



REFLECTION

As I, Beejay G. Montes, humbly serve as Coordinator of the Peace Education Center at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, I find deep meaning in aligning our mission with the global call of the Laudato Si' Action Platform. Rooted in the wisdom of St. Francis of Assisi and carried forward by the courageous voice of Pope Francis, Laudato Si' invites us to a profound conversion. It calls us to embrace care for our common home as an essential expression of mission, compassion, justice, and peace.

This encyclical teaches us that environmental concern is not separate from the struggles of humanity. The cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor rise together. As someone engaged in peace education, I see how ecological destruction often worsens social divisions, displaces communities, and endangers the future of vulnerable populations. In our work at the Peace Education Center, we do not only aim to resolve conflicts; we strive to sow the seeds of healing, compassion, and mutual respect in a world that deeply longs for reconciliation.

True peace cannot flourish on damaged soil or under polluted skies. It requires a world where all life is respected and where communities live not in fear or scarcity, but in dignity and harmony. In the SOCKSARGEN region, where cultures, faiths, and identities are diverse and rich, peace is both a challenge and a calling. Our commitment to tri-people peacebuilding, interreligious dialogue, and education is strengthened by the truth that caring for creation is, in itself, an act of peacemaking.

By joining the Laudato Si' Action Platform, we are opening our doors to a wider global community that shares our dream of an integrated world. It is a world where justice for the Earth and justice for humanity walk hand in hand. This connection allows us to expand our voice, to learn from others, and to amplify our efforts in the light of Catholic social teaching and Gospel values.

Inspired by St. Francis's love for all creation and by Pope Francis's prophetic call to ecological conversion, I, together with our team at the Peace Education Center, pledge to continue building bridges of peace within our university, our region, and the Earth itself. May our local actions resonate globally, and may our mission contribute to a more just, compassionate, and sustainable world.

BEEJAY G. MONTES

Coordinator, Peace Education Center
Notre Dame of Dadiangas University