



LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



LAUDATO SI'
Action Platform



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a Vatican-led, action-oriented program inspired by Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care of Our Common Home*. It is intended to empower institutions, communities, and individuals/families to achieve total sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform guides participants through a journey of ecological conversion, taking concrete action towards the Laudato Si' Goals.



THE SEVEN LAUDATO SI' GOALS



Dear Participants of the Laudato Si' Action Platform,

The peace of Christ!

After the first year of the launch of the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) and looking back at the celebration of the life and vocation of St. Francis, we are reminded of the connection we have to his special calling from God for action and renewal. As Francis knelt in the church of San Damiano and looked up at a Byzantine wooden cross of the suffering Christ, he was moved by mixed emotions and without any clear direction that his life should follow.

“Lord, what do you want me to do?” he asked. “Show me what you want me to do with my life.” With a clear voice, the Lord replied: “Francis, go and rebuild my Church which, as you see, is falling down.”

While he started to repair the building itself, Francis eventually understood his mission in all its breadth and depth. Similarly, our calling today to care for God's creation – our common home – also clearly involves the renewal of the Church. Pope Francis has suggested that all of us, within the Church and beyond, need to undergo “ecological conversion” in which we keep turning our minds and hearts away from selfishness and sin and toward the common good for humanity and all of creation.

The initiation, launch and development of the Laudato Si' Action Platform over these last few years result from such ongoing ecological conversion, in which hundreds of collaborators and supporters have said “yes” – have lived “yes” – and played different but essential roles.

There have been difficulties and challenges. Nevertheless, the Laudato Si' Action Platform has exceeded its initial expectations, and we thank God for its progress and promise.

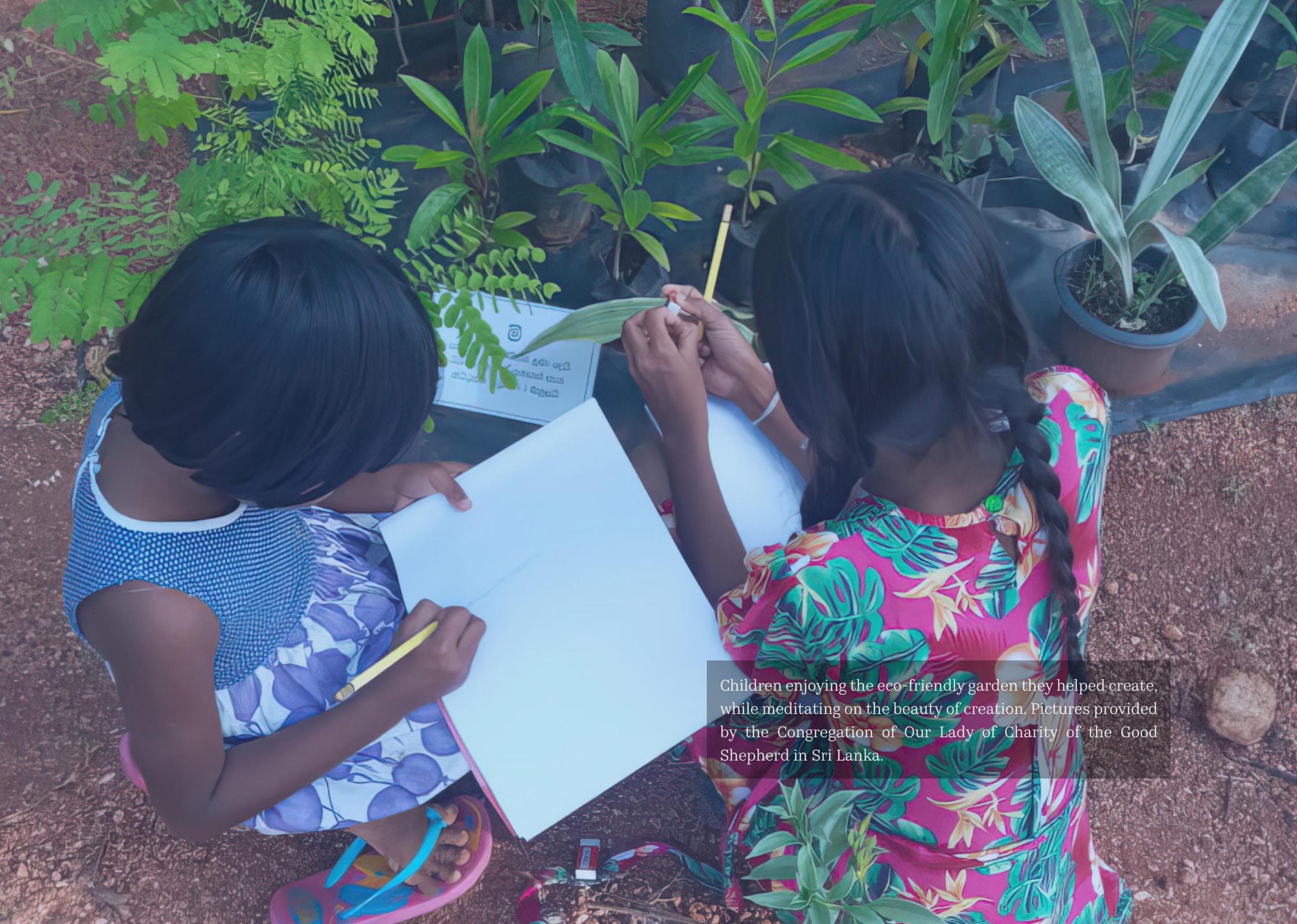
Now, each of us needs to ask, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” Let the counter-cultural steps of St. Francis and St. Clare be our inspiration.

Let's have confidence in the special calling each of us experiences and in the critical nature of our shared mission, “For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice or timidity but rather of power and love and self-control” (St. Paul's first letter to Timothy, 1:7). It is only with bold, coordinated and sustained action – based on ongoing conversion – that we can accomplish the work that God initiates in us and entrusts to us. Let us pray for the courage and conviction needed to find our own paths to renew the Church and care for our common home in today's times and tomorrow's.

Michael Czerny S.J.

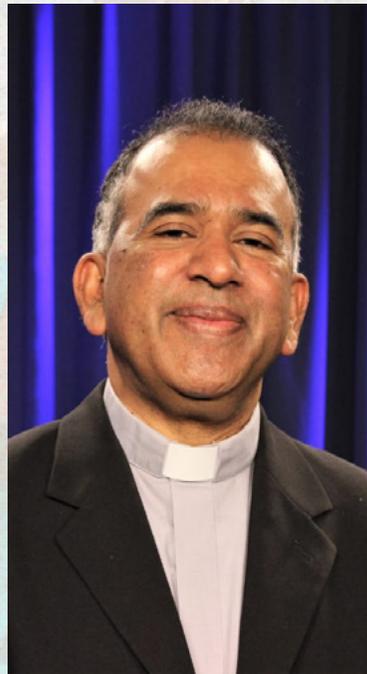


H.E. Card. Michael Czerny S.J., Prefect, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development



Children enjoying the eco-friendly garden they helped create, while meditating on the beauty of creation. Pictures provided by the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in Sri Lanka.

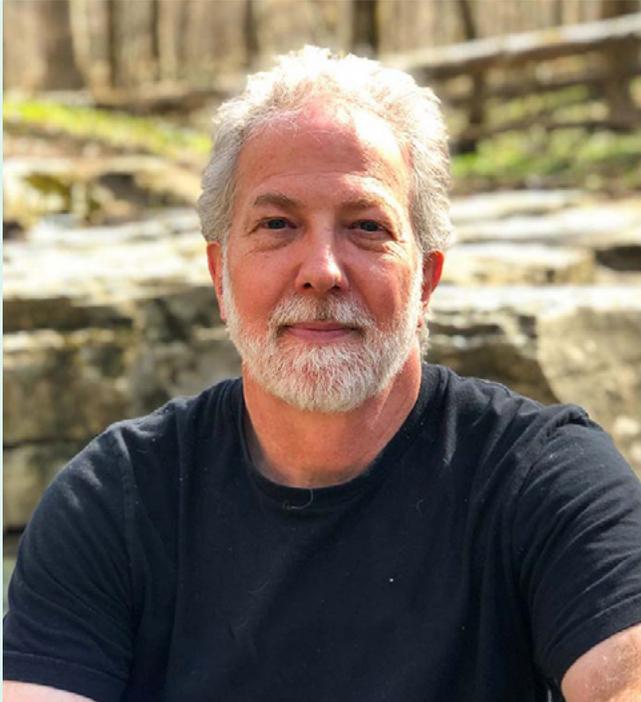
“Our dream is that the Laudato Si’ Action Platform grows at least seven-fold every year for the next seven years. If we do so, our planet might just make it.”



The urgency to act cannot be underrated. At our current level of global emissions, as humanity we must reduce our emissions seven-fold. Turning this into a positive opportunity, let's grow our community seven-fold. Let's imagine our impact if every participant gets seven others to enroll.

Fr. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam,

Theological Consultant-Laudato Si' Action Platform
Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development



John Mundell, Director, Laudato Si' Action Platform

Dear Laudato Si' Action Platform Community,

This first annual Laudato Si' Action Platform Annual Report looks back and summarizes the highlights of the progress made on our journey toward “ecological conversion”.

Although the quantitative measures like “how many” or “how much” are very important, the qualitative indicators like the “who” or the “how” or the “why” are also essential to our story!

And here is the story so far, told by the reflections shared, the Laudato Si' Plans developed, the evaluations on the Laudato Si' Action Platform, and witnessing webinars, social media posts and shared resources: we have a small yet growing community of engaged protagonists who are passionate about caring for creation and bringing to life Pope Francis's vision in *Laudato Si'*.

These efforts could seem small compared to the magnitude of the planet's problems. Faced with this reality of the ecological crisis and the short time frame that's left, where can we find hope and make a difference?

The history of Christianity and our own experience tell us again and again that the efforts of even small groups of people can set great changes in motion. Just think of the Apostles or the early Christians! Their commitment to put the Gospel into practice in their daily lives caused a revolution. It is the same kind that is needed today as we face some of humankind's greatest challenges.

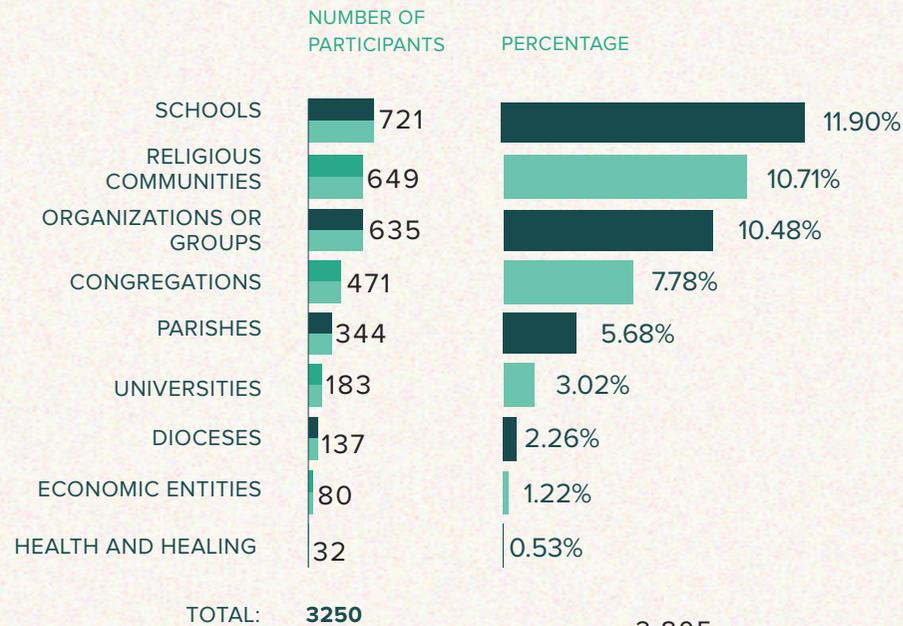
Hope has also come this past year in the many Apostle-like heroic acts witnessed from across the globe. We have received statistics of thousands of small and not-so-small positive choices for the earth and all it holds, from major tree plantings to simple lifestyle adoptions, from divestment from fossil fuels to increased sustainable energy use and more. We continue to be inspired by countless individuals and small groups that have acted as both “leaven” and “salt” to encourage others around them to action. And this is only the beginning!

At the same time, the Laudato Si' Action Platform is a continuation of countless creative and energetic efforts that began soon after the promulgation of *Laudato Si'* in June 2015, including the initiative of Fr. Joshtrom Kureethadam that led to our new Platform. I am delighted to note that Fr. Josh is still available to us as an expert advisor.

At this first “milepost” with a small yet noticeable wind at our backs, let's pray to God – with the intercession of St. Francis and St. Clare – for the courage and perseverance to take the next steps needed in our journey together. Onward!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Mundell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ORGANIZATIONS REGISTERED

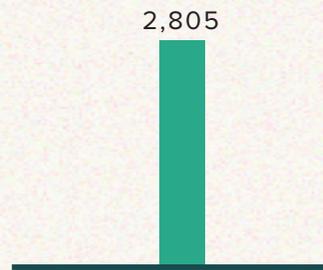


ESTIMATED REACH:

2,500,000

individuals at an average of 768 members per organization

FAMILIES REGISTERED



ESTIMATED REACH:

8,425

individuals at an average of 3 members per family

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

THE GRAPH SHOWS
THE COUNTRIES WITH
MOST PARTICIPATION
PER REGION

UNITED STATES

CANADA

MEXICO

TOTAL NORTH AMERICA 1678

ARGENTINA

BRAZIL

COLOMBIA

EL SALVADOR

PERU

VENEZUELA

TOTAL SOUTH AMERICA 1056

ITALY

UNITED KINGDOM

SPAIN

PORTUGAL

FRANCE

TOTAL EUROPE 2231

INDONESIA

PHILIPPINES

INDIA

TOTAL ASIA 569

NIGERIA

KENYA

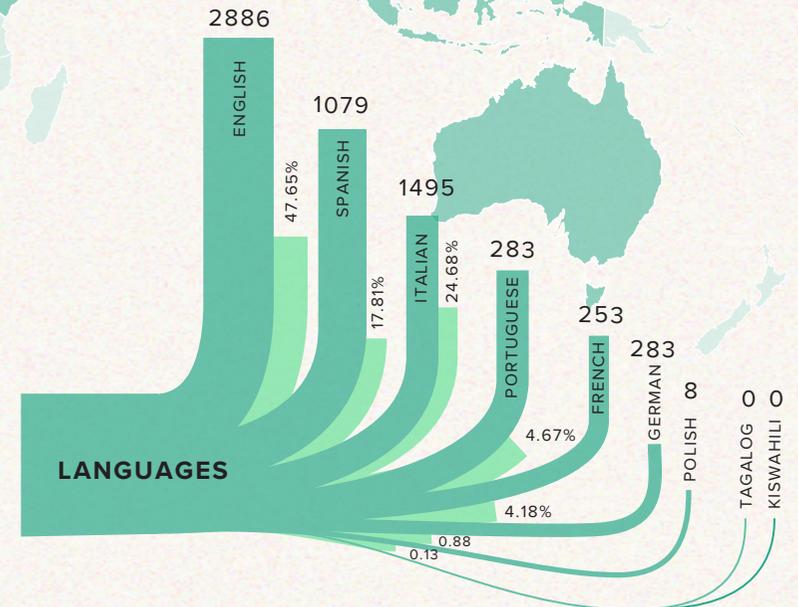
SOUTH AFRICA

D.R. OF CONGO

TOTAL AFRICA 326

AUSTRALIA

TOTAL OCEANIA 329



SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

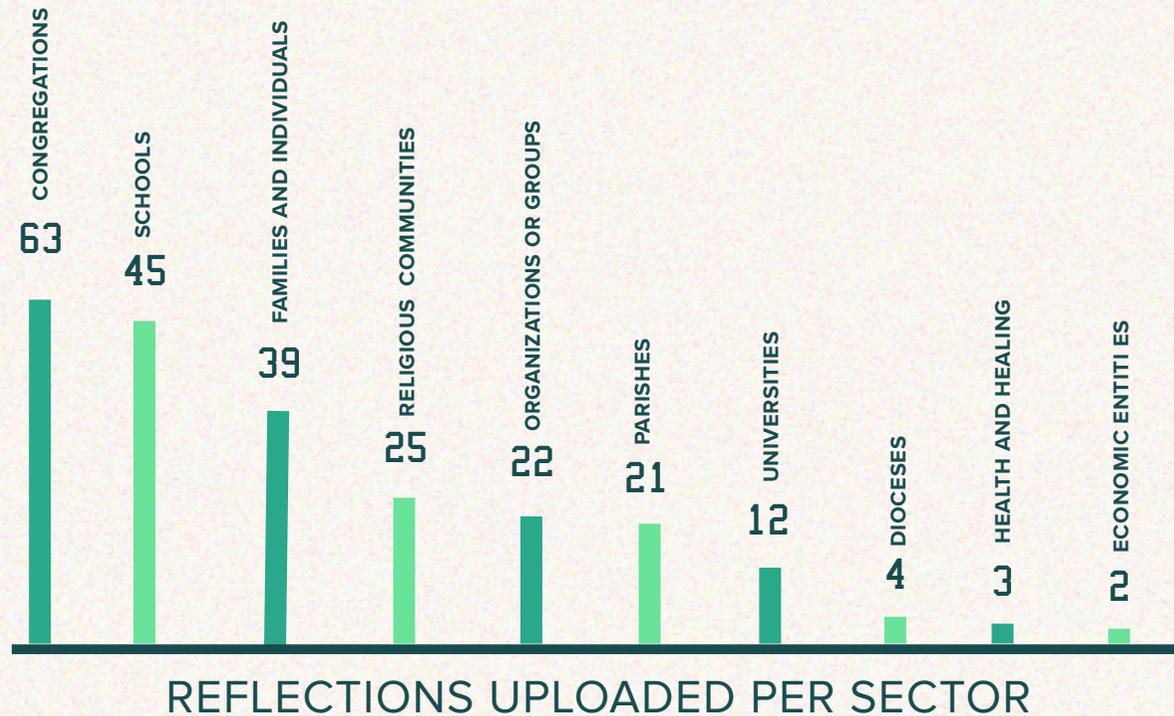
Reflections uploaded



What are the Laudato Si' reflections?

The Laudato Si' reflections are brief documents or videos created by participants enrolled in the Platform that explore how their values connect with the Laudato Si' Goals, as well as their relationship between the Creator, creation, and all our brothers and sisters. Creating a Reflection is an important step many people choose to take as they begin their journey toward integral ecology, and participants are free to use the format that is most comfortable and natural for them.

Enrolling in the Laudato Si' Action Platform is an act of hope for the future we are building together. These institutions, communities, and families have generously shared their Reflections with you, extending the hand of friendship to help “bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.” (LS 13)

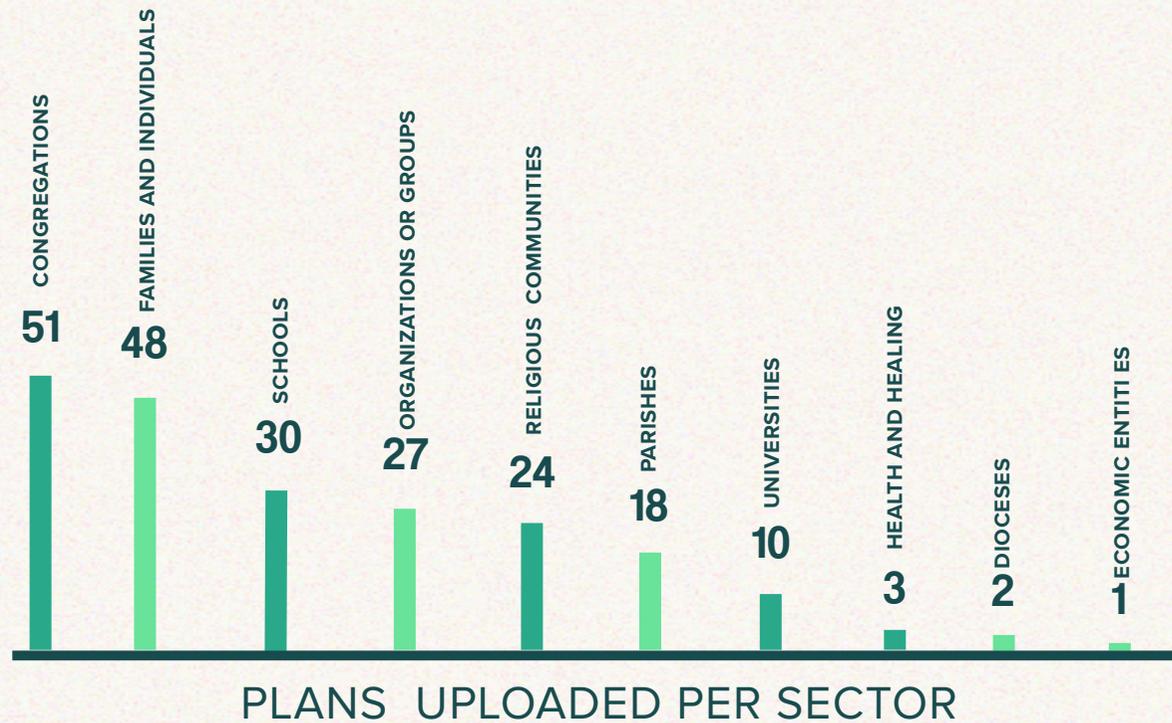


SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Plans uploaded

What are Laudato Si' Plans?

While your Reflection focuses on your values, your Laudato Si' Plan focuses on the practical steps in your journey. Participants develop concrete step-by-step commitments designed to achieve sector-specific ecological goals.





WHAT IS A LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM WORKING GROUP?

They are groups of leading Catholic organizations from around the world, organized into sectors and ready to come alongside you in your journey. The Working Group members assisted in the development of the Laudato Si' Action Platform, and they now provide guidance to those on the Laudato Si' Action Platform journey.

Their diverse perspectives help ensure the Platform's global framework integrates a rich variety of experiences and knowledge. The Working Groups have volunteered to share their perspectives on the Laudato Si' Action Platform to strengthen, inform and inspire you.

“All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” (Laudato Si' 14).

WORKING GROUPS AND THEIR TESTIMONIALS

PARISHES AND DIOCESES

Monica Conmee

Working Group Leader



Leading the Parishes and Dioceses working group has been an inspiring and invigorating experience which has really shown what it is to be a global, universal Church. In our working group we have experts, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, who are deeply committed to and passionate about responding to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

The Platform enables us to engage with and learn from each other, no matter where in the world we are, in our mutual journey toward integral ecology. We have also seen how it has strengthened parishes and dioceses and given them focus, particularly in conjunction with the Synodal process.

My hope is that the Laudato Si' Plans shared in the first year of the Platform will encourage more parishes and dioceses to sign up, create their own Plans, and show how we as Church are taking action to care for our world for love of God and our neighbor.



FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Marta and Miguel Panão
Working Group Leaders



Families support each other in difficult times. Love nourishes all relationships and inspires creative solutions to the most challenging situations. In families, we live outside ourselves and pay attention to the needs of others. It is time to extend our families and realize that we are all part of the Family of Creation.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a sharing ground of experiences, a treasure chest of knowledge that motivates us toward change and mutual support in this urgent need to change our lifestyles and deepen our relationships with the natural world.

The Platform is a bottom-up way of building a community of families and individuals that integrate the social, cultural, human and spiritual ecologies as part of this integral ecology that stands for the best approach toward unity in diversity. We can all start this experience one day, or make today our first day and start. The time is now.”

SCHOOLS

Jacqui Remond and Shawna Rebello

Working Group Leaders



The Catholic School sector represents an enormous global group of students, teachers, parents and school leaders. Awareness of the ecological crises, presented in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and how to implement ecological conversion within Catholic School communities is growing around the world. When schools enroll in the Laudato Si' Action Platform they have access to resources that offer frameworks for school governance, religious education, teaching and learning, reducing their ecological footprint, increasing ecological spirituality, caring for creation, and growing partnerships to live Laudato Si' as school communities.

We feel deeply encouraged by the network of Catholic Schools who have shared their Laudato Si' Action Plans and who opt to share them with others on the platform. We listen to the voices of children, teachers, parents and school leaders, and we invite stories to be shared and celebrated through engagement in events such as global webinars. We feel honored to serve Catholic Schools who are community hubs within our societies, learning to live Laudato Si' as integral ecological communities for the good of all on Earth.



UNIVERSITIES

Working Group Leaders



On the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si' in May 2020, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development announced a yearlong celebration with a series of initiatives and events around the world that would culminate in the launch of a Laudato Si' Action Platform in May 2021.

True and lasting care for the earth is a work of the human spirit, animated by love of creation and creator. This work is an essential dimension of the Roman Catholic mission, particularly in service to the poor, realized through the Laudato Si' Plans created and carried to fruition by universities across the globe.

The potential of the Laudato Si' Action Platform is vast. It seeks to mobilize the vast company of Catholic communities and their institutions to transform their practices in order to meet the Paris

Agreement's goal of keeping global warming below 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. To the necessary technocratic work of energy transition and emissions reduction, the Platform brings the deeper spiritual work of what Pope Francis terms "ecological conversion." The Laudato Si' goals articulate well the truly intersectional vision of Laudato Si': that listening to the "cry of the earth" must always be accompanied by listening to the "cry of the poor." Perhaps the most promising aspect of the Platform is its developing global network: 7 sectors on 6 continents, stunningly diverse: culturally, geographically, and economically; offering the possibility of collaboration of the global members of Catholic Church in the great work of healing our common home.





HEALTH AND HEALING

Rev. Dr. Mathew Abraham, Indu Spugnardi and

Clare Westwood

Working Group Leaders



As the world is experiencing more widespread, destructive impacts of climate change and pollution, the call to action of the Laudato Si' Action Platform could not be more timely.

The global climate emergency is a health emergency. Within the Health and Healing sector, the call to join the platform is providing us the opportunity to create tangible Laudato Si' Plans that both educate and demonstrate to people about the link between health and the environment. In particular, these plans can mobilize the health sector to become leaders in ecological transformation. The Laudato Si' Action Platform also allows us to share a broader vision of addressing the ecological crisis – one that calls us to examine and change humanity's broken relationships with God and nature, so that we can create new economic and social models based on justice, solidarity and stewardship.

Perhaps the greatest strength of the platform is the opportunity to form connections with others across the world that are committed to this work. This sense of community and knowing we are not alone gives us the hope and courage to fight for the changes needed to save our common home.



ECONOMIC SECTOR

Working Group Leaders



In the last decades, an argument gaining traction is that the human population is beyond what our Common Home can support. Increasingly in many countries around the world, the poor are marginalized, the elderly are considered worthless and the unborn children unwanted. Though it is a fact that some of us are living beyond our natural means, it is not true that mankind is doomed to exhaust the Earth's resources.

As humanity, we have made a long journey. Many challenges once thought to be unsolvable are now history. Many small contributions are needed that require changes in our everyday lives: the way we commute, the way we heat our homes, the way we consume. Many everyday activities, like loading coal into a stove or fueling our cars with gasoline, have and will slowly become history. However, many more new small and big contributions are still needed to plan the fraternal economy.

It is time for a prophetic vision that inspires us into concrete actions toward a more fraternal economy, demonstrated through the real and ever-evolving steps outlined in our Laudato Si' Plans. There is no time to continue with worthless ideologized discussions because, as Pope Francis reminds us, "actions are more important than ideas," and this story is yet to be written in the Laudato Si Action Platform.

The LSAP offers an inclusive space to help learn and exchange best practices toward integral ecology so that individuals and organizations can develop their own roadmaps toward sustainability, leveraging each other's experiences.

Workers, businesses, farms and co-operatives are warmly invited to join this journey to integral ecology.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

Adrian Banguis-Tambuyat

Working Group Leader



There was a point in time when the work toward integral ecology was not considered a part of the apostolates of the Church. In fact, some people have viewed it as a mere section in the compendium of social doctrines. However, the publication of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, has advanced the perspective of the Catholic faithful and heightened the morale of those who are called to environmental works.

Upon the establishment of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform and development of the seven *Laudato Si'* Goals, the Church created an avenue not only for ecology ministers, but also for various sectors such as the civil society organizations and media institutions to participate in the defense of the rights of nature. These journeys have gained structure and direction through *Laudato Si'* Plans the backbone for parish-based ecology ministries, and a framework to communities and other organizations that aspire to establish such apostolates.

With the 7-year journey offered by the platform, a synodal Church becomes more visible, in which a diverse but united communities of Christians, hold the line to listen to the voice of creation.



RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM
Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj, SJ

Br. Alberto Parise, MCCJ
Fr. Angel Cortez, OFM



The Religious Sector helps to integrate the needs from the Congregational and community perspectives for the Laudato Si' Action Platform. We are composed of religious women, men, and associates working around the globe. Our meetings provide a rich forum for sharing current happenings as well as tackling challenges addressing participation.

Our members have contributed many LSAP resources and have reviewed tools for Congregational planning.

Our members have also contributed to a mapping survey tool for actions related to the LSAP goals including biodiversity, climate change, mining, migrants and refugees, and the economy. This member data formed the basis for Sowing Hope for the Planet (SHFP) webinars, which have been rewarding opportunities where our members have fruitfully communicated about their work.



REFLECTION LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM TEAM



There is hope in abundance.

Since the Laudato Si' Action Platform was launched by the Vatican on May 25, 2021 offering concrete steps toward sustainable lifestyles, over 6,000 institutions, communities, and families around the world have enrolled. Beyond these numbers are countless initiatives founded in a deep love for all of God's creation.

Since then, we regularly receive inspirational Plans uploaded to the Laudato Si' Action Platform from institutions and communities across the globe, demonstrating the real and impactful actions they are taking in the spirit of Laudato Si'.

In turn, these Plans are empowering always more people to take bold steps on their journeys toward integral ecology, informed by what others like them are doing, backed up by suggestions resulting in the care of our common home.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform community is "united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth." (LS 92)

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is both a tool and a growing community at your disposal

*There is hope in abundance—
thanks to you.*

Yours in Faith,
Laudato Si' Action Platform
Team



COMMUNITIES CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME WITH THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

The institutions, communities, and individuals featured below represent Laudato Si' Plans in action. These concrete steps toward full sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology are uploaded regularly on the Laudato Si' Action Platform. We offer snapshots of several Plans here to demonstrate how diverse institutions, communities, and individuals from all over the world are taking decisive action and supporting one another in the care of our common home.



KIRIBATI

“Climate change knows no boundary, and it is a global issue, affecting everyone on this planet.” –
Fr Martin Everi MSC, Leadership Team

In response to Pope Francis' Laudato Si' encyclical, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Kiribati mobilized young people in picking and planting mangroves seedlings, a plant that plays a vital role in marine habitat and coastal protection.

The youth were not only reminded about the value of mangroves and the need to plant and to protect them, but also how simple steps like these can have an important environmental impact.

Around 1,000 mangrove seedlings were planted through a concrete action that engaged young people in the care and protection of our common home.



✂️ PARAGUAY ✂️

In the precarious community of indigenous Nivaçle “Sta. Rosa”, the Cry of the Earth was served by the compassion of elementary school children.

A student placed a balloon representing “our mother earth who suffers, but also rejoices” on a table, and all the other children placed cardboard boxes and round drawings around it, depicting situations that threaten or “cheer” Mother Earth.

Their originality and enthusiasm reflected a great awareness already at this young age. The parents present, proud of their children, surely left more aware as well.



INDIA

“The reflections and plans shared on the Laudato Si’ Action Platform inspired farmers to stop using chemical fertilizers, which promotes a culture of harmonious living together in our common home.” – Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi, FMA

There’s a buzz growing in Manikandam—a town in the Tiruchirappalli District of Tamil Nadu State, India—that is leading to more food-secure, self-sustaining communities.

Enlightened and inspired by the reflections shared on the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi, FMA, Social Development Coordinator for ASSIST, arranged for farmers to be trained on honey bee keeping to increase the presence of bees on their farms.

Today, every farmer has 2 to 4 bee boxes, helping produce quality food without chemical fertilizers, while assisting in the pollination of coconuts, banana plantations, paddy fields, vegetable gardens and fruit groves.



SOUTH AFRICA

“Tree plantings are a sign of peace, which we proclaimed at Cathedral of Christ the King on the Vigil of the Assumption and at Kagiso 1 - St Peter Catholic Church soon after.” – Archbishop Buti

Joseph Tlhagale, O.M.I., Archbishop of Johannesburg, South Africa

On August 19, in commemoration of the Vigil of the Assumption at Cathedral of Christ the King in Johannesburg, South Africa, Archbishop Buti Tlhagale blessed the occasion by planting trees, watering them as a symbol of hope and finishing with Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ prayer, *A Prayer for Our Earth*.

On September 1, the second planting took place at Kagiso 1 - St Peter Catholic Church, where trees were planted at the church and the nearby school as a sign of peace.



UNITED STATES

The Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk in North Carolina supports local hunger relief programs, agricultural assistance, sustainable energy and clean water projects, and food and emergency help to refugees, displaced persons, and victims of natural disasters.

St. Thomas More Parish, whose inspiring Laudato Si’ Plan can be found on the Platform, has participated in all 35 annual CROP Walks. Last year, the parish collected \$9,000, almost 20% of the local total.

ORGANIZATIONS CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME WITH THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

These are some of the inspiring stories that organizations have shared with us.



DON BOSCO GREEN ALLIANCE

“The Laudato Si’ Action Platform has many experts in their respective fields and many more resource persons that have provided us with valuable insight into our campaigns.” – Denzil Prato, Communications Manager, DBGA

The mission of the Don Bosco Green Alliance (DBGA) is to create an environment that is safe and caring for all life on the planet while building up a new generation of environmentally committed citizens and leaders.

DBGA emphasizes the importance of both advocacy and the big impact of small actions. Our members undertake their activities with pride and joy all over the world. The activities that they conduct start as what’s best for their local situations and then it exponentially grows from there.



MARY WARD FAMILY

The Mary Ward JPIC Office – women walking in the footsteps of Venerable Mary Ward – has created a Laudato Si’ Plan on the Laudato Si’ Action Platform ripe in the actions of Ecological Economics.

Promoting human life and dignity, with congregations from India to Argentina, Zimbabwe to Canada, United Kingdom to Peru, and USA to South Africa, the Mary Ward JPIC Office’s extensive commitment includes, in the words of their Action Plan, “creative and innovative activities to save Mother Earth.”



LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM PRAYER



God our loving Father,
“you so loved the world” (*Jn 3:16*).
As we journey together in pilgrimage on this holy land,
may we perceive the infinite facets of your love, beauty and glory
reflected in the whole of creation,
in all that live and breathe,
in flowers, forests, seas and stars,
and in the faces of young and old.
May we stand in awe and adoration
before the grandeur and delicate equilibrium of the community of creation.
Christ, our brother,
you “pitched your tent” amongst us (*Jn 1:14*),
and you shared the fatigue and toil of our labors.
Have mercy on us for having abused the gifts of creation,
for the times we have sown destruction, hatred and violence,
and brought death to our fellow humans and our fellow creatures.
Make us “keepers” of the seamless web of life,
of this planetary garden,
and of one another.
Holy Spirit, Ruah, the breath of Life,
you “fill the world and hold everything together” (*Wis 1:7*).
Grant us the wisdom to recognize our interconnectedness and
interdependence
and may we grow in solidarity with all creatures,
especially the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers.
Inflame us with renewed zeal to care for our imperiled planetary home
and send us out as your apostles to the peripheries of the world,
to announce the “Gospel of Creation” to every creature.
Inspire and sustain our actions
to rebuild our common home and our communities.

Amen,
let it be,
as we say with Mary, the Mother of Creation.

Fr. Joshrom Isaac Kureethadam, Theological
Consultant-Laudato Si' Action Platform
Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

The LSAP Team is led by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DFPIHD) supported by Laudato Si' Movement. The DFPIHD assists the leadership and members of the Church to promote integral human development and care for our common home.



DFPIHD Laudato Si' Action Platform Team:

Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect

Sister Alessandra Smerilli, Secretary

Father Baggio, Under Secretary

John Mundell, Director of Laudato Si' Action Platform

Father Joshtrrom Isaac Kureethadam, Theological Consultant

Tebaldo Vinciguerra, Technical Advisor

Veronica Valente, Sustainability Intern

Laudato Si' Movement Laudato Si' Action Platform Team:

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Maureen Villanueva, Special Projects Community Engagement Manager

Raquel Ortuño, Special Projects Communications Manager

Carla Bastidas, Special Projects Program Assistant

Carlos Solís, Special Projects Ecological Economics Coordinator

Karla Corsino, Special Projects Program Assistant

Matthew Saganski, Special Projects Writer

Sr. Nathalie Kangaji, Special Projects Religious Outreach Coordinator French Speaking Africa

Sr. Claudia Chesini, Special Projects Religious Outreach Coordinator Brazil.



Visit the Laudato Si' Action Platform at: laudatosi-actionplatform.org