**A Legacy of Ecological Commitment of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo (SCB)**

As a councillor in the Congregational Leadership team of the Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, I am blessed to journey with a congregation that has been passionately living the spirit of *Laudato Si’* even before the encyclical was published. Our 1993 General Chapter marked a radical turn toward eco-spirituality, ecological responsibility, and simplicity of life. Since then, across our four provinces and two regions, every sister and community has strived to embody this commitment, radiating Gospel-rooted ecological values through all our ministries and relationships with beneficiaries, collaborators, staff, benefactors, and the wider public.

**1. Response to the Cry of the Earth**

We have undertaken numerous initiatives to care for our common home:

* Afforestation and land care in all mission areas
* Solar energy in institutions and communities
* Water harvesting systems in schools, hospitals, and residences
* LED lighting, low-flow fixtures, and eco-sensitive architecture
* Biodiversity protection: planting local species, preserving native seeds, and creating organic gardens
* River restoration campaigns, e.g., the Ulhas River in India and Chigongwe in Tanzania
* Tree planting drives in collaboration with government departments
* Avoidance of fossil-fuel-heavy practices, e.g., use of public transport, minimal private vehicle use, and avoiding flights, even on long journeys

**2. Response to the Cry of the Poor**

Inspired by our charism, we prioritize care for the most vulnerable:

* Train sisters in organic farming, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource conservation
* Sisters train villagers, women’s groups, school staff, and students
* Promote food sovereignty and ecological justice
* Address human trafficking from a pastoral and justice lens
* Develop livelihood programs based on eco-friendly skills
* Offer clean energy access, safe water, and sustainable land practices in marginalized communities

**3. Ecological Economics**

We model economic choices rooted in Gospel values:

* Simple and economic living across communities
* Avoidance of plastic and disposable culture
* Well-known for reusing, repurposing, and repairing
* Promote buying durable items, reducing consumerism
* Encourage local, sustainable products and sharing resources
* Save original seeds, create nurseries, and distribute plants to students and parents
* Paper recycling programs involving students and staff
* Zero food waste practices: sharing, composting, careful cooking

**4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles**

We internalize sustainable values in everyday life:

* Renowned for reusing materials and avoiding unnecessary purchases
* Use of public transport over private vehicles and avoidance of flights, even for long trips
* Eco-friendly housing, including solar, LED, and water-saving tech
* Waste segregation, composting, and plastic-free practices
* Shared community responsibility for clean energy and natural farming
* Engagement of students, staff, and families in these lifestyles

**5. Ecological Education**

We have committed to forming minds and hearts:

* Eco-clubs in schools, parishes, and with SCCs
* Weekly eco-talks on radio in Uganda, educating the public
* Ecology integrated in curricula and awareness programs
* CD and video resources on Laudato Si’ and climate action
* Tree distribution and eco-literacy for students and families
* Training lay staff, parish groups, and beneficiaries in sustainability
* Engaging in school-based recycling initiatives

**6. Ecological Spirituality**

Our spirituality centers on communion with God through creation:

* Integrate eco-reflection into daily prayer and Eucharist
* Celebrate Season of Creation, Earth Day, and liturgical observances
* Host retreats, prayer services, and reflections rooted in Laudato Si’
* Live simplicity as a Gospel and ecological virtue
* Form entrants, sisters and lay collaborators in eco-spirituality

**7. Community Resilience and Empowerment**

We work toward systemic change with inclusive collaboration:

* integrated, inter-departmental action: health, education, social, and pastoral sectors
* Mobilize Provincials and Regionals for coordinated eco-efforts
* Joyfully witness to the Church’s mission of healing the Earth and humanity
* Pushing for collaboration with other congregations, faith leaders, government bodies, and civic groups