



**LORENZO RUIZ DE MANILA SCHOOL, INC.**

De Asis St., Phase 1 Vista Verde Executive Village, Cainta, Rizal  
☎ 8682-1841/42; 8645-0465 🌐 [www.lorenzoruiz.edu.ph](http://www.lorenzoruiz.edu.ph) 📘 LorenzoRuizDeManilaSchool

## **LAUDATO SI ACTION PLATFORM REFLECTION 2025**

*Ruiziano- Puso, Talino, Talento: **Building Bridges through R.E.S.P.E.C.T.***

Now on its third year as a participant in the Laudato Si Action Platform, Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila School, Inc. remains dedicated to the advocacy for the stewardship of our common home. Our ongoing involvement shows not only our commitment to responding to the invitation of Pope Francis in Laudato Si, but our conviction that every Catholic school has the duty to promote ecological conversion, which is a fundamental aspect of whole person formation.

In the place where we live – in Cainta, Rizal, Philippines – the effect of unpredictable weather is taking a toll not only on the continuity of learning that we offer but also on its quality. This is due to the frequent suspension of classes due to heavy rains, floods, thunderstorms. Despite being able to shift to any learning modality, going online or giving asynchronous tasks is still not comparable to learning face-to-face. This may appear like a simple parochial concern but it is actually rooted in a bigger, more urgent problem. We recognize that this issue on environmental degradation is not separate from all other issues plaguing our society like poverty, injustice, consumerism, greed, etc. which are urgent moral concerns that affect the lives of present and future generations. As we continue to engage in the Laudato Si Action Platform, our school is able to sustain its mission to cultivate ecological awareness, responsibility, compassion, and action among students, teachers, staff, and the wider community. We continue to strive to develop the values of stewardship and oneness through our various ecology programs such as waste management initiatives, clean-and-green projects, energy conservation practices, and integration of sustainability into the curriculum. In so doing, it is hoped that our young people will become more mindful and caring of their environment.

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that faith, education, dialogue, and action must work together to protect creation and promote justice. Our school's vision, mission, and core values are not separate from this call; rather, they provide a concrete way of living out *Laudato Si'* through servant leadership, transformative

education, sustainability, and the pursuit of communion, service, and excellence. To show this connection:

School Guiding Statement	Connection to <i>Laudato Si'</i>
<b>Vision:</b> A Ruizian Catholic educational institution of servant leaders who live faith, hope, and love in communion, significantly contributing to national and world progress, unity, and peace.	<i>Laudato Si'</i> emphasizes <u>integral ecology</u> and global solidarity. Living faith, hope, and love fosters responsibility for creation, while unity and peace reflect the call to care for both humanity and the environment as one interconnected family.
<b>Mission 1:</b> Holistic formation of servant leaders centered on the Eucharist, modeled on the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Lorenzo Ruiz.	The Eucharist is called a 'cosmic act of love' because in it we thank God for all of creation and give it back to Him. When we show humility and faithfulness, we inspire others to take care of the world that God has made.
<b>Mission 2:</b> Continuously strive for transformative education that is innovative, dynamic, and globally responsive.	<i>Laudato Si'</i> calls for <u>ecological education</u> that forms consciences and inspires new habits of caring for creation. Innovation and global responsiveness allow students to address ecological and social challenges responsibly.
<b>Mission 3:</b> Efficiently manage resources for viability and sustainability.	This reflects <i>Laudato Si'</i> 's teaching on <u>sustainable living</u> and responsible use of resources to protect the earth for future generations.
<b>Core Value: Communion</b>	Everything is interconnected—humanity, community, creation, and God are united in one web of life. Communion mirrors this vision of harmony.
<b>Core Value: Service</b>	Caring for creation is inseparable from serving the poor and vulnerable, who suffer most from ecological crises. Service extends to both people and the planet.
<b>Core Value: Excellence</b>	Excellence is not just academic achievement but also ecological and moral excellence—answering <i>Laudato Si'</i> 's call to be leaders in sustainability, justice, equity, and care for our common home.

The last two years of embracing the principles of *Laudato Si* have been met with challenges and struggles but the experiences provided a meaningful journey of action and reflection. We have taken slow, deliberate, but concrete steps to respond to this urgent call of caring for our common home. Along the way, we also recognize that we are going through a process that calls for deeper commitment and collaboration.

As we evaluate our actions, we feel motivated by the fruits of our collective efforts – not yet perfect, but we continue to strive. Our *Response to the Cry of the Earth* is visible in the greening of our campus through the *Gulayan* and *Halamanan* projects, as well as the institutionalization of waste management practices like CLAYGO, the 5S, and use of color-coded bins. These initiatives, alongside improvements in our water system, reflect our desire to form habits that respect creation. Our *Response to the Cry of the Poor* has also been strengthened through programs such as *Bodega ng Pagkakaisa*, service learning, and outreach efforts. These form core memories of our students and staff who witnessed first-hand the transformative power of unity and mutual support.

Despite our limited data to show improvement, we could also see growth in the areas of *Ecological Economics* and *Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles*. Initiatives like Kuryente & Tubig Watch, Earth Hour, BYOT, and plastic waste reduction have helped instill awareness of resource use and consumer responsibility. Likewise, *Ecological Education* and *Ecological Spirituality* have been integrated into our curriculum, celebrations, and prayer life, which we hoped have engendered in both students and staff a spirituality that connects care for creation with faith. Furthermore, partnerships with civic and church organizations have allowed us to expand our outreach and deepen our sense of community engagement.

But there is so much more to be done. Yes, the few “successes” we saw might have provided us a more intense desire to continue but we also humbly acknowledge the areas where we must improve. Many activities have been launched yet the regular monitoring and reporting remain weak, limiting our ability to measure real impact. For example, data on waste reduction, energy savings, or resource conservation are not consistently tracked or shared with the community. Some efforts, such as the adoption of organic fertilizers, sustainable food practices, and stronger advocacy on social issues, require more intentional planning and follow-through. Outreach programs could also move beyond one-time events to longer-term, sustainable projects that deeply address community

needs. Similarly, participation in activities like the *Via Creationis* is sometimes limited due to logistics, and our stance on ecological issues can at times appear lukewarm.

This journey gives us a stark reminder that implementing *Laudato Si'* is not simply about isolated activities but about forming a culture—a WAY OF LIFE rooted in ecological conversion. Our successes show what is possible when we work together, and our gaps highlight where we are called to grow in commitment, consistency, perseverance, and accountability.

Moving forward, we are challenged to deepen our monitoring and evaluation processes, to expand our ecological advocacies, and to make our outreach programs more responsive and transformative. Above all, we must continue nurturing a spirituality that sees creation as God's gift, entrusted to us not just to preserve but to heal and renew.

Finally, to us, Ruizians, we feel called to join the *Laudato Si'* movement because it provides a path for our community to live our identity more fully: *Catholic, Filipino, and Lay*. It is an invitation to put faith into action, to embody integral ecology in our daily practices, to cultivate a lifestyle of simplicity and responsibility, and to be part of a worldwide movement of hope and renewal. Being part of this worldwide call, we take our place in a global communion of schools and communities striving to heal our common home, thus transforming our educational mission into **a lived response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.**

*Laudato Si'*