS1 on what is happening to our common home then we realized the existing environmental problems in our communities and Parish.

Waste disposal is done haphazardly, rivers and other water sources are polluted, deforestation is on the rise and many other environmental degradation practices are ensuing. The Laudato clubs have greatly assisted in recovering the lost environmental glory by first creating awareness of the importance of environmental conservation.

The clubs through the use of various media have championed the need to care for Mother Earth. Members

of the clubs have written articles, recorded videos as well as podcasts to send out word about the benefits of a clean environment and the adverse effects of a polluted surroundings. This in turn has made our communities acknowledge the fact that a sustainable future can only be achieved by having a well sustained environment.

Besides creating awareness, the Laudato clubs have promoted creativity in coming up with solutions to better the environment. A good example is the separation of plastic waste from biodegradable waste which has eased waste management. Innovative ways of handling waste have also boosted the livelihood of the members of society by creating job opportunities.

The tree planting exercises done by the clubs in schools, parishes, and

dioceses have increased the tree cover hence improving air circulation and soil retention in the various localities. If you have not heard of the Laudato Youth One Million Tree Planting drive then you have not been following what is going on in the media space or don't come from a community with a nearby club because a tree would have already been planted in your home. In the long run, these trees will liven up the dried water catchment areas and even restore health from the medicinal value of some herbs. The Laudato clubs have made tremendous efforts in caring for Mother Earth; these are just but a few. Long live the Laudato clubs our is Uniting for Climate Action.

Antony Odhek.
Go Green Laudato Club
Kenya.

The digital revolution has without doubt, shaped the mid-20th century and 21st differently

The digital revolution has without doubt, shaped the mid-20th century and 21st differently from previous times. The world has been turned into a global village. Information is easily and quickly available for everyone. The percentage of literacy has gone up and even the most remote of places have experienced Technology in some way. With that being said, millennials have a very strong connection to their gadgets, with the average spending 80% of their day staring at screens.

So, for content creators and other digital creators, this has revolutionized the job market but for the doom scroller's sanity and mental health, not so much. Social media has however proven time and time again that it can be used to do good. A quick example would be activism, which has seen the world yield good results through informing and forming people's mindsets.

Time and time again, young people have amplified their voices through social media just like the Laudato Youth amplify voices for creation. And in the 21st century, the church has seen social media as an avenue for evangelization. Currently, there are thousands, if not millions of young Catholics who use social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube, writing blog posts and websites to share their faith, as was the case of soon-to-be Saint, Carlo Acutis. The youth who documented Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions on his website to promote the Eucharistic devotion. Blessed Carlo used his website to provide pilgrims with information about the places where these miracles happened.

I find Blessed Carlo's story to be one that provides hope and reassurance to young Catholics all over the world, that there is room for us in the Church, however young we may feel. His story also poses a challenge to us, that we should re-define what, being an influencer entails and the type of legacy we want to leave behind because we are all influencers in our respective fields, and for you and for me Laudato Youth is the unsung hero who is also using the media to amplify voices for creation and love of God through caring for His creation. We also ought to remember our biggest support as young Catholics comes from our Holy Father, Pope Francis who keeps reminding us that there is hope for 21st century saints, like lads who wear Airforce ones and Jordans. The pope's statement alone is an invitation to us and Blessed Carlo's story and canonization is evidence of this invitation.

Our goal as Laudato Youth is climate action; to take care of our common home and to educate other youths on why environmental conservation is important just like Blessed Carlo, our biggest platform is social media as much as is our physical audience. So, we the 21st century youth in this influencer generation are the future and our planet depends on us, and not only is the future of the Church in our hands, but today's Church also depends on us.

IDAYA WAGUDA
HGC CLUB OF
O GREEN LAUDATO
Nairobi



LAUDATO YOUTH INITIATIVE
UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION
info@laudato-youthinitiative.org



“The Earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone.” These powerful words from Pope Francis’s *Laudato Si’* encapsulate the urgent call for collective action to address environmental degradation. As a young member of the *Laudato Go Green Initiative* in the heart of Dandora, Kenya, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of neglect and pollution. Dandora, home to one of the largest dumping sites in East and Central Africa, stands as a poignant symbol of our environmental crisis. It is a place where dreams are stifled by fumes, where paths are littered with waste, and where the struggle for clean water is a daily battle.

Growing up in Dandora, I have witnessed the transformation of our environment from a place of potential to a dumping ground of despair. The once clear skies are now choked with toxic fumes from burning waste. Clean paths have turned into hazardous alleys filled with industrial waste. Water, the essence of life, is scarce and often contaminated. These conditions have severe consequences, particularly for the youth, who face health challenges and limited opportunities in such an environment.



The challenges we face are not only environmental but also systemic. Poor governance in the environmental sector exacerbates our plight. Weak laws, rampant corruption, and illegal activities sanctioned by those in power hinder progress. Projects meant to improve our conditions often stagnate or move at a snail’s pace due to inadequate funding and mismanagement. Instead of increasing resources to combat these issues, funds are frequently cut, leaving us with even fewer tools to address our mounting problems. While on the other hand, we have the citizens, there is a pervasive sense of ignorance and apathy.



Environmental measures are often ignored, and the lack of care for planted trees means that our efforts to green our surroundings frequently fail. Pollution, in all its forms, continues to plague our community, from plastic waste clogging our drains to industrial effluents poisoning our waterways.

Despite these overwhelming challenges, we are not without hope. We can draw inspiration from environmental champions like Wangari Maathai, who faced immense challenges and resistance but never gave up. Wangari's Green Belt Movement led to the planting of millions of trees and the empowerment of countless women. She faced arrest, beatings, and ridicule, but her unwavering commitment to nature transformed Kenya's landscape and inspired a global movement. Her legacy is a testament to what can be achieved with determination and courage.

Pope Francis, in his *Laudato Si'* letter, calls on all of us to care for our common home and to recognize the interconnectedness of all creation. He states, "Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded." We, the youth of Dandora and beyond, must heed this call. Let us become revolutionaries for nature, fighting against environmental degradation and advocating for sustainable practices. In line with our mission to enhance environmental transformation for a better life and a sustainable future, and our vision to unite young people for climate action is a hope poised to create a positive global environmental impact through inspiration, creativity, and innovation towards change, our Go Green Initiative has been propelled to action.

We recognize that environmental challenges are not confined to Dandora or even Kenya; they are global issues affecting communities worldwide. Across Africa, cities like Lagos in Nigeria and Cairo in Egypt grapple with similar environmental crises. Rapid urbanization, unchecked industrialization, and inadequate waste management systems exacerbate pollution and threaten public health. In Asia, cities such as Delhi in India face severe air pollution, impacting millions of residents and causing health emergencies. In South America, Sao Paulo in Brazil struggles with water scarcity, while deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest accelerates climate change globally.

These examples illustrate the urgent need for comprehensive environmental policies and international

cooperation to combat climate change. The world is interconnected, and the actions we take locally have global repercussions. It is through human activities—like the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, and the burning of fossil fuels—that we contribute to climate change and the sudden global warming phenomenon currently underway.

As we reflect on the challenges facing us, we must confront the reality that our planet is at a crossroads. The future of our world depends on our collective actions today. We, the youth, have a pivotal role to play in shaping a sustainable future. Let us rise above the barriers of apathy and ignorance, and embrace our responsibility as stewards of the Earth.

To the youth of Dandora, Kenya, Africa, and the world, I urge you to join us in this noble cause. Let us emulate the spirit of Wangari Maathai, as *Laudato Youth* and partner with other environmental heroes who have fought tirelessly for our planet. Together, we can advocate for stronger environmental policies, champion sustainable practices in our communities, and hold our leaders accountable for their actions.

Let us innovate and create solutions that respect our environment and benefit future generations. Through education, advocacy, and grassroots initiatives, we can make a difference. The time for change is now. Let us unite in our efforts to protect and preserve our common home for ourselves, our children, and all living beings on Earth.

Bruno Wekesa
Laudato Go Green Club, Dandora, Kenya



Have you ever heard of the term Ecological Anxiety?



Andy Gomes UIW SUSTAIN

Have you ever heard of the term ecological anxiety? According to The American Psychological Association and ecoAmerica, eco-anxiety is “a chronic fear of environmental doom.” It can be triggered by past experiences related to climate change. But today, what I want to share with you is that this feeling extends beyond fear—it’s about hopelessness.

People around the world are tirelessly working to save the planet, advocating for new policies to ensure a sustainable and fair world. Yet, many feel powerless and impotent when it looks like nothing is chang-

ing.

This feeling might resonate with you in your day-to-day life, where your voice can feel drowned out amidst tons of trash. But you are not alone. Across the globe, thousands of individuals are coming together to achieve the goals outlined in the 2030 UN Sustainable Development.

Recently, in Mexico City, on May 6th, the final round of the National Contest “Climatón,” sponsored by Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), took place.

Over 100 teams from across Mexico participated in this contest throughout March and April. Their challenge was to develop solutions addressing a wide array of climate change-related issues: water scarcity, urban heat islands, plastic pollution, and more.

Guided by highly qualified mentors, these teams refined their ideas to bring them to life. I was fortunate to embark on this journey alongside my siblings, creating our project “AgroNatura.”

Our initiative targets Mexico’s agricultural crisis by providing a platform for farmers to adopt regenerative agricultural practices. These methods not only enhance crop yields and quality but also sequester CO2 underground, safeguarding their land and revitalizing depleted soils.

While our project didn’t win the opportunity to implement our solution, the true victory was witnessing the collective effort of young people innovating and collaborating to make our world a better place

THE UNFOLDING CLIMATE CRISIS!!

As the planet warms at an unprecedented rate, the realities of climate change are becoming increasingly undeniable. The relentless rise in global temperatures, fueled by the release of greenhouse gases from human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and widespread deforestation, is reshaping the very fabric of our environment. This warming trend is not just a distant threat, but a pressing reality that is already manifesting in the form of more frequent and severe extreme weather events, from raging hurricanes and devastating droughts to crippling floods and scorching heat waves.

The melting of polar ice caps and glaciers, combined with the thermal expansion of seawater, is causing sea levels to rise at an alarming pace, threatening the very existence of coastal communities and fragile ecosystems. Delicate habitats are undergoing profound transformations, leading to the displacement and extinction of countless plant and animal species. The unraveling of this intricate web of life not only represents an ecological tragedy but also jeopardizes the resilience and adaptability of our natural systems, upon which we all depend.

The human cost of climate change is equally dire, disproportionately affecting the world's most vulnerable populations. Vulnerable communities, often those with the fewest resources and the least

capacity to adapt, are bearing the brunt of the crisis, facing food insecurity, water scarcity, and the displacement of entire populations. These impacts exacerbate existing inequalities, undermining social and economic stability on a global scale.

Yet, even as the challenges seem daunting, there is hope. The path forward lies in a networking approach that combines ambitious mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to renewable energy sources, alongside robust adaptation strategies to build resilient infrastructure and implement sustainable land management practices. By confronting the realities of climate change head-on and drawing upon our collective ingenuity and determination, we can leave a future in balance, one that

safeguards the delicate balance of our planet and the well-being of all who call it home.

Therefore time for action is now, for the fate of our world hangs in the balance. As we reckon with the unfolding climate crisis, we must come together as a global community to confront this challenge, ensuring that our legacy is one of resilience, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to the preservation of our fragile yet irreplaceable home.

Ayebale Fred
Laudato Si Club
Mountains of the
Moon
University





Nicholet Zabuna

Biology Major Student ; Holy Cross College - ND Indiana

I have had the privilege of studying Ecology and leading groups of high school students in exploring the profound connection between **Nature and God**. Through this exploration, I have had an opportunity to delve into Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and its message of Integral Ecology.

He emphasizes the need to involve everyone's **talent and gifts** to achieve integral ecology. He further challenges us to move beyond mere scientific, technological, political, and economic considerations and engage in dialogue with **all people about our common home**. For him this dialogue must extend beyond surface-level changes like reducing pollution and shifting to renewable energy. It must encompass a deeper understanding of our **interconnectedness**.

This reminds me of St. Francis of Assisi's Canticle of creatures. In which he invites all his brother and sister creatures—whether minerals, plants or animals—to praise their Creator. From Biology experience I can say we are all profits and gains for each other. For example, living things that cannot make their own food must eat other organisms for

food and the cycle continues.

With this understanding the encyclical prompts us to reflect on the purpose of our existence and the **goals of our actions**. It actually reminds me of the inseparable link between environmental and human ecology, highlighting that **harm to the environment is ultimately harm to humanity**. Pope Francis warns against the dangers of a culture of waste that disregards the poor in society.

Now Integral Ecology, as outlined in *Laudato Si'*, calls for an **integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring human dignity, and protecting nature**. It challenges us to reject self-centeredness and embrace a spirit of sacrifice, generosity, and sharing. It urges us to **re-sensitize our consciences to hear the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor**, urging us to move beyond superficial solutions and embrace a deeper, a more profound Ecological Spirituality.

As young people, we have the power to catalyze change and lead the way towards an Ecological Conversion. By listening more carefully to

the wisdom of God and adopting an attitude of gratitude and generosity, we can work towards a more sustainable and harmonious relationship with our Mother Earth and all its inhabitants.

Laudato Si' for me serves as a guidepost for us as we navigate the complexities of environmental and social issues, reminding us of **our responsibility to care for our common home and all who dwell within it**. Be it through our studies and discussions, we strive to embody the principles of Integral Ecology and foster a deeper connection between nature, humanity, and the divine, a value I have found so pronounced at Holy Cross College - ND Indiana.

Friends let me end with this quote from Pope Francis. He says many of the Societal problems come from our **"self-centered culture of instant gratification"** (LS 162) condemning the "I" and encouraging the "We" and if we think deeper about it, we shall think about the future generation in all our undertakings and take on small actions like going green activities, buying less, eating healthy food from our gardens etc

World Environment Day

Land restoration, Stopping desertification and Building drought resilience

"Our Land. Our Future."



Laudato Nature Walk and Community Clean-Up Drive



LAUDATO YOUTH INITIATIVE
UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION



Environmental Awareness and Tree Planting Campaign



Laudato Clubs play a crucial role in shaping environmentally conscious and proactive youth by organising engaging and educational activities to celebrate the world environment day. We shall conduct a Laudato Walk with the Laudato Clubs of Nyakasura school, Divine Mercy S.S.S, MMU & Fort Portal Diocese to help our youth analyse the interconnection between Nature and Humanity; In so doing we shall be;

- Educating Laudato youth about critical environmental issues
- Help them develop a sense of responsibility towards nature
- Raising environmental awareness
- Developing vital skills like critical thinking and teamwork
- Inspiring creativity and innovation through connecting and
- listening to the voice of nature at the Mahoma Falls & Cave, the spectacular views of crater lakes and interacting with the community at Rwaihamba about climate change issues



LAUDATO YOUTH INITIATIVE
United for Climate Action

HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY

The Earth is not just our environment, it is our Mother. Like it we should cherish our Mothers for they take care of us, nurture us and feed us. Mother Earth is Crying for our attention, Many of our Mothers and Children are Crying for Hope. May we be the hope of Mothers by sowing seeds of love, Kindness, care and hope.

Have a wonderful Mothers' Day

Office Location

John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre, Kampala



info@laudato-youthinitiative.org
laudato-youthinitiative.org/
+ (256) 781 996 608





LAUDATO YOUTH INITIATIVE **UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

Laudato Si' Week

With the Laudato Club at Fort
Portal Diocese



John Paul II
Justice and peace
centre

In this Laudato Si' Week

We are gathering with the Youth of Fort Portal Diocese in prayer to contemplate and cultivate seeds of hope for our "suffering planet" (LD 2). As Laudate Deum reminds us of the urgency of the message of Laudato Si' and the need for personal and cultural transformation in the midst of our ecological and climate crises. We shall Like wise gather in prayer and action to raise voices for Climate Action

Reflecting on ecological Conversion

- With a natural interaction with our common home!

Prayer

- Spiritual Prayer programs at the youth Conference
- Mass

The theme of this year's Laudato Si' Week is inspired by the symbol of the Season of Creation 2024, "firstfruits." Let us be seeds of hope for the future and in our lives, rooted in faith and the love Christ bearing fruits bestowed on us by the holy spirit during the Pentecost.

Action:

- Waste Reduction Activites
- Water Conservation Practices and Activities
- Catechesis on Intergral Ecology
- Awarding Certificates
- Commitment to Action - Tree planting and distribution

Laudato si Week

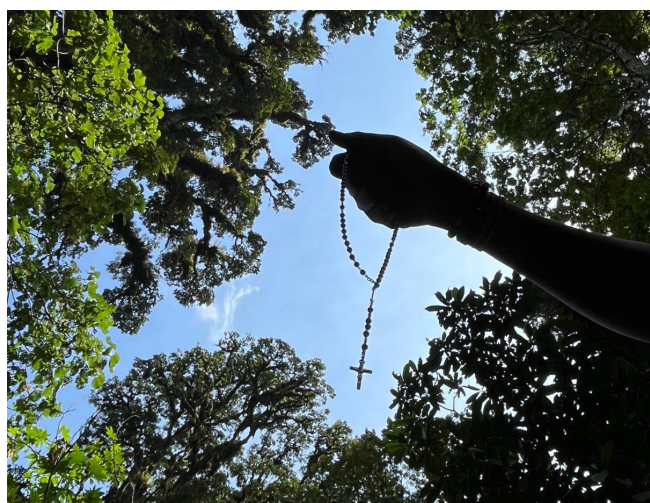
Activities

Bishop Robert encourages diocesan youth to take the Climate Change issue seriously

Advocating for a better response to climate change priorities; Educating diocesan youth, schools, institutions, and individuals. His Lordship Bishop Robert Muhiirwa Akiiki the ordinary of Fort-portal Diocese during the Laudato Si Week at the Youth Conference invited the youth to grow in discerning God's will in their lives, be people of faith, dedicated and hard working for a brighter future he also encouraged the youth of Care for God's Creation and pray for God's guidance. Each youth was given a trees to take home and plant

Bishop Robert Muhiirwa Akiiki
waters a tree after planting





Laudato Si' Week

for us was a time to reflect on how be youthful and useful in care for our common home and a time to pray that we may become seeds of hope for our world.

This year's

Laudato Si' Week theme was inspired by the symbol for Season of Creation 2024, "firstfruits." Laudato Youth invited clubs to unite and act as seeds of hope rooted in faith and hope of Christ's love engaging in prayer and creation care activities.



From May 7th to the 27th, a photo exhibition was on display to the public at the vatican. As we strolled by, we were struck by the powerful images curated by the dicastery for communication in partnership with the dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development and Laudato Si' Higher Education Center. The photographs showcased echoed Pope Francis' urgent plea in his Apostolic Exhortation Laudate Deum, highlighting the pressing issue of climate change and its potential catastrophic consequences on our world.

Titled "Changes," the exhibition not only shed light on the realities of climate change and its impact but also served as a call to action for us to re-assess our perspectives and behaviors. Just as St. Francis of Assisi praised the wonders of creation, the exhibition urged us to reflect on our own role in preserving and protecting our planet for future generations. This was a good inspiration for our Laudato Si Week activities.

Vatican Laudato Si Week art exhibition



Flooding on the raise



Water Scarcity



Fewer Bees





Laudato Youth tree planting activities



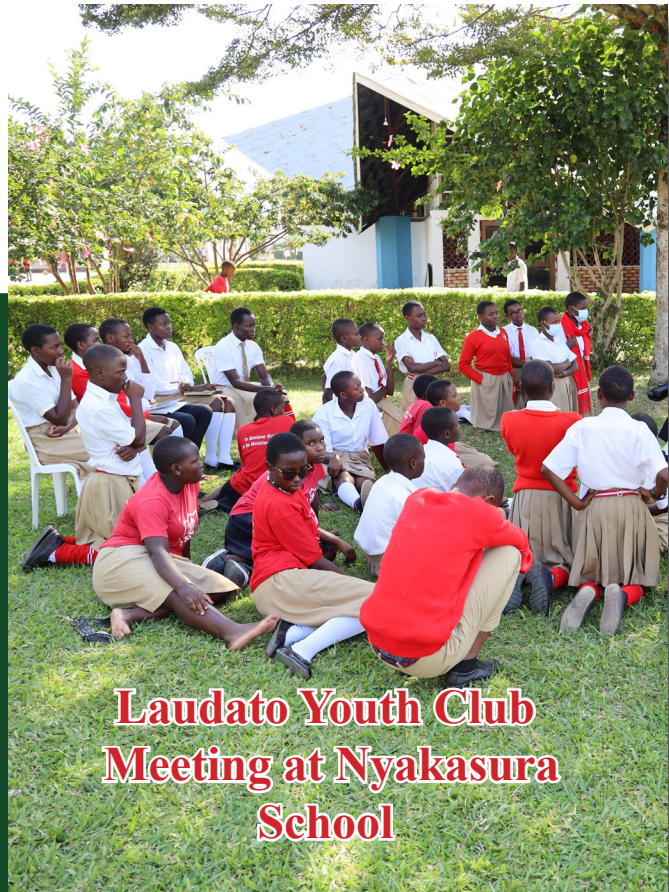
Laudato Youth Leader at the F/P Diocese Youth Conference



Laudato Si Clubs Pictorial



Laudato Youth Community clean up at Rwaihamba Market



Laudato Youth Club Meeting at Nyakasura School

Laudato Youth Leadership a call to serve others

New leadership role to serve to the church as youth leader for Creation Care in the diocese. Mr. Rusahura Daniel officially sworn in to the executive team of the Fort Portal Catholic Diocese as a Laudato Si focal person for the Laudato youth initiative. With a background of guiding Laudato Si clubs in schools within the diocese, he is now prepared to expand the mission across the entire diocese and its institutions working in collaboration with the Laudato Youth Initiative and the diocesan youth office.

This appointment comes with hope basing on Mr. Daniel's commitment to youth leadership within the diocese, bringing a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the position we give gratitude to Rev Fr Paul Mugabyomu Amooti, the Fort Portal Diocesan youths Chaplain, for his guidance and mentorship of the youth and their leaders.

Looking ahead, Mr. Daniel aims to inspire fellow leaders to promote the message of Laudato Si, incorporating its principles into the work of the Laudato Youth Initiative. By engaging with young people on the social teachings of the Catholic Church, Laudato Si, the Letter, Laudate Deum and Sustainable Development Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts he hopes to cultivate a generation of environmentally conscious and proactive individuals as inspired by the Laudato Youth Initiative.

Congratulations to Mr. Daniel Rusahura and the Fort Portal Diocese on this exciting new chapter of leadership and service. We look forward to more inspirations and action response in the diocesan institutions and parishes



**JPIIIPC and Laudato Youth
engage in community cleanup**

Laudato Si Clubs' Activities



Our Laudato Youth are carefully responding to climate Change through initiatives like Tree Plating, Nature Walks, purchasing products which do not have a negative impact on the environment, by collecting rubbish in their schools and around so that it does not pollute the environment and natural clean water system and by making several choices which are rooted in profound respect and care for nature. For some it has been about amplifying voices for climate action. If you go to any school with a Laudato Club, you will find a clean well maintained environment, Smart Gardens and Fruit trees, Flowers in the Compound, proper waste management practices etc..

Climate change is on our doorstep; the time to act is now. It starts with you, your family, and community changing your mindset for greater environmental sensitivity.

All the world needs is to embrace our motto: “United for Climate Action” and begin by changing lifestyle from being self-centered to being selfless, doing all that matters for the betterment of the generations to come. It is now no longer just about the generations to come, but even us today; we are living in dangerous times. What haven’t we seen in the floods, landslides, etc.? Now let us unite and plant natural and fruit trees, manage material waste by embracing the 3Rs, adopt clean energy, join our Laudato Si clubs in institutions, churches, and communities, conserve wetlands and water catchment areas, leave water corridors, build smart by avoiding too much concrete but having lawn compounds for water seepage, say no to deforestation and charcoal burning, empower and amplify the voices of young people, etc. Learn more about this from the

[Laudato Youth Initiative.](#)



Its by begining with small problems in our environment and practices by ourselves that we nurture a conscience among our young people giving them the capability to face the ecological crisis which presents a challenge that can easily be solved if we ever all united for climate action and change from our destructive behavior

THE NATURE WALK TO MAHOMA FALLS

It was on 8th June 2024 when we had a walk to Mahoma falls. On our way, we cleaned Rweihamba market where most people were inspired and had awareness about the connection between proper disposal of plastics and Mother Nature. We did not stop from there;

we continued and saw two **beautiful crater lakes**. That is Lake Nyinambuga and Lake Kifuruka. Lake Nyinambuga was called so because it was a home of prisoners and Lake Kifuruka was named so because it was a migrating lake according to the locals. The guide told us about the need for **more awareness and sensitization** about conservation about conservation of lakes because they attract tourists, they are source of fish, they are **source of employment** and what I cannot forget to tell you is that they help in the rainfall formation. More of what we witnesses was the cool breeze and beautiful scenery around these lakes that could **take away you stress** and give you a second chance to appreciate nature. Our journey wasn't only that, we continued and saw another crater lake called Mwamba Lake which the guide described as the main source of

income and food to the community. And therefore, more awareness about the dangers of over fishing, swamp drainage, deforestation and over agriculture was needed to protect this lake from extinction. Nevertheless, we continued and saw the big pipes which everyone was eager to know their importance's. And we were told that they were used in the storage of water for generation of electricity, this was enough

clarification that we had reached **MAHOMA**

FALLS. We therefore moved into the forest, varies species of trees were seen and finally we saw what most of us yarned for (the falls) most of us swum, others climbed the rocks and others went inside the caves. Here the place was cool and quit however in the end, we were to go back to school

I cannot forget to tell you that **“once nature is hand-**





**LAUDATO
YOUTH
INITIATIVE**

CONNECT WITH NATURE!

EMBRACE NATURE,
PROTECT OUR PLANET,
AND INSPIRE OTHERS.
TOGETHER, WE CAN
CREATE A SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE FOR ALL.

**UNITED FOR CLIMATE
ACTION!**

laudato-youthinitiative.org
Instagram: @laudatosi_response
Linkedin: Laudato Youth Initiative
Facebook: Laudato Youth Initiative




The world is a beautiful place....
or is it?

Awareness

Broken bottles and charred pieces of glass
Wadded up news tossed on the grass
Pouring of concrete and tearing out trees
This is the environment that surrounds me?

Poisons and **INSECTICIDES SPRAYED ON OUR
FOOD**

Oceans filling with thick oil crude
All seas lie destined to a slow awful doom
These are the things we are to consume?

Mills pumping out iron expelling yellow fumes
Airlines emitting caustic gases from fuels
Weapons of destruction tested at desolate sites
And this is the air that's to sustain life?

There has been something that someone can do
Like raise the awareness to those around you
That if we don't heed the problem at hand
It's your life that's at stake, the destruction of man.

A **LOKO ELIZABETH**
S1A



A LETTER FROM A

Laudato Youth

The Laudato Youth members at Holy Cross look back, and forward, to a mission of Uniting young people for Climate Action as a service to the world and an investment for his/her future



Broken bottles and charred pieces of glass

Wadded up news tossed on
the grass Pouring of concrete
and tearing out trees
This is the environment that
surrounds me?

Poisons and insecticides
sprayed on our food
Oceans filling with

thick oil crude. All seas lie
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Mills pumping out iron
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tested at desolate sites
And this is the air that's to
sustain life?

There must be some-
thing to be done Raise
and create awareness
to those around you If we
don't heed the problem at
hand. It's your life that's
at stake, the destruction of
humanity.

ALOKO ELIZABETH
*Laudato Si Club Member at
Holy Cross Lake View S.S.S*





I envision a city that thrives with children playing, adults jogging, families taking fascinating nature walks, birds and animals frolicking under a sunny sky, bright coloring trees and fruit bearing orchards but Unfortunately, in some parts of the world this idyllic scene seems unattainable due to inhumane practices like deforestation, charcoal and bush burning, wetland encroachment, and improper waste disposal.

Greetings to all, near and far! I am Nabakooza Esther Tyra, currently in my senior two class my second year in Laudato that I call an amazing time. It is both an honor and a privilege to be a part of the 8th edition of the Laudato Youth Voices Magazine a time I always look for to share my new found passion. I am grateful to Br Adolf for providing a platform for us students of Holy Cross Lake View to voice our thoughts on integrating faith with climate change it has really helped me answer some questions that were lingering in my mind about what is happening in our world. This was because of floods, landslides, floods and so on. I used to think that God is angry with us and thus a punishment but now I know God is showing us the otherside of our actions and is inviting us to change .

In Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato si," there is a call for immediate action on climate change based on moral and ethical imperatives. The biblical verse from Genesis 2:15, where man is tasked with cultivating and guarding the earth, resonates deeply with me. It serves as a reminder for humanity to protect and preserve our planet. Therefore man is called to co create and avoid destroying God's creation ,this call is for the both the young and the old people.

Schools that uphold faith in God, such as Holy Cross Lake View, are incorporating environmental science and ethics into their educational curriculum to nurture a new generation of environmentally conscious leaders and young people. I love art and i often paint what i think about nature and what is going on around us. Through retreats and bible studies focused on reconnecting with nature, we are encouraged to develop a reverence for the earth. I love it when our priests teach us about God's love and his plan for creation and I think all young people out there need to know this.

Nabakooza
Esther Tyra
Vice President
Laudato Si
Club. Holy
 Cross Lake View
 S.S.S

Despite challenges like limited funding for environmental conservation programs, we have the ability to do something and the change starts with me and you . We should remain united in our fight against climate change. As the famous quote goes, "It is always impossible until it's done' So let's all unite for climate action.

[Click to more](#)

Laudato Si Club Members at Holy Cross Lake View S.S.S participate in the Green Schools Program

Owing to our renowned legacy in the art of persuasion and eloquence, there was no question that Holy Cross would emerge victorious in this year's Green Schools Debate Championship that took place on Monday, 24th June, 2024 at Jinja College.

After several spirited debate rounds throughout the day, Holy Cross Lake View SSS, Wanyange emerged champions after winning all the seven rounds to reign supreme over the other Busoga Schools. It should be noted that Green Schools Championship is an annual climate change campaign launched to sensitize the public about climate change adaptation and mitigation measures using the school system as the entry point.

Funded by the Embassy of Sweden in Uganda, Vision Group is implementing the Green Schools project in partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO-Uganda).

After winning the Regional Debate Championship, Holy Cross Lake View will be joined by Iganga SS and Busoga College Mwiri which finished in the second and third positions respectively to represent Busoga Sub-region in this year's forthcoming Na-

tional Championship that will take place at Kololo Secondary School in August.

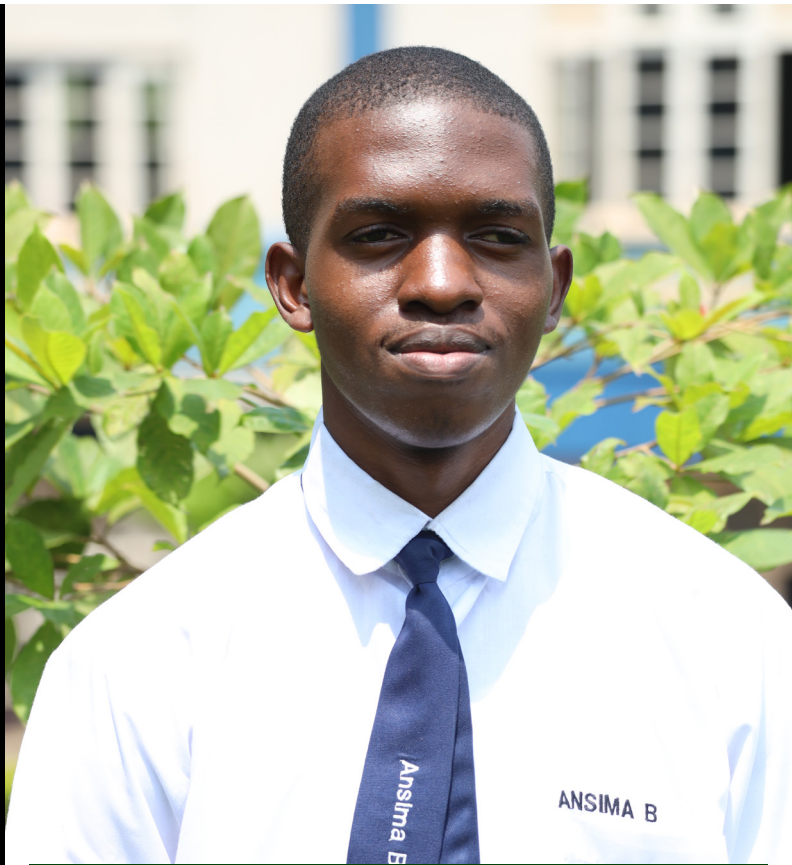
Our resounding victory in Regional Debate Championship not only showcases the exceptional talents within our school community but also underscores the school's unwavering dedication and commitment to implementing the Church's call to care for creation through the Laudato Si Club at Holy Cross under the Laudato Youth Initiative whose mission is to Unite Young People for Climate Action.

We have no doubt that the values and programs this initiative nurtures makes our students true witnesses who amplify voices for creation and embody the values of creation care to preserve Mother Earth in whatever activity our students participate.

As our students prepare to represent the school at the National level, they are filled with an enormous sense of determination and enthusiasm to uphold the legacy of excellence in debate that apparently defines Holy Cross Lake View in the world of debate.

Ijonai Emmanuel,
Patron, Laudato Si Club.





Climate change is a pressing issue and we need to address it in order to nurture a sustainable future, the Laudato Youth Initiative has emerged as a transformative force within our schools and communities. Guided by the principles of Laudato Si we have a strong youth forum in environmental conservation and inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *'Laudato Si'**

This remarkable club has achieved extraordinary feats under the visionary leadership of President Kirikumwino Sarah and the mentorship of Br. Adolf Mugume C.S.C. It is with great admiration and gratitude that I appreciate their dedication and achievements.

From the outset, the Laudato Youth Initiative has been driven by a mission to instill environmental consciousness among the youth and promote sustainable practices. Their efforts have led to the successful implementation of numerous projects at school that have not only enhanced the ecological health of our surrounding but also educated and empowered young minds in various activities; more sustainable and resilient future for our planet, we now pride in a green campus Holy Cross from the Orchard to the green shades and flowers in the complex.

Tree Planting Campaigns

The club has spearheaded extensive tree planting initiatives across various schools, contributing to the reforestation efforts and creating greener, healthier environments for students. Thousands of trees have been planted, in the community during the Laudato Si festival and around the school providing shades, improving air quality, and fostering a sense of responsibility towards nature among students.

CLIMATE CHANGE *is a pressing issue of our time and so we need tackle it*

Waste Management Programs

Recognizing the importance of proper waste disposal, the Laudato Si Club has implemented effective waste management systems in schools. They have set up recycling bins, organized clean-up drives, and educated students on the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste.

Environmental Education Workshops

The club has conducted numerous workshops and seminars focused on environmental education. These sessions have equipped students with knowledge about climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable living practices. By engaging students in interactive learning experiences like debates we have learnt more about sustainable living.

School Garden;

Establishing school gardens has been one of the club's most impactful projects. These gardens serve as living classrooms where students learn about organic farming, the importance of local produce, and sustainable agricultural practices. The produce from these gardens often contributes to school meals, promoting healthier eating habits.

Leadership and Mentorship

The success of the Laudato Youth Initiative is a testament to the exceptional leadership mentorship and the unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship value imparted in members we are empowered with the ability to driving the club's initiatives. Say being creative and innovative, writing and publishing of stories as a way of amplifying our voices for action.

the club has grown in both size and impact, reaching more schools and communities each year when we go out for a community programs of the Laudato Si festival.

Equally vital to the club's achievements is the mentorship provided by the leadership and involvement in media. The expertise, guidance, and unwavering support in using media have been invaluable in shaping the club's vision and ensuring the successful execution of its projects.

As we reflect on the remarkable achievements of the Laudato Youth Initiative and the Laudato Si club at Holy Cross, I extend our

deepest gratitude and admiration to President Kirikumwino Sarah and Br. Adolf Mugume C.S.C. whose leadership, vision, and dedication have made a profound impact on our schools and communities.

Through your efforts, you have not only improved our environment but also inspired a new generation of environmental stewards.

To the members of the Laudato Si Club at holy Cross, we celebrate your hard work, passion, and commitment to creating a sustainable future.

Your collective efforts remind us that positive change is possible when we come together for a common cause.



Tree Planting

In conclusion, the Laudato Youth Initiative Club embodies the spirit of unity for action and we celebrate every event with at anctivity for creation care. Let anyone who reads my article learn that environmental stewardship and the power of youth-led action is Key. Your achievements are a testament to what can be accomplished with dedication, vision, and teamwork. Here's to your continued success and to a greener, more sustainable future for all.

JOIN OUR CALL

Achievements are a testament to what can be accomplished with dedication, vision, and teamwork. Here's to your co operation and commitment to a greener, more sustainable future for all through the Laudato Youth Initiative.

A GREEN TOWN

Hello World, I Have
brought Good News to your ears. It is
a spark of light I have found hidden
in the great misery that surrounds our
home land and world today .

When I was told of it as a myth, I didn't believe but I believe what's before me now. After all, me and my friends have witnessed such a wonderful place. Dear brethren, we have gone on to ignore the nature around us, draining her for the greedy thirsty behavior and cutting down trees for personal benefits. And that is how it has been in my world where a few good Samaritans have chosen to deliberately give and strain their energy to take action of returning back the green light but many still go on to spread the misery, for we shall suffer in return.

However, this place every man would adore to stay in a green town far hidden in

the valleys of Fort Portal, can only survive if the war on wetlands, forests, and crater lakes stops. Mudslides are now taking away the beauty of some places, back filling is the order of the day in some areas along rivers. The young people are seeing and are helpless. Our leaders who will speak if you don't? Speaking yes but we need to see actions being taken. We now are here saying we want to be part of the solution by using means within our ability as Laudato Youth. We want to see the green belt at Nyakasura School define the beauty of Fort Portal how I wish companies and our leaders would read this article.

Individuals and Compa-

nies please listen to the guidelines of the government. Don't spoil because you have seen others spoil change begins with me and you. We can do it differently. Laudato youth has taught me to see nature with magnified lenses.

My dream now is to make the world around me a place of safety and a better for everyone but certainly, I can only do this with you, let's do it for the crater who handed it to us beautiful and fruitful. And let us walk the talk by uniting for climate action.

MY NAME IS MUGABI
WILLINGTON S3Z
Nyakasura school



My experience of the Laudato Nature Walk to Commemorate World Environment Day

A day out with many other Laudato club members to explore and connect with nature was such an interesting and adventurous day to remember. This special event was organized through the diocesan Laudato Youths Club and attracted club members from; Our one and Only Nyakasura School club, Divine Mercy Club, Mountains of the Moon Club, the diocesan youth club, and our beloved youth chaplain, the leadership from the Laudato Youth Initiative, and John Paul Justice and Peace Kampala.

The Nyakasura School was well represented by Club members who set off earlier that Saturday morning. Our patron Mr. Rusahura Daniel, introduced us to the tour guide and we set off for Rwaihamba trading center where Fr. Mugabyomu Paul Amooti, joined by Sister Margret, and the visitors from Kampala rolled our sleeves and taught residents of Rwaihamba market about the importance of managing waste. Some members of the area were inspired by our work and they joined us

in the community clean-up activity.

We later proceeded by bus to the craters of Kifuruka and Nyinambuga (the lake on the 20,000/= note) then moved to Mahoma Falls, where we all enjoyed and had fun at the falls, with some refreshments of drinks.

We then left Mahoma Falls and proceeded to Nkruba Crater where we had lunch and motivational and educative speeches from the club mentors and our diocesan youth chaplain who taught us about goal setting and having purpose in life. He encouraged us to take care of ourselves and take seriously the chance we have to be in school. This trip was for me an opportunity to realize the importance of uniting with mentors and learning to serve. I also made new friends and people we share the same passion.

**By: MUGABI WILLINGTON S.3Z
LAUDATO CLUB PRESIDENT
NYAKASURA SCHOOL**

Laudato Si Club of Divine Mercy

LET'S GO GREEN.

In Genesis, the Bible tells us about our responsibility of caring for other creatures. But to the reality the green is getting extinct.

Together we have to raise and know our responsibility of conserving nature.

We don't have to wait for drought or floods, let's do the needful by planting trees, cleaning the environment as well as making proper disposal of non-biodegradables hence a green environment.

Let's all say no to deforestation, bush burning, encroachment and reckless disposal of wastes.

Don't forget that everything was created with a purpose and it's our responsibility to take care of the environment



Is the World still a beautiful place to live ?







There were 42,317 deforestation alerts reported in Uganda between 25th of June 2024 and 2nd of July 2024, covering a total of 521 ha of which 0.35% according to Global forest watch

Every one in Uganda agrees that It is time we put a stop to deforestation but not many people are answering the question

How?

Uganda, as a Country has an abundance of flora and Fauna embedded in the natural resources including vast forests whose total area was estimated to be 1,277,684 hectares in 2019 after its forest cover had decreased from 24% (or 4.9 million hectares) in 1990 to 9% (1.83 million hectares) in 2018, a loss of 3 million hectares in just 25 years.

How ever studies indicate that Uganda is among the countries with the highest rate of deforestation and if the current trend does not change there will be no trees remaining in 40 years. Thats why this worries our young people alot. The effects awaiting the young people in the future is not certain if prompt action is not taken.

If forests are extinct, not only will Uganda's natural beauty disappear and subsequently the "Pearl" fade, but also livelihoods will be at peril and the achievement of Uganda's Vision 2040 and the Sustainable Development Goals at risk.



Laudato Youth Initiative (LYI), through its one million tree planting drive, is working hand in hand with Laudato Si Clubs in schools, Universities, Parishes and Dioceses to jointly Plant One Million Tree as a contribution to reforestrating our Mother Land and invite more young people to join us, it could be through volunteering to plant trees, advising their schools to reduce their use of firewood etc.. We appeal to organizations, companies, and individuals to join hand with such conservation and restoration efforts.

"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"SDG 13

LYI announced its plans to spearhead the planting of one million trees, this year, as part of their Laudato Si response activities

Protecting African Seeds

Safeguarding Biodiversity for Healthier Foods and a Sustainable Future

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of safeguarding African seeds to ensure a diverse and sustainable food supply for the continent and the world at large. The rich biodiversity of African seeds offers a treasure trove of genetic resources that can help address food security challenges, promote healthier diets, and support sustainable agriculture practices.

African seeds are not just a source of food; they are a vital part of the continent's cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. Many indigenous African crops have unique nutritional profiles and resilience to environmental stresses, making them valuable resources for building more resilient and sustainable food systems.

However, African seed diversity is under threat from various factors,

including the spread of monoculture farming, climate change, and the influence of multinational seed companies. The loss of traditional seed varieties not only threatens biodiversity but also undermines the resilience of agricultural systems and the food security of in our local communities.

To protect African seeds and promote healthier foods and a sustainable future, there is a need for concerted efforts at the local, national, and international levels. This includes supporting small-scale farmers in preserving and exchanging traditional seed varieties, promoting agroecological farming practices that value biodiversity, and advocating for policies that protect farmers' rights to save, use, and exchange seeds.

Furthermore, empowering local communities to take control of

their food systems and promoting seed sovereignty are crucial steps towards ensuring a diverse and resilient food supply. By prioritizing the preservation and enhancement of African seed diversity, we can promote healthier diets among the young people, support sustainable agriculture, and safeguard the future of food for generations to come.

As a laudato youth I felt this was important because it is not just about preserving biodiversity; it is about promoting food sovereignty, supporting our local communities to reduce poverty and hunger, hence building a more sustainable and equitable food system. By valuing and preserving the rich diversity of African seeds, we can create a healthier, more resilient future for all. ties to advocate for clean energy and sustainable practices, including the reduction of plastic waste. **By Judith**



THE ROLE OF LAUDATO SI INITIATIVE explained by the Laudato Mentor

In an era where the youth are increasingly seeking ways to deepen their understanding of their Catholic faith and actively engage in caring for the environment, the Laudato Youth Initiative has emerged as a beacon of hope. This innovative program is dedicated to engaging young people in creative strategies that not only nurture their spiritual growth but also instill a sense of responsibility towards creation.

At the heart of the Laudato Youth Initiative's mission are yearly youth conferences and seminars that serve as platforms for meaningful dialogue, reflection, and action. These events bring together passionate young individuals who are eager to explore the intersection of faith, environmental stewardship, and social justice. Through a series of workshops, discussions, and interactive activities, participants are encouraged to delve into issues related to climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable living, and the ethical implications of their actions.

One of the key objectives of the Laudato Youth Initiative is to empower young people to become agents of change within their communities. By providing them with the knowledge, tools, and resources to address pressing environmental challenges, the program equips youth to make a positive impact in their localities. From tree planting initiatives to waste reduction campaigns, from advocacy for eco-friendly practices to organizing community clean-up drives, participants are inspired to take concrete steps towards building a more sustainable and just world.

Central to the work of the Laudato Youth Initiative is the integration of Catholic teachings on stewardship and social responsibility. By grounding their environmental advocacy in the rich tradition of Catholic social teaching,



As we look towards the future, it is clear that the Laudato Youth Initiative is playing a vital role in shaping the next generation of environmental advocates and faith-inspired leaders. Through their yearly conferences and seminars, they are sowing the seeds of hope, compassion, and stewardship in the hearts of young people, inspiring them to embrace their role as custodians of creation and ambassadors of faith.

participants are encouraged to see caring for creation as a fundamental aspect of their faith. Through prayer, reflection, and spiritual guidance, young people are encouraged to deepen their relationship with God and develop a profound appreciation for the beauty and interconnectedness of all living beings. This year our Laudato Clubs President had a profound experience with the Laudato Si Club of Fort Portal Diocese under the guidance of Fr. Paul Mugabiomu the diocesan youth chaplain where prayer and care for creation were values shared with the youth during the Laudato Si Week that doubles as the diocesan youth conference week.

The bishop of Fort Portal Bishop Robert Muhirwa Akiki implored young people to be people of hope and faith, good stewards of creation and agents of growth in families.

The Laudato Youth Initiative's commitment to engaging youth in innovative strategies is a testament to its vision of nurturing a generation of young leaders who are not only rooted in their Catholic faith but also committed to the protection of our common home. By providing a platform for dialogue, education, and action, the program empowers young people to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and beyond.

The time for action is now



Fred Ayebale, MMU

As a passionate advocate for environmental conservation, I am deeply committed to the cause of preserving the delicate balance of our planet for future generations. In an era marked by alarming rates of biodiversity loss, devastating impacts of climate change, and widespread pollution, it is evident that a comprehensive approach is imperative to safeguard the integrity of our natural world.

At the core of our conservation efforts lies the protection and nurturing of biodiversity. The diverse array of plant and animal species that form the bedrock of thriving ecosystems must be safeguarded to ensure the continuity of life on Earth. From the vibrant rainforests to the majestic oceans, we must strive to pass on this irreplaceable heritage to our descendants, cherishing the beauty and wonder of our shared planet. In tandem with biodiversity

preservation, the sustainable management of our natural resources assumes paramount importance.

Responsible stewardship of water, air, forests, and minerals is essential to ensure their availability for future generations. Embracing practices that reduce waste, promote recycling, and prioritize renewable energy sources is crucial in striking a balance between human needs and environmental conservation.

As the specter of climate change looms large, the need for effective mitigation strategies becomes increasingly urgent. By curbing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to clean energy sources, and adopting sustainable land-use practices, we can mitigate the catastrophic impacts of global warming on both ecosystems and human societies.

Robust waste management systems, investment in green technologies, and advocacy for sustainable consumption habits are pivotal in minimizing our environmental footprint and preserving the vitality of our natural surroundings.

Habitat restoration stands as a vital component of the conservation equation, aiming to rehabilitate and rejuvenate degraded ecosystems. Through the replanting of native species, removal of invasive flora and fauna, and restoration of natural water systems, we can foster the revival of life's delicate balance in these fragile areas, facilitating the recovery of plant and animal populations and the overall rejuvenation of ecosystem health.

Engaging local communities, youth, and stakeholders is instrumental in the success of environmental conservation endeavors. By involving these groups in decision-making processes, incorporating their perspectives, and addressing their needs, we can cultivate a sense of ownership and responsibility. This paves the way for the adoption of sustainable practices and the enduring preservation of our shared natural legacy.

By fostering public awareness of the environmental challenges we face and the actions we can take to address them, we can inspire behavioral change, advocate for sustainable living practices, and empower individuals to become proactive stewards of our planet. As we unite in a collective effort to safeguard the future of our shared environment, a holistic approach encompassing biodiversity preservation, sustainable resource management, climate change mitigation, pollution prevention, habitat restoration, community engagement, and education is imperative.

The time for action is now, and the stakes have never been higher. Let us rise to the challenge, coming together in a shared commitment to preserve the beauty and wonder of our world and leave behind a legacy of environmental stewardship that resonates through the ages.

Climate Change

The Cause for Urgent Collective Action

Climate change is by far one of the most pressing issues of our time, with far-reaching consequences for our planet and its inhabitants.

Scientific research is clear; human activities, particularly *the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, are releasing massive amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, leading to a global average temperature increase compared to the past century.*

This, in turn, is having a devastating impact on ecosystems, biodiversity, and human societies.

Consequences of Climate Change:

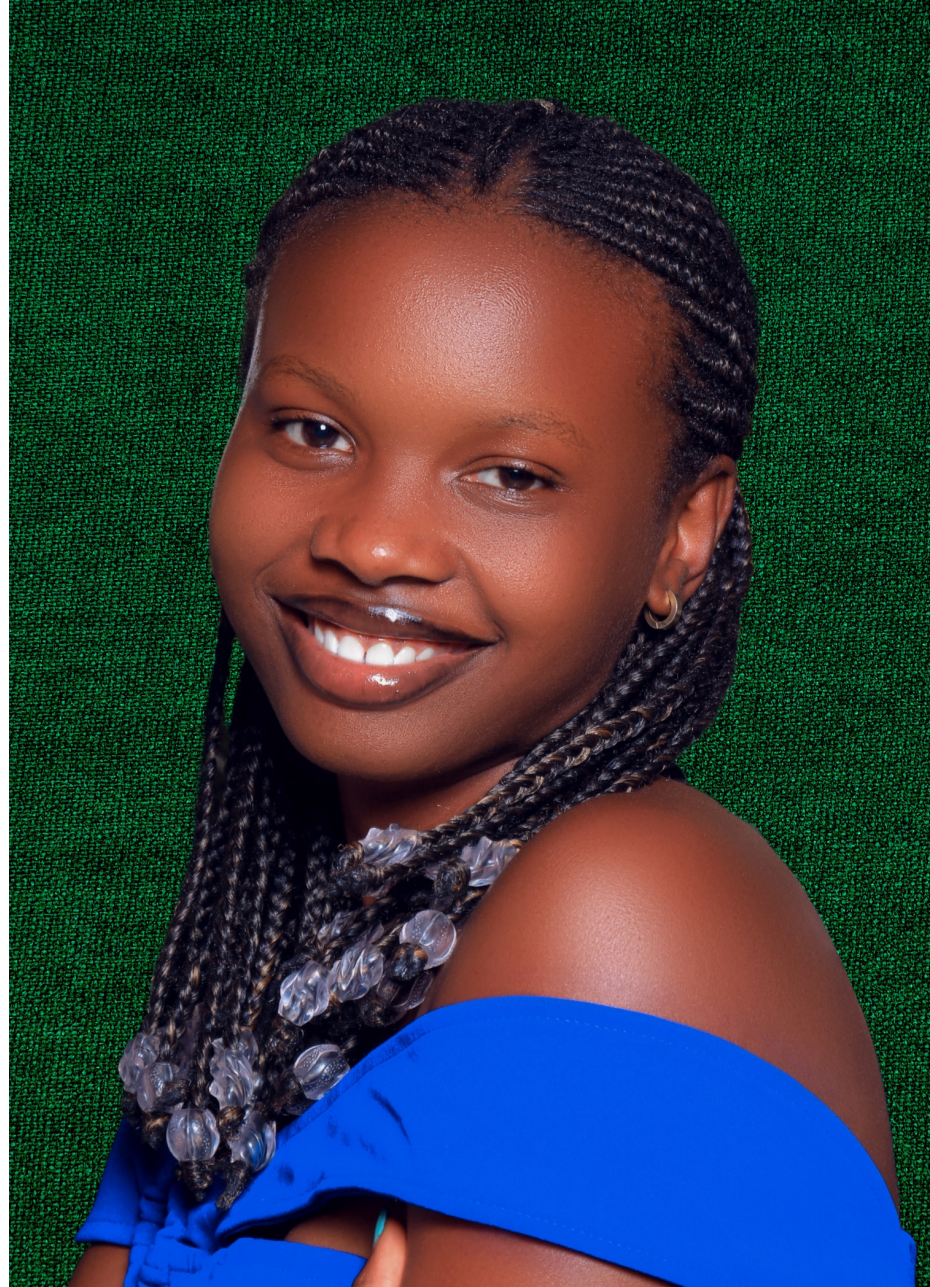
Extreme weather events. Increased frequency and severity of heatwaves, droughts, and storms

Sea-level rise: Coastal erosion, flooding, and saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources

Water scarcity. Changes in precipitation patterns and increased evaporation due to warmer temperatures and this is leading to less water hence drought conditions.

Loss of biodiversity. Rising temperatures and altered ecosystems threaten extinction of many species hence death of sea animals and others. We therefore need to come together the young and old and combine our efforts so as to make this World a better place

If this world will have to change or be better prepared we need to think of Solutions for which I appreciate the Laudato Youth Initiative is amplifying voices for and taking action for sustainable living :
Transition to renewable energy sources .Solar, wind, and hydro electric power. We used use more of the energy of the sun than using electricity. This will reduce heat but as well as provide us with power.



Energy efficiency. Improve insulation, use energy-efficient appliances, and optimize energy consumption

Electrify transportation .Promote electric vehicles and public transportation like Kayoola buses.

Carbon capture and storage. Develop technologies to capture and store emissions. This should be done so as to reduce the pollution done by industries .

Sustainable land use: Implement reforestation, agroforestry, and permaculture practices. Trees should be grown and conserved so as to create a greener environment leading to good oxygen and good weather.

Individuals, organizations, and governments must work together to address this global crisis. We owe it to ourselves, future generations, and the planet to take immediate, collective action to mitigate climate change and create a sustainable future.

By understanding the causes and consequences of climate change, we can work towards a common goal of reducing our carbon footprint and creating a more sustainable world. There is no need of more words but rather actions and the time is now !

By Immaculate Kisembo

HOW BEST WE CAN KEEP AN ECOLOGICALLY BALANCE AND THE BEAUTY OF OUR PLANET?

We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we made them. It is undeniable that almost everyone has exacerbated the climate change tragedy. Thinking outside the box, the pollution in all its forms and out other climate tragedies have terrible effects on the environment it's self, wildlife and the food chain are suffering from the effects of our littering with polythens through the so called single use plastics and microplastics that are pausing a very big threat to

our eco system.

As me, I think the best way to solve the cries of our mother Earth is through reducing on the manufacturing of single-use plastics, making it easier to deal with trash and encourage the creation of long-lasting options I now understand better why I should always carry my water bottle to school than keeping buying bottled water. I know appreciate the importance of wet lands and understand why they shpuld be protected. My

appeal to you dear Laudato voices reader is be part of the solution, embrace the change, take action even if its the smallest that you think may not matter. I am excited and looking for to plant some trees home when I go for holidays and please!

“LET US JOIN HANDS AS young people and help our nation to fight for its treasure and for the future generations to come.

BY ATHIENO JEMIMA.
HOLY CROSS LAKE VIEW SSS



Safeguarding

Our Shared Home: Preserving for Tomorrow's Heirs

The destiny of our planet rests in our hands, a treasured legacy entrusted to us by past generations. As caretakers of this Earth, it is our responsibility to ensure that we pass on not a desolate wasteland, but thriving havens for our offspring and their descendants.

Every choice we make today shapes the world they will inherit tomorrow. From the quality of the air we breathe to the purity of the water we drink, our decisions mold the environment that supports all life. However, in our quest for advancement, we often disregard the repercussions of our actions. The unrelenting exploitation of natural resources and the unregulated pollution of our air and seas jeopardize the fragile equilibrium of our ecosystem.

The repercussions of our indifference are already manifesting. Soaring temperatures, receding glaciers, and more frequent natural calamities stand as stark reminders of the pressing need for change. The future generation, our children, will suffer the consequences if we do not act decisively now.

Envision a world where fresh air and unspoiled landscapes are mere relics of the past, where wildlife only exists in books, and where water scarcity is a daily battle. This grim future is not unavoidable.



It is not too late to alter our course. By embracing renewable energy, curbing waste, and safeguarding natural habitats, we can begin to mend the wounds inflicted upon our planet. Each small deed, whether it is planting a tree or advocating for eco-friendly policies, contributes to the grander objective of protecting our shared home.

Our children merit nothing less than a world where they can flourish and thrive. Let us not be known as the generation that stood passively by while our planet suffered. Instead, let us be hailed as the generation that took a stance, that made the necessary sacrifices, and that secured a brighter future for all.

clean energy and sustainable practices, including the reduction of plastic waste.

Ultimately, the decision is ours to make. Will we leave behind a barren wasteland devoid of beauty and vitality, or will we nurture a flourishing garden bursting with life and potential? The future generation is observing, and they will assess us not solely by our words, but by our deeds. Let us choose wisely, for their sake and for the sake of our shared home.

***Tr. Steven Ayabazibwe
Moreau Nursery and
Primary***

PEOPLE VS PLASTICS

GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR A STRONG PLASTICS TREATY

The results of this Greenpeace survey demonstrate that there is overwhelming public support for the Global Plastics Treaty to cut plastic production, end single-use plastics and advance reuse-based solutions. Conducted in 19 countries with over 19,000 respondents, the survey shows strong support for cutting the production of plastic, at over 8 in 10 people (82%1), and for protecting biodiversity and the climate by cutting plastics production (at 80%1).

As many as 9 out of 10 people (90%2) support a transition away from single-use plastic packaging to reusable and refillable packaging, while 75%1 support a ban on single-use plastic. Likewise, 80% of people are concerned about the impacts of plastic on the health of their loved ones and 84% of parents are concerned about these impacts on the health of their children.

The overwhelming show of public support sends a strong message to the Governments negotiating the Global Plastics Treaty—the public expects political leaders to address pollution from the full life cycle of plastics, by cutting plastic production and banning single-use plastics. A failure to do so will carry political consequences.



* ‘Strongly agree’ and ‘Somewhat agree’ responses combined

* ‘Essential’, ‘Very important’, and ‘Fairly important’ responses combined

* ‘Very concerned’ and ‘Somewhat concerned’ responses combined

Plastic pollution is one of the most pervasive environmental challenges of our time. From the deepest oceans to the highest mountains, plastic waste is contaminating ecosystems, endangering wildlife, and impacting human health.

The Global Plastics Treaty aims to address this issue by cutting plastic production, ending single-use plastics, and advancing reuse-based solutions. A recent survey highlights overwhelming public support for these measures, sending a powerful message to policymakers worldwide. Survey Insights:

Global Demand for Action

The survey, conducted across 19 countries with over 19,000 respondents, reveals significant public backing for the Global Plastics Treaty. Key findings include:

Cutting Plastic Production: Over 82% of respondents support reducing plastic production to protect biodiversity and combat climate change.

Transitioning to Reusables: 90% advocate for a shift from single-use plastic packaging to reusable and refillable options.

Banning Single-Use Plastics: 75% favor banning single-use plastics entirely.

Health Concerns: 80% of respondents are worried about the impact of plastic on their health, with 84% of parents particularly concerned about their children’s health.

[Read full article online](#)

These results demonstrate that people across the globe recognize the urgent need to tackle plastic pollution and are demanding substantial and immediate actions from their governments.

Strong Support in the Global South

The survey shows particularly strong support for ambitious actions on plastics in the Global South, where plastic pollution levels are often more severe. Countries in these regions are experiencing firsthand the detrimental effects of plastic waste on their environments and communities. This heightened awareness and urgency translate into greater support for comprehensive measures to address the issue.

Political Implications

The public's strong stance on plastic pollution is clear: governments must take decisive action to curb plastic production and eliminate single-use plastics. The survey indicates that more than 60% of respondents believe that lobbyists from the fossil fuel and chemical industries should be excluded from negotiations to ensure the success of the Global Plastics Treaty. Failure to act on these demands could have significant political repercussions. The public expects leaders to prioritize environmental sustainability and implement policies that mitigate the life cycle impacts of plastics. Ignoring this mandate could lead to loss of public trust and support.

Role of Organizations in Driving Change

Numerous organizations are at the forefront of the battle against plastic pollution, playing crucial roles in raising awareness, advocating for policy changes, and implementing practical solutions.

Laudato Youth Initiative

As a member of the Laudato Youth Initiative in Uganda, I have witnessed the power of youth-led action in addressing environmental challenges.

The Laudato Youth Initiative empowers young people to become environmental stewards through education, advocacy, and community projects.

By fostering a sense of responsibility and action among the youth, we are building a future generation committed to sustainability.

Other Key Organizations

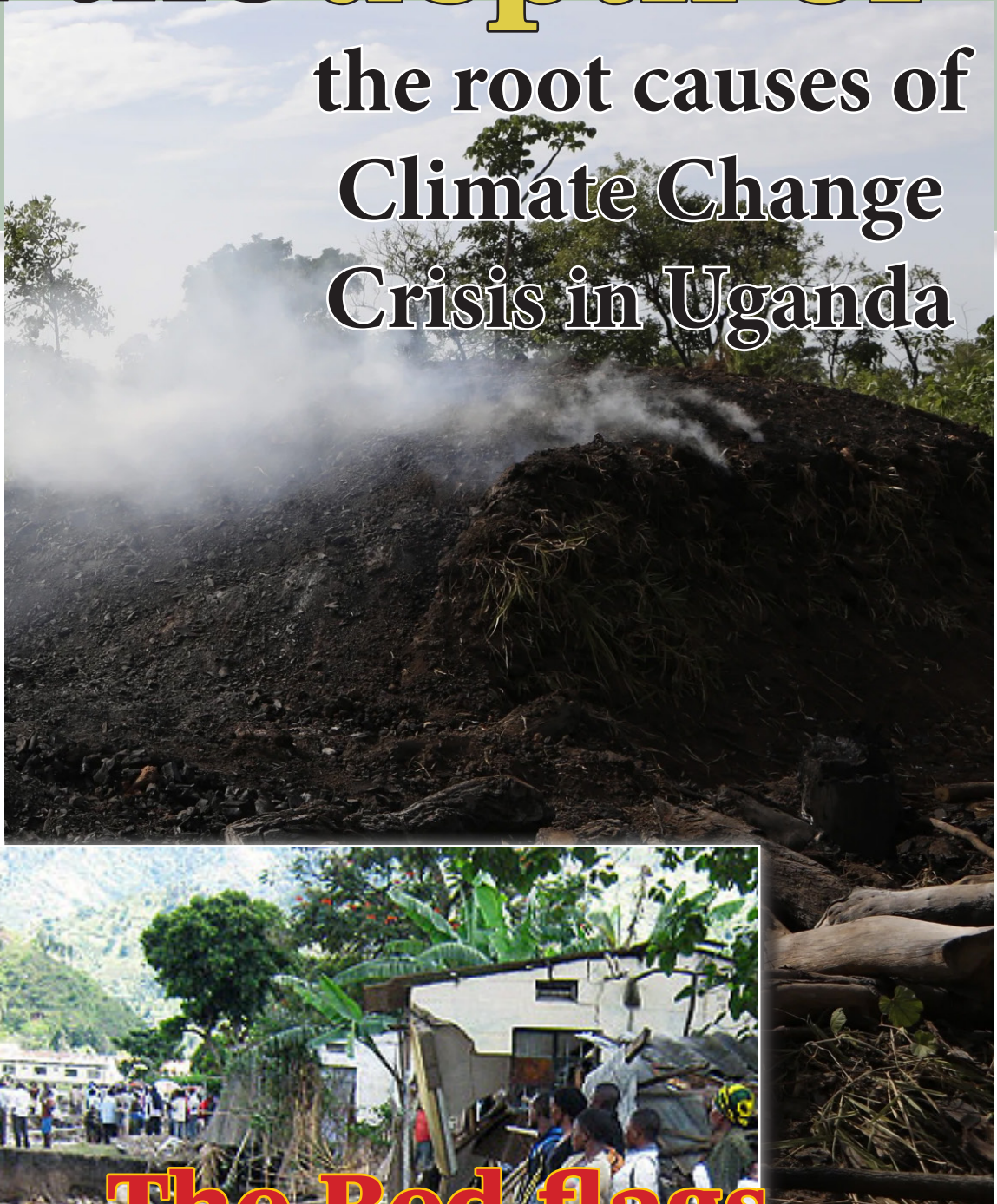
World Wildlife Fund (WWF): WWF's efforts in wildlife conservation and habitat protection include significant initiatives to combat plastic waste in marine and terrestrial ecosystems. **The Sierra Club:** This grassroots organization mobilizes communities to advocate for clean energy and sustainable practices, including the reduction of plastic waste.



***Mr. Bategeka Denis
Laudato Youth Media***

to single-use plastics, and the advancement of reuse-based solutions. Organizations like the Laudato Youth Initiative are critical in driving these efforts forward, empowering communities, and advocating for a sustainable future. As we continue to confront the plastic crisis, it is imperative that political leaders heed this call and implement robust policies to protect our planet and future generations. The time for action is now, and together, we can make a significant impact in the fight against plastic pollution.

in the depth of the root causes of Climate Change Crisis in Uganda



The Red flags

Mother Earth's Lamentation

Children of tomorrow, heed my cry,
For I am Mother Earth, in sorrow I sigh.
My rivers once pure now run dark with despair,
As toxins choke my skies, heedless of my prayer.

Youth of today, with hearts so bold and free,
Why turn away from what you see in me?
I am your home, your cradle and your breath,
Yet you sow destruction, inviting untimely death.

Parents, guardians of my fragile domain,
Why stand aloof, ignoring my pain?
I sheltered your dreams, gave life to your seed,
Now my forests burn, my creatures plead.

Churches and temples, where do you stand?
Silent amidst the desolation, where my plea is banned.
The Pontiff's voice echoes, "Care for your common home,"
Yet in your pews, my cries echo alone.

Governments hold reins of power, the law at their call,
They trade my riches for a fleeting squall.
Corruption festers, greed taints their decree,
Whilst mine children languish, bound and unfree.
I weep for glaciers lost, oceans in distress,
For species extinct, robbed of their caress.
Storms rage fiercer, droughts linger long,
My wrath unveiled, justice demands strong.

Wake from your slumber, before it's too late,
Embrace my plea, alter your fate.
Restore my forests, cleanse my streams,
Let harmony reign, fulfill my dreams.


For I am Mother Earth, wounded and torn,
In your hands lies hope, to heal what's worn.
Listen, dear children, to my sorrowful plea,
For together we thrive, or perish we decree.

Heed my warning, for time slips away,
Let love for me guide you, in every way.
For I am your home, your life's sacred berth,
Oh, children of Earth, return to me, rebirth.

~Bruno Del Rio



Minning and quarrying is also a big threat
to our
Countries sustainability efforts



Uganda's Wetlands are threatened by
degradation and risk Depletion if no
Immediate action is taken. They suffer
both degraation and pollution

**Priotise Wetland Restoration
over Reclamation**

Our responsibility

- *Promote Sustainable Land use patterns*
- *Enhance Community Engagement*
- *Raise Public Awareness*
- *Be the Solution not the Problem*
- *Restoration activities and initiatives*
- *Strengthen and Enforce the Law*



In the heart of East Africa, a profound connection between the people and the Earth has existed for centuries. This relationship, steeped in the philosophy of Ubuntu and nurtured by traditional practices, offers a unique perspective on environmental stewardship. As the region faces unprecedented ecological challenges, there is an urgent need for the younger generation to embrace this heritage and take up the mantle of environmental preservation. This is not merely a practical necessity but an existential and philosophical journey that calls for a deep reconnection with our roots.

Ubuntu and the Sacredness of Nature

Ubuntu, a central tenet in many African cultures, extends its profound philosophy beyond human interactions to encompass the entire web of life. The phrase “I am because we are” captures the essence of this interconnectedness, emphasising that our existence is intrinsically tied to the well-being of the environment. This holistic view recognises every element of nature, trees, rivers, mountains, and animals, as part of a greater community deserving of respect and care.

From a philosophical standpoint, Ubuntu aligns closely with the concept of deep ecology, which argues for the intrinsic value of all living beings, regardless of their utility to human needs (Naess, 1973). This perspective challenges anthropocentric worldviews that prioritise human interests over ecological integrity. In the context of Ubuntu,

the environment is not merely a backdrop for human activity but a co-equal participant in the web of life. This philosophy underscores a symbiotic relationship where one component’s health directly impacts the whole’s health.

Traditional African societies have long embodied this philosophy in their practices. Sacred groves, for example, are physical spaces where nature is left undisturbed and spiritual sanctuaries that reflect a deep reverence for the Earth. These groves serve as a testament to the ecological wisdom embedded in cultural traditions, highlighting a refined understanding of sustainability long before it became a global imperative (Gadgil & Vartak, 1975). By preserving these spaces, traditional societies recognise the need for balance and respect for natural processes.

Furthermore, the concept of Ubuntu resonates with the Gaia hypothesis proposed by James Lovelock, which posits that the Earth functions as a self-regulating, living organism (Lovelock, 1979). This hypothesis aligns with the African philosophical view that the Earth is a living entity deserving reverence and protection. Therefore, Ubuntu is not just a social ethic but an ecological one, advocating for a harmonious coexistence between humans and the natural world. The sacredness attributed to nature in African philosophy also parallels the notion of biocentrism, which holds that all life has inherent value (Taylor, 1986).



This perspective is evident in how traditional African communities engage with their environment, fostering a relationship based on mutual respect and care. For instance, the rituals and practices surrounding sacred groves are expressions of this biocentric view, where nature is seen as a partner in life's journey rather than a mere resource to be exploited.

Challenges Facing the Younger Generation

The ancient wisdom embedded in the philosophy of Ubuntu is increasingly at risk of being overshadowed by the forces of modernisation, urbanisation, and globalisation. This shift has created a significant disconnect between the younger generation and the natural world, particularly in regions like East Africa, where environmental challenges such as deforestation, desertification, and climate change are becoming more pronounced. As young people become more immersed in the demands of a modern economy, they face the daunting task of balancing this new reality with the ecological wisdom passed down from their ancestors.

Philosophically, this disconnect can be seen as a consequence of the pervasive anthropocentrism that dominates contemporary thought, which often prioritises human needs and technological progress over ecological balance. This worldview starkly contrasts Ubuntu's holistic and interconnected perspective, which sees human beings as an integral part of the natural world, not separate from it. As environmental philosopher J. Baird Callicott (1989) argues, shifting our ethical framework from an anthropocentric

to an ecocentric perspective is crucial for addressing the ecological crises we face today. Ubuntu provides a compelling model for such a shift, accentuating the importance of harmony and mutual respect between humans and the environment.

The challenge for the younger generation is to integrate the values of Ubuntu into their understanding of technological and economic progress. This requires a reawakening to the idea of the Earth as a sacred trust, a concept deeply rooted in traditional African thought. Viewing the environment as a sacred entity deserving of respect and care, young people can develop a more sustainable approach to development. As environmental ethicist Aldo Leopold (1949) suggests in his concept of the land ethic, seeing ourselves as part of a larger community that includes the land can foster a sense of stewardship and responsibility essential for sustainable living.

Furthermore, integrating Ubuntu into modern education systems can play a pivotal role in bridging this disconnect. Incorporating ecological wisdom and the principles of Ubuntu into curricula, educators can help young people develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world and their place within it. This holistic education can empower the younger generation to become advocates for environmental stewardship, ensuring that technological advancement does not come at the expense of ecological integrity. Education should impart knowledge and cultivate an ethical relationship with the Earth, nurturing a sense of responsibility and care for the planet.

For the youth of East Africa, reconnecting with the Earth is not just an environmental issue; it is an existential imperative. This necessitates a philosophical shift in how we perceive our place in the world, embracing a more holistic and integrated worldview. Several vital steps can facilitate this reconnection:

Embracing Indigenous Knowledge: Traditional ecological knowledge, passed down through generations, offers valuable insights into sustainable living. This wisdom embodies the deep connection between humans and nature, reflecting the Ubuntu philosophy. As anthropologist Fikret Berkes (1999) argues, indigenous knowledge systems provide a foundation for sustainable environmental management. Young people must seek to learn from elders and integrate this wisdom with modern scientific approaches. This fusion of old and new can create innovative solutions to contemporary environmental problems, ensuring that development is both culturally relevant and ecologically sound.

Revitalising Cultural Practices: Cultural practices such as maintaining sacred groves, observing agricultural rituals, and respecting wildlife are manifestations of the Ubuntu philosophy in action. These practices foster a sense of collective responsibility towards the environment, emphasising that human well-being is intertwined with the health of the natural world. Baird Callicott (1989) argues that cultural practices are essential for cultivating an ecological conscience. By revitalising these traditions, the younger generation can reinforce the values of

respect and stewardship, creating a sustainable relationship with the Earth that honours ancestral wisdom.

Advocating for Policy Change: The younger generation must become advocates for environmental policies that respect both traditional knowledge and modern ecological science. This includes supporting community-led conservation efforts, sustainable agriculture, and the protection of natural resources. Philosopher and political theorist John Dryzek (2005) emphasises the importance of deliberative democracy in environmental governance, where diverse voices, including those of indigenous communities, are heard and respected. Championing policies that integrate traditional ecological knowledge with contemporary science, young people can ensure that environmental governance is inclusive, equitable, and effective.

Fostering Community Engagement: Building strong, environmentally conscious communities is crucial for sustainable development. Ubuntu teaches that individuals thrive in the community context, and this principle can be extended to environmental stewardship. Young people should engage in local conservation projects, educate peers about environmental issues, and promote a culture of sustainability. As environmental educator David Orr (1992) points out, fostering ecological literacy and community engagement is essential for creating a resilient and adaptive society. The younger generation can create a sustainable future by nurturing a sense of collective responsibility and empowering communities to take action.

A Call to Action: The Future in Our Hands

As inheritors of a rich cultural legacy and stewards of the future, the youth of East Africa have a unique and vital role to play. Reconnecting with the Earth is a journey that demands both introspection and action. It challenges us to see the world through the lens of Ubuntu, recognising that our well-being is tied to the health of our environment. In Swahili, this interconnectedness can be described as *umojja* (unity), reflecting the idea that the health of one is the health of all. This philosophical and existential challenge calls for courage, creativity, and commitment. It is a call to embrace our roots, honour our heritage, and innovate for a sustainable future. Our Mother Earth is not a distant entity but a living community to which we belong. Reconnecting with the Earth allows the younger generation to create a more harmonious, sustainable, and just world. This concept aligns with the works of environmental philosopher Arne Naess, who advocates for deep ecology, emphasising that the well-being and flourishing of human and non-human life on Earth have intrinsic value (Naess, 1973).

Reconnecting with the Earth also involves a profound respect for the wisdom of our ancestors. Indigenous knowledge systems, often communicated through stories, proverbs, and rituals, provide a holistic understanding of the natural world and our place within it.

For instance, the Swahili proverb *Maisha ni safari* (Life is a journey) reminds us of life's continuous and interconnected nature. Integrating this wisdom with modern scientific approaches allows the youth to develop innovative solutions that are culturally relevant and ecologically sustainable. Environmental philosopher Aldo Leopold's (1949) land ethic, which emphasises the need for moral responsibility to the natural world, can be a guiding principle in this endeavour.

The younger generation must also become advocates for policy changes that integrate traditional knowledge and modern ecological science. This includes supporting community-led conservation efforts, sustainable agriculture, and the protection of natural resources. In the words of environmental educator David Orr (1992), fostering ecological literacy is crucial for empowering communities to take action. Promoting policies that respect the environment and recognise the importance of traditional knowledge enables young people to help create a future where development and sustainability are in harmony. In conclusion, the existential imperative of reconnecting with the Earth is a call to action for the youth of East Africa. By embracing the principles of Ubuntu, valuing Indigenous knowledge, advocating for inclusive policies, and fostering community engagement, they can face the challenges of the modern world while honouring their cultural heritage. As the

African proverb goes, "The Earth is not ours; it is a treasure we hold in trust for future generations." Let us rise to this challenge, for the future of East Africa and the planet depends on it.

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BENARD OMUKUYIA ***Student at Gregorian University - Rome***



Holy Cross Lake View

S.S.S. students strongly recommend

Solar Companies to embrace Dynastic Solar Systems to Maximize Energy Generation

Solar Companies should embrace Dynastic Solar Systems to Maximize Energy Generation

In the realm of renewable energy, as the best solution to clean energy solar power stands out as a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional sources of energy. To enhance the efficiency and productivity of solar panels, youth at Holy Cross Lake View are suggesting that solar companies must adopt dynastic solar systems that track the movement of the sun. By following the sun's direction throughout the day, these systems can generate more energy and avoid being affected by shadows or obstructions.

Our Laudato Club's President Sarah recently interviewed the young innovators at Holy Cross Lake View S.S.S a school that is making strides to use innovation and technology to mitigate climate change in Uganda. The students have done research and explored the benefits of dynastic solar systems and why they are essential for the future of solar energy.

According to the interview with our Laudato Club's president the Laudato Youth believes that Solar power has emerged as a

frontrunner in the race towards sustainable energy solutions.

However, to fully harness the potential of solar panels, it is crucial for solar companies in Juganda and beyond to embrace innovative technologies such as dynastic solar systems. These systems are designed to track the sun's movement and adjust the position of solar panels accordingly. By doing so, they can optimize energy generation and overcome the limitations posed by shadows or sheds. Owing to the fact that most communities using solar in Uganda are rural and located in high shade areas or forested areas or even the seasons of the sun where during the rainy season the sun shines for few hours and our local homes in shade areas may not have the chance to access the full sun.

The Arguments are based on the community research findings that most people who have solar are not maximizing its potential even though there are not many people or companies in Uganda generating reserve power or storing power from solar systems as they just run one the daily power supply or even struggle during the rainy and because of the effects of the sun shed and if the above is solved using this innovation the follow-

ing could be achieved;

Increased Energy Generation: Many researchers have proved that Dynastic solar systems can increase energy generation by up to 25% compared to fixed solar panels. This is because they can continuously adjust the angle of the panels to capture the maximum amount of sunlight throughout the day. As the sun moves across the sky, dynastic solar systems follow its path, ensuring that the panels are always facing the most direct sunlight. This results in higher energy output and improved efficiency.

Mitigation of Shading Effects: One of the major challenges faced by traditional solar panels is shading from trees, buildings, or other obstructions. This shading can significantly reduce the efficiency of solar panels and limit energy generation. Dynastic solar systems, however, are equipped with sensors and motors that allow them to tilt and rotate in response to shading. By constantly adapting to the changing environment, these systems can avoid shadows and maintain optimal performance.



Long-Term Sustainability: In the quest for sustainable energy solutions, dynastic solar systems play a crucial role in ensuring the long-term viability of solar power. By maximizing energy generation and minimizing the impact of shading, these systems help to enhance the overall efficiency and reliability of solar panels. This not only benefits individual solar companies but also contributes to the broader transition towards renewable energy in our Country Uganda and on a global scale. We could harvest more energy from the sun and even reduce its heat radiation on Earth as a way to reduce the current heat wave crisis according to the Laudato Youth.

From their study and research findings, they highly recommend dynamic solar systems like;

- The SolarEdge PV system is a popular dynastic solar system that is widely used in commercial and residential applications. By employing power optimizers and cloud-based monitoring, this system can increase energy production and improve system visibility.
- The SunPower Equinox system is another example of a dynastic solar system that features integrated microinverters and precision panel tracking. This system

has been shown to maximize energy output and optimize performance under varying conditions.

In conclusion, it's important to say that all environmental lovers and well-wishers should come up and support these students' dreams and ideas to grow into practical solutions because dynastic solar systems are essential for our Country Uganda which must be among the first third-world countries to implement solar systems that are designed to maximize energy generation and overcome shading effects. By following the direction of the sun and continuously adjusting the position of solar panels, these systems offer a sustainable and efficient solution for harnessing solar power. As the demand for renewable energy continues to grow, solar companies must embrace dynastic solar systems as a key component of their energy strategy. By doing so, they can pave the way for a brighter and more sustainable future powered by the sun. This reduces over-dependence on hydroelectricity in Uganda, reducing heat waves and making power available to poor communities as excess power will be stored and availed to low-income communities at affordable rates of buying one solar system and sharing conserved

power with others.

This article was written to inspire and substantiate students' research and advance innovation by Laudato youth. Drawing from the Wisdom of the church which guides that "Technology should be used to better humanity since it has been left to humanity to devise methods of using it for the betterment of the world and the common good."

Br. Adolf Mugume, CSC
Laudato youth mentor



Laudato Youth as forming Technology-Smart Environmental Ambassadors

Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16 per cent of the global population. Uganda has the world's youngest population with over 78 percent of its population below the age of 30. With just under eight million youth aged 15-30.

In the quest to combat climate change and foster environmental sustainability, Laudato Youth is the new ray of hope for the future. We have taken a step in forming and informing our young people to embrace technology smart methods in schools and young people are leading the adoption and development of new technologies, driving digital trends and innovation nationally.

We need to prepare the innovators of tomorrow! International youth day is coming with a very inspiring theme: From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development Through Laudato Clubs, we inspire a sense of responsibility among young people and encourage them to take action to protect the environment.

Digitalization is transforming our world, offering unprecedented opportunities to accelerate sustainable development. Digital technologies are instrumental in advancing climate action and SDG 13.

You may agree with me that education plays a pivotal role, and so do the institutions. Recognizing this, the Laudato Club at Holy Cross Lake View S.S.S is at the heart of our plans for embracing the "Technology-Smart" approach to climate change solutions. Just like our foundation was a digital media-oriented initiative documenting climate change-related issues on "What is Happening to Our Common Home LS 1," we are now focused on cultivating a generation of smart environmental ambassadors who are

well-versed in climate change issues and equipped with the necessary skills to drive positive change. By instilling values of ecological responsibility and leadership in young people, we believe that we can make a significant impact on our world.

Through mentorship programs and capacity-building initiatives, we empower and inspire Laudato Youth to take charge and develop innovative solutions to ecological challenges. We place a strong emphasis on amplifying the voices of young people, including the girl child, as they bring a unique perspective to the table when it comes to finding sustainable solutions.

As you may know, youth participation is key to fostering a climate-responsive society. By integrating ecological spirituality and climate change realities into our initiatives, we empower young people to be agents of change in their schools, families, and communities. Through activities like tree planting, nature walks, Laudato Festivals, and community service, we provide practical opportunities for youth to engage with environmental issues hands-on.

Our emphasis on creativity and innovation drives young people to develop unique solutions to combat climate change. By leveraging technologies and fostering a culture of sustainability, we equip youth with the tools to address environmental challenges in their local contexts. Through projects like smart agriculture, devising technological solutions to prevailing climate challenges in our country like floods, solar energy, water management, food security initiatives, and biodiversity conservation efforts. In these matters, our young people are encouraged to think critically and act responsibly.

For many learning institutions, we encourage innovative student-led projects, educative debates, innovative research, media campaigns, and promote sustainable land use patterns (Agriculture-Smart) such as Vegetable Gardens in Schools, planting flowers, and modern organic farming, among others. By encouraging local solutions rooted in cultural and societal contexts, we aim to address environmental issues through an African lens. Our focus on the “African Cultural Response to Laudato Si and SDG 13” guides our activities in schools, universities, parishes, and communities.

Activities such as music and storytelling, where we also incorporate behavioral change communication, workshops, and seminars, empower young people to understand the importance of environmental conservation and take proactive measures to reduce Uganda’s pressing environmental challenges, including deforestation and plastic pollution, among others.

My hope is always the realization that young people are our future. The more we love and care for them, mentor and guide them to be part of the solution, the more we shall be shaping a better world for tomorrow. Thus, we will remain committed to nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious leaders who are equipped to tackle the pressing challenges of our time. By engaging our Laudato youth in meaningful activities and empowering them to take action, we strive to create a more sustainable and resilient future for all. In the words of Laudato youth, let us unite for climate action and work towards a greener, more sustainable world.

Let us continue to support and empower our Laudato Youth at Holy Cross Lake View as they embark on their journey to becoming Technology Smart Environmental Ambassadors. Together, we can make a real difference in the fight against climate change and work towards a more sustainable future for generations to come.

World Environment Day Open Letter

Dear young people and leaders of the world,

As we celebrate World Environment Day, let us be inspired by the theme of “Land restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience.” It is a call to action to embrace our duty to protect and restore our planet, for Laudato youth aspire to Unite Young People for Climate Action.

The earth is facing unprecedented challenges due to desertification and drought, leading to the degradation of our land and the loss of precious ecosystems. We cannot sit idly by and watch as our environment deteriorate before our eyes. In so doing it is our future that we are playing with and for leaders that do not act it is our bright future that you are depriving us of. The slogan of this day was Our Land Our, Our Future. It was then that I understood deeply the second stanza of our national anthem that was composed by George Wilberforce Kakoma.

**Oh, Uganda! The land that feeds us,
By sun and fertile soil grown;
For our own dear land, we shall always stand,
The Pearl of Africa’s Crown.**

So for us as Ugandans need to clearly understand that protecting our land is protecting our future and caring for the future of the young people is caring for the future of our nation. So It is up to us, the youth of today, to take a stand and make a difference. We have the power to make a positive impact on the world around us. Let us commit to restoring our land, combating desertification, and building resilience to drought.

Together, we can create a more sustainable future for generations to come. Let us rise to challenge and fulfill our duty to protect our planet. The time to act is now.



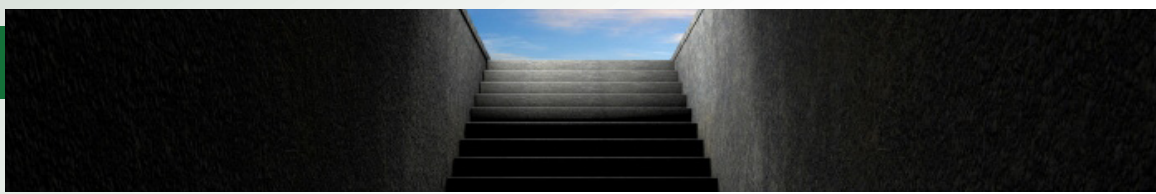


Enhancing Environmental Rescue Missions in Uganda with Modified Helicopters for Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change effects such as floods and mudslides pose significant challenges in Uganda, which we have seen claim many lives and property in recent times, particularly in mountainous regions like Bududa and Kasese where traditional rescue operations face limitations due to rugged terrain. Laudato Youth at Holy Cross Lake View have explored the fact that Leveraging space technology, helicopters can be modified with spider legs to enable vertical takeoff and landing in areas without suitable landing fields. This innovative approach can revolutionize environmental rescue missions, reducing fatalities and enhancing disaster response capabilities in hard-to-reach locations mentioned above. We need to be the change we want to see. Climate change needs both short-term and long-term solutions and the youth who care for their future long-term solutions as a critical part of our action response to Laudato Si and the Pope's appeal for us to use technology for the betterment of humanity.

As you may know, the impact of climate change is becoming increasingly evident, with extreme weather events such as floods and mudslides posing a serious threat to our communities in Uganda leaving many homeless, deterring fellow young people from going to school because roads are cut off by floods and many dying in mountainous regions of Kasese and Bududa where inaccessibility and rocky rugged terrain hinders traditional rescue operations, innovative solutions are needed in this case to improve response capabilities and save lives. This has inspired Lake View Students to develop a model of modified helicopters with spider legs inspired by space technology, a new era of environmental rescue missions that should be ushered in our Country to enable access to areas where conventional aircraft cannot reach. This model of response has been evaluated to;

As you may have read in the news these previous months Mountainous regions in Uganda are particularly vulnerable to climate change effects, and have suffered floods and mudslides posing a significant risk to residents and some have lost lives. (Read the article by Daily Monitor) Traditional means have not been a quick solution for volunteers like the Red Cross to help. Mubuku Hospital has had to relocate because of the effects of flooding so rescuers face a big challenge and the youth believe this research and innovation can be a possible solution where even helicopters face challenges in accessing remote and rough areas due to the lack of suitable landing fields. By equipping helicopters with spider legs, these aircraft can perform vertical takeoff and landing, enabling them to reach areas that are otherwise inaccessible. This innovation can significantly enhance the effectiveness of rescue missions in challenging environments and areas of our Country our even help to supply food aid and medicine in such situations.





Improving Response Time and Efficiency

During emergencies such as floods and mudslides, swift and efficient rescue operations are critical in saving lives and mitigating the impact of disasters. Modified helicopters with spider legs can drastically reduce response time by eliminating the need to search for landing spots. These aircraft can hover above the affected area and lower rescue personnel or supplies directly to the ground, streamlining the rescue process and maximizing efficiency. This innovative approach can make a substantial difference in the outcome of environmental emergencies in mountainous regions.

Enhancing Safety and Resilience

The safety of both rescue personnel and survivors is paramount during disaster response operations. Traditional rescue missions in mountainous areas of Uganda often pose risks due to challenging weather, landscape, and limited landing options. By modifying helicopters with spider legs for vertical takeoff and landing, safety risks can be minimized, and the resilience of rescue operations can be strengthened. This innovative technology according to Laudato Youth not only enhances the safety of those involved in rescue missions but also increases the likelihood of successful outcomes in challenging environments thus using technology at the service of humanity as guided by the church that technology is best used when it's at the service of humanity. When you look at examples like the;

- NASA's Mars Helicopter, Ingenuity, demon-

strates the feasibility of using space-inspired technology for aerial exploration in challenging environments. See the article from NASA to substantiate our innovation

- The concept of biomimicry, drawing inspiration from nature to solve complex challenges, has been successfully applied in various fields, including aerospace engineering and this project is also going to create a positive impact to nurture the future career of our Laudato Youth in aerospace engineering for the betterment of our Country Uganda.

Therefore, the modification of helicopters with spider legs inspired by space technology presents a groundbreaking solution to enhance environmental rescue missions in Uganda's mountainous regions to mention; Kasese, Bududa, Bundibugyo, the Rift Valley Area, and other areas experiencing the same and affected by climate change-induced disasters. These modified helicopters can revolutionize disaster response capabilities, reduce fatalities, and improve overall resilience to environmental emergencies. Embracing innovative approaches that leverage space technology can pave the way for more effective and efficient rescue operations, ultimately saving lives and mitigating the impact of climate change in vulnerable communities thus uniting in heart and Mind to Care for creation. Laudato Youth are dedicated to being a new era of young people Uniting for Climate Action.

Laudato Research and innovation



The role of girls and youth-led initiatives in enhancing technology and innovation for environmental sustainability.

In the fight against climate change, the role of girls and youth-led initiatives in enhancing technology and innovation for environmental sustainability is becoming increasingly vital. The Laudato Youth Initiative is a shining example of how the youth are uniting for climate action, using their creativity, innovation and passion to make a difference.

The integration of technology and innovation in environmental sustainability efforts is crucial for addressing the pressing issues facing our planet. I believe as a lady and young person I bring with me fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to the table for climate change action response, driving forward progress in the fight against climate change. I have for some years as a lady been able to lead many Laudato clubs and work with different people but more so inspiring more youth to be involved in this noble cause of caring for our mother earth.





For me, the Laudato Youth Initiative is a prime example of how youth-led initiatives are making a real impact in the fight against climate change. Through our work, we are not only raising awareness about environmental issues but also taking concrete action to address them. I keep telling my Laudato youth in schools and universities that by embracing the power of innovation and technology in climate change we can reach a wider audience and inspire more young people to join their cause something we have done through our short video documentaries and Laudato Si series.

One of the key strengths I have had as a girl in climate care and serving as a leader of youth-led initiatives has been the opportunity to learn that leadership is a service and I have been able to serve many communities in different regions in Uganda. I now have an idea about some major cultures in Uganda and how they understand climate change however my amusement has been many people are still unaware of this reality and others are still in denial that it is not a pressing issue. This has inspired me to focus on doing more and saying less to teach through action to inspire change and motivate others to take action. By using technology and social media to promote environmental sustainability, we have been able to unite people from all walks of life in the fight against climate change.

Therefore, my role as a girl and for the Laudato youth-led initiative in using technology and innovation for environmental sustainability is crucial in Uniting Laudato Youth for climate action. The Laudato Youth Initiative for me serves as a powerful example of how the Laudato youth are driving forward progress in the fight against climate change. By embracing the power of technology and innovation, they are inspiring change and making a real impact on our planet's future.

Sarah for Laudato



The New Journey!

A few months ago I left St. Edward's University: Austine - Texas to start my new journey as an intern for Digital and Social Media Management with Laudato Youth Initiative in Kampala - Uganda. Today I am seeing myself being part of a transformative experience that has allowed me to explore more in this area and share my gifts and talents. As a Ugandan founded Initiative inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si" "The Laudato Youth Initiative empowers young people to be champions of environmental sustainability and combat climate change through action response and amplifying youth voices to create awareness using the African philosophy of community building engrained in their Motto: United For Climate Action.

I am not new to the Laudato Youth Initiative but I am new on the Laudato Youth Initiative Leadership Team. My journey began during my time as a student at Holy Cross Lake View S.S.S, where I was part of the Laudato Si Club and witnessed firsthand the impact of small actions in preserving our planet. Motivated by a desire to make a difference, I sought out an internship opportunity that would not only benefit me personally but also contribute to the greater good of society and the environment.

Upon joining the team as an intern, I set out to enhance my skills in photography, and social media management, to make a meaningful impact through my work. Guided by the mentorship of the team leaders, I felt welcomed into a supportive and family-oriented environment that nurtured my growth and development. In a little while I found myself having to stretch more and embrace video production, interviews, and office interactions as the new normal.

Am thrilled to share with you that throughout my days here, I have had the opportunity to leverage my interests in Digital Media Marketing and Project management.



**Mark with the JPIIIPC
administration**

I have had the chance to be involved in various programs, such as the John Paul II Vatican Foundation Award ceremony that equipped me with event Management Skills, and the Science and Innovation Expo on the Thanksgiving Mass at Holy Cross Lake View on 16th June. This has been yet another opportunity where I engaged in video content creation thus contributing to the organization's mission of promoting environmental and interactions with fellow interns and mentors, I have gained valuable insights into effective communication and storytelling.

The supportive and collaborative atmosphere at the Laudato Youth Initiative and John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre has fostered in me a sense of belonging thus transforming my internship experience into a fulfilling and enriching journey. The networking opportunities and professional relationships I cultivated during my time with the organization underscored the importance of teamwork and collective action in driving positive change.

As I embark on my final part of the internship with the Laudato Youth Initiative, I look forward to doing more writing my

advocacy through multimedia platforms. check my Interview with the club leaders

Despite facing technological challenges and learning curves, I embraced each obstacle as an opportunity to expand my skills and knowledge. Through the guidance of Mr. Benard Kahwa the Initiative's Director, Ms. Sarah Kirikuwino, the Club's President, and Mr. Denis Bategeka, the IT in person reflective experiences and advancing into developing a webpage that will ease my work as I reflect on the profound impact that young individuals can have in advancing environmental protection and sustainability through action, storytelling, media, cultural response to societal issues like climate change by harnessing creativity and passion for the planet. One big lesson I will carry away from Laudato is we learn better by doing. Seeing what happens in the different clubs I see a value in young people in Laudato Si Clubs and I will carry away as a gift of growing in love to care for creation which I will share with my sustainability and international students community and St. Edwards University when I return for the fall Semester.

I encourage aspiring interns and advocates to explore opportunities with organizations like the Laudato Youth Initiative, where personal growth, skill development, and community engagement, working with and documenting what is happening to our common home is a powerful tool to impact our "Plundering Planet" in the words of Pope Francis. Together, we can amplify our voices and contribute to a greener, more sustainable world for generations to come.

Allow me, to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my Laudato Youth Initiative mentors, colleagues, and the entire JPIIJC community for their unwavering support and guidance. Should you want to know more about Laudato Youth Initiative Visit their Social Media Sites "Laudato Youth Initiative or website to learn more about how you can make a difference in the fight for environmental stewardship.

Mark Ayo, St. Edward University - Austine Texas



CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Fr. Ahimbisibwe Helimence, CSC



on your priestly
Ordination

Water bottles re-used for flower pots



The Laudato Si club at Uganda Martyrs University - Fort Portal Branch (St. Joseph's technical institute

Leaders set an example to Adopt green practices and policies in the campus operations. They are thinking of Green practices can like reducing energy and water consumption, recycling waste, using local renewable energy sources like biogas, Manure from animals and cut grass to be used in green gardens and enhancing green spaces and planting trees, and raising awareness about protecting wetlands.

It should be noted that technical schools have a special gifts of innovative and creative solutions that they contribute to sustainability efforts. Aware that Sustainable technology promotes education and awareness about environmental issues. It encourages individuals and communities to make more

environmental conscious decisions towards climate change they do this to sensitize the public about climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

The Laudato Si Club at Holy Cross under the Laudato Youth Initiative whose mission is to Unite Young People for Climate Action amplifies voices for creation care to preserve Mother Earth in whatever activity is done at the institute.

It is important to appreciate the fact that Creativity and innovations help greatly in fostering Climate Education and can help to tackle Environmental Challenges owing to the fact that schools, universities and parishes have so many young people who are able and willing to donate their gifts for this cause and the institutions too are open to incorporating sustainability in their programs.

Human and environmental Dignity

We are all endowed to human dignity, a primary value that most of us chose to ignore and we later start blaming different entities and bodies. I have heard a common saying that the government should help us when there are tragedies like floods,land-slides, high temperatures, heavy rains that lead to loss of lives, acquisition of diseases and abnormalities. Have you asked yourself what causes all these disasters?or have you known of your negative contribution towards mother earth and why both the earth and we the humans are crying but we are crying more often. Okay let's say we have experienced some of these disasters but what is our role in combating the carbon footprint caused by frequent use of fossil fuels?

In a world that is growing technologically I think we should not demolish the technology but rather use it to promote local productions without harm or danger. In the same context I still believe that we use technology to magically green the world still without harm. I don't really believe in the notion that we have to invest exaggerated sums of money in a bid to curb climate change disasters. I logically think that this climate has become huge and with our continuous human activities that badly and broadly affect the weather changes and sometimes consoling with the fact that we shall be able to provide solutions is wrong thinking. For us to remain stuck thinking of seeking help through building bridges that can easily be broken.

Well no negativity here but I have come to realize that we are only postponing the problem and not solving it. Since some of us if not all have experienced the damage and wreckage caused by climate change at this point in time we should be knowing that what we are doing is wrong. It is time for us to build up broken bridges, repair the broken victims affected by these disasters through giving them hope. As The Holy Father clearly states, this is a year of hope to give hope to yourself, your neighbor by swinging into action and using your energy productively to join the Laudato Youth in our 1 Million Tree Planting Drive. Let us stop using moderniza-

tion and development to rube our planet. In respect to environmental dignity human dignity has to be built up through training ignorant communities about this matter. Our tasks in this cause should be swift and unified so that we can be able to create blockages for these climatic conditions. Notice that suffering, poverty today is entirely based on the changing climate that is ruining the peace of the world but also the interconnectedness that existed before. Do you really think we are still profits, gains and benefits for each i think this has had to perish because of lack of lack of love. Otherwise, before we cry to the government after a disaster what have you done to combat it? Be a game changer together we can live happily. Caring for what we treasure.





Revealing the Power of Creativity and Innovation

Innovation stands tall on the twin pillars of building and advancement. On a memorable Sunday, June 16th, I had the privilege of attending the Holy Cross Lake View S.S.S Science and Innovation Expo that featured several edge cutting sustainable projects by students.

The celebration that began with the thanksgiving left no stone unturned throughout the day, various events unfolded, showcasing the school's commitment to unveiling creativity and innovation by equipping students with practical skills, alongside scientific knowledge, a commitment that Laudato Youth wants to embrace through the Laudato Club. As the President of the Laudato Clubs, I had the opportunity to engage with the students and witness their passion-driven projects, addressing real-world challenges.

One group of students impressed me with their solar systems that autonomously tracked the sun's position for maximum efficiency. Another team showcased a miniature helicopter designed for rescue missions during natural disasters, offering hope in times of crises like floods and landslides. The power of empowering young minds with such skills cannot be overstated. Holy Cross Lake View, with its impeccable reputation as a model institution, is shaping a generation capable of contributing significantly to society, while also promoting environmental sustainability through innovative technologies.

A notable project was the smart garden, emphasizing the importance of sustainable measures in combating food insecurity and malnutrition. By developing natural pesticides derived from plants, these students are not only addressing agricultural challenges

but also promoting soil health and food safety. It is evident that the fight against climate change is intertwined with all aspects of our lives, and investing in sustainable solutions is paramount for future prosperity.

The school's curriculum, focused on practical learning and mentorship, plays a crucial role in nurturing students' potential and guiding them towards meaningful research and innovation. The dedicated teachers at Holy Cross are true educators, instilling values of faith and service while preparing students to tackle real-world problems with creativity and resilience.

As we navigate the challenges of a changing world, Holy Cross Lake View emerges as a beacon of hope in science, creativity, and environmental consciousness. These rising generations of youth are poised to become leaders in sustainability, setting an inspiring example for their peers, communities, and the world at large.

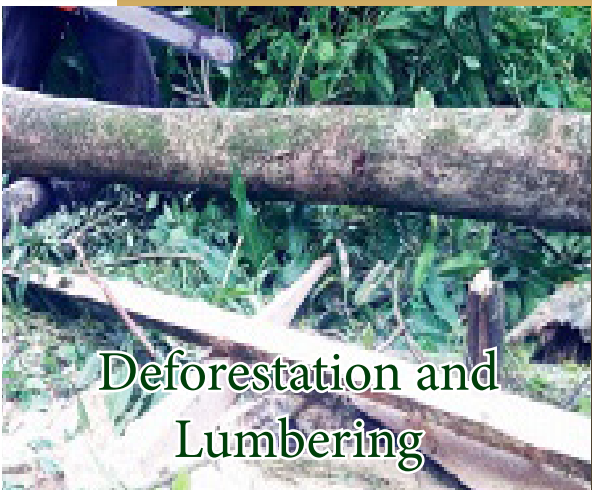
In unity for climate action,
Sarah Kirikumwino
President, Laudato Clubs



Sustainable land management key to controlling land degradation, and achieving neutrality



Water pollution on the raise



Deforestation and Lumbering



Air pollution



Tree planting event : Tribute to the late Vincent Ongom 15th August His Grace Archbishop John Baptist Odama Bishop Emeritus of Gulu Arch diocese planted a memorial tree after presiding over the burial mass of Muzee Vincent. In his homily he urged Christians to exemplary like Mr. Vincent in conservation of the environment. He mentioned of the various climatic changes that have affected the seasons. He also made mention of the lost forest covers in Gulu that has also directly impacted negatively on rain fall formation. The memorial mango fruit trees were planted as symbol of Mr. Vincent's tireless efforts in environmental conservation. Political leaders and Christians also planted other trees around the grave yard to mourn with Fr Apire Berry, CSC

In Loving Memory of Muzee Vicent Ongom



Senior
Environmentalist
and parent to
Fr. Apire Berry

The treasure of nature



There is a saying that says, there is room for change. We and must use that room to change, because it is the only way. The fact that nature preserves itself and makes sure that it stays at optimum, we too should learn to preserve what is around us so that all other generations can enjoy the forces of nature. If we tend to destroy the world the forces of nature are negative and we suffer the consequences of our wrong actions.

Nature teaches us to maintain what we have and to take care of what we found on earth. From the dense cloudy morning sky to the orange dry soft sunset, these are qualities all dictated by nature. We at times tend not to see it and put our attention on the survival in this world. We begin to tear down the beautiful natural purifiers of our world and we focus on what gives profit inform of money and success. This makes us undermine the role that nature plays, gradually leading to that destroy our world just like we commonly call it CLIMATE CHANGE. Therefore, we should preserve our world to make it a better place for us to live in even for the next generations to come.

Our fight against today's global challenge is not all about individual responsibility but rather it a community based challenge that we should overcome as a team. The fact that the worldly temperatures are on the rise, the changes in some of the seasons, floods, prolonged drought periods and many more are not just effect of one continent or state or country but they are problems we are witnessing all over the globe. The world today is persistently asking us to pay attention to it and to take care of it before it gives up.

We need to stand together as continents, nations and put aside our differences as races and run towards achieving

one common goal. When we overcome our own differences, we support each other, we provide equipment to help each other shield against the effect of climate change, we hold worldwide meetings and talks to discuss new ways to overcome climate change which makes us save a planet as fast as possible efficiently with unity in the whole world. Therefore, as a world at war we need to defend what we call home because we have nowhere else to run, hide, stay since the earth is our common home and that we are living in today.

This century is full innovations and creativity, spearheaded by the youth who hunger to create something new in our world today. The most important thing is to carefully think of what invention would benefit mother nature and ease the lives of humans today since there is a shift of work to machines lately rather than human labor. The existence of the Laudato Si Club of Holy Cross Lake View has exposed the young through different activities such as tree planting, having cleanup programs, holding competitions to broaden the understanding about climate change and how we can fight against it. This has updated the youth on the current situation of our world and it has encouraged them to use their talents and this has made them useful in this fight against climate change. The war, fight and journey is long. We have to encourage the young, teach the society that the current situation is about human recklessness and we have to fix our mistakes.

UNITED FOR CLIMATE ACTION
OKWI PAUL OBENEN
OUT GOING PRESIDENT
LAUADATO Si CLUB HOLY CROSS LAKE VIEW SS

Sustainable Solutions for a Greener Africa

The state of environmental pollution in Africa is a pressing issue, with a staggering 54.6% of land affected by various forms of pollution. This alarming statistic can be attributed to the rapid industrialization across the continent, leading to detrimental effects on plant life and marine ecosystems. As a result, Africa is facing challenges such as water scarcity, rising temperatures, and other consequences of environmentally unfriendly practices.

One of the primary contributors to land pollution in Africa is the excessive use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture. These fertilizers not only degrade the quality of the soil but also contaminate the water bodies in the region, including lakes, rivers, seas, and oceans. This has further exacerbated the environmental crisis, threatening the delicate balance of ecosystems.

In Northern Africa, the availability of clean water stands at a concerning 92%, down from a previous 100% recorded in 1886. The main culprits behind the pollution of African waters are human sewage and waste. Countries like Nigeria and Chad, which have undergone rapid modernization, have significantly impacted the climate of Africa, rendering it increasingly unsafe for its inhabitants.

However, there are shining examples of countries in Africa that are leading the way in promoting sustainable practices to combat climate change and environmental degradation. Nations such as Egypt, Botswana, Gabon, Mauritius, and Tunisia have made significant strides in ensuring clean water sources through initiatives such as wastewater treatment, reducing plastic waste, water conservation, adopting green agriculture, and preserving wetlands.

Organizations like Am Cow, a platform advocating for the conservation of Africa's water and sanitation sector, are amplifying the collective voice for environmental preservation. Additionally, the Laudato Youth Initiative, a commendable club at the prestigious Nyakasura school African is a ray of hope playing a crucial role in raising awareness about climate action and the importance of environmental sustainability.

Together, through a concerted effort to adopt sustainable practices and prioritize the preservation of Africa's natural resources, we can pave the way for a greener and more sustainable future for the continent. Let us all work towards building a healthier and more environmentally conscious Africa for generations to come.

Musiime Jerome Mugume
Laudato club of Nyakasura School





Did you know that water covers an astounding 70% of the Earth's surface?

Did you know that water covers an astounding 70% of the Earth's surface? This essential resource is the cornerstone of life, supporting humans, plants, and animals in countless ways. Our survival hinges on the availability and cleanliness of water, which we derive from various sources such as rain, rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans. Despite its abundance, water is a finite resource that requires our diligent stewardship. As the most capable stewards of the planet, humans bear the responsibility of preserving and protecting our water sources. This article explores practical measures we can take to ensure the sustainability of our water, highlighting the importance of collective effort in making a significant impact.

Water, the lifeblood of our planet, covers approximately 70% of the Earth's surface. This vast presence of water is not just a geographical fact; it's a crucial component for the survival of all living beings—humans,

plants, and animals alike. The significance of water in our daily lives cannot be overstated, as it supports everything from drinking and agriculture to sanitation and industry.

We derive water from various sources including rain, rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans. Each of these sources plays a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance and supporting life. For instance, rain replenishes groundwater, rivers provide habitats for diverse species, lakes serve as reservoirs for drinking water, and oceans regulate the Earth's climate.

As the most competent creatures on Earth, humans have a unique responsibility to ensure the sustainability of these water sources. It's not just about utilizing water efficiently but also about preserving and protecting it for future generations. Simple actions like turning off the water while brushing your teeth or

washing dishes can save significant amounts of water. Every drop counts, and by being mindful, we can prevent unnecessary wastage. Moreover, avoiding the dumping of garbage into water sources is crucial. Pollution not only harms aquatic life but also contaminates the water, making it unsafe for consumption and recreational activities. Trees play a critical role in the water cycle, particularly in rainfall formation. By preventing deforestation and planting more trees, we can support natural water replenishment processes.

Minimizing waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling materials can significantly lessen the environmental impact. Plastic pollution is a major threat to water bodies, often leading to the suffocation of marine life. By recycling plastics and other materials, we can reduce this threat and promote a healthier ecosystem.

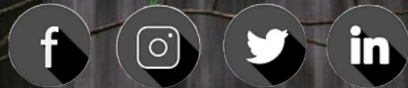
Imagine the impact if each of us adopted these practices and encouraged others to do the same. The ripple effect of our actions can lead to a significant positive change. It's about creating a culture of conservation and responsibility, where everyone plays a part in preserving our precious water resources.

In conclusion, while water covers a significant portion of our planet, its availability in a clean and usable form is limited and under threat. By taking small but meaningful steps, we can make a big difference in preserving this essential resource. Remember, every effort counts, and

together, we can ensure a sustainable future for all living beings. Always keep in mind: small ways make a big difference. Let's act today for a better tomorrow.

Where
Trees are,
it is
Always
Greener
LYI

Laudato Youth Initiative



Join our

2024 -2025 **Laudato Youth 1M**

**Trees Planting
DRIVE**

Join us to plant 1M indigenous and fruit trees

United for Climate Action



Join us to Re afforestrate our common home



the 1M tree Planting Drive



**January
28th
2024**



**January
28th
2025**

until



Join us in the One Million Tree Planting Drive, an initiative by the Laudato Youth Initiative aimed at reforesting Uganda with indigenous and fruit trees. This activity is Undertaken by all Laudato Clubs in Parishes, Schools, Universities, Communities and are open to Individuals, Groups, Institutions, Churches, and Organisations for collaboration. Think of planting or donating trees, tools or Seedlings.

more info: laudato-youthinitiative.org +256 781 996 608