**Laudato Si Action Platform Reflection**

Our institute is a faith-cantered Catholic centre in the diocese of Rajkot, Gujarat. Our country has a rich heritage of providing a sound foundation of protecting nature and mother earth which will lead to the growth and development of all. Our institutions strive to honour our traditions and heritage, while maintaining a progressive approach to education. Our lord and master Jesus Christ is both an inspiration and firm foundation from whom we draw strength and anergy. We therefore believe that we stand on the shoulders of giants, giants of compassion and mercy, who hold us up and drive us forward.

We aim to provide students with an education that equips them to be a voice for justice, agents of change and a credit to the members of our institutes. Following in the example of our Master we are called to respond to the cry of earth and the cry of the poor. We believe that the needs of humanity are not separate from the needs of the earth. We therefore see that authentic and meaningful social justice is the justice of earth. We endeavour to reflect and act on the Statement, ‘contemplation and action’. Disturbed by the despair and suffering of many peoples and the degradation of Earth, we are impelled to reflective action for gospel justice.

As of now, we embrace the challenge issued by Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si and his call to Care for our Common Home. We believe that as stewards of the earth, we are championed to protect our common home and all who dwell within it. We aim to bring humanity together to seek a sustainable way forward for future generations to come. We are acutely aware of the ecological crisis that our earth is currently experiencing and our desire for change is our motivation for sustained and effective action. “We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it” - Pope Francis, 2015.

Our institute’s Strategic Plan, Strategy 2022 and beyond, acknowledges that we are living in a new, fast moving and disrupted world. It will enable us to continue to embrace our collective inner strength, our unapologetic perseverance, our unwavering determination and our relentless courage. A central priority to our Strategy 2022 and beyond is a Care for our Common Home. As a institute we are committed to the Laudato Si’ Action Platform and developing our 7 year goals. We are committed to actioning the goals of Laudato Si through engaged focus in our membership of the Laudato Si Action Platform.

**The Earth and Resource Care Smart Program**

Through a wide range of sustainability initiatives, and with education, dialogue and action at the forefront of learning, students play their part in shaping attitudes and awareness within the school community. Their response to the issue of sustainability then has the potential to influence all beyond the sphere of their community alone. We aim to provide students with a wide lens through which to observe and interact with the call of our earth. In doing so we aim to respond to global, national and local issues, as well as long - and short - term needs. We encourage collaborative work ethic where individuals share their talents, time and contributions to seek lasting and meaningful solutions to real life concerns. We also acknowledge that the demands of our earth today will differ in the future and so endeavour to reflect regularly and respond reflexively to the cry of earth. In doing so our current initiatives include

**The Cry of Earth**

Involvement in the Resource Smart Schools Program. Involvement in the Catholic Earth care Program. Involvement in the Laudato Si Action Platform. The introduction of sustainability and environmental initiatives. Instalment of water tanks. Collection of food scraps and composting organic materials. Energy saving posters that act as reminders to staff and students to reduce electricity usage. The implementation of automatic timers on lights. Water saving reminders and awareness posters (digital to reduce paper waste). Addition of screens that allow for information to effectively disseminated to staff and students without the use of paper. Conscientisation and planting trees. The development of our Gardens and gathering space for plants.

**The Cry of the Poor**

House based Mercy Works, supporting social justice causes covering local, national and international issues. Our works will raise awareness, create action and fundraise for various organizations. Action Project, that sees students develop and act on projects of mercy within our communities.

**Self-initiated Outreach Opportunities like**

St Vincent De Paul Open Shops. Tutoring Programs. Rotary Book Fair. Clairvaux Carnival. Community Events. Support as significant masses and events. Environmental projects and events run within our community such as those arranged by the Friends.

**Ecological Economics**

Installation of solar panels and data panels. Reduction in photocopying/teachers minimize paper use by posting materials on online/Canvas. Recycling Bins. Use of sustainably sourced cutlery and food packaging. Sustainability in the canteen. Installation of drink taps with garden beneath to utilize lost water. Installation of blinds, modern designs in heating and cooling.

**Adopting Maintainable Lifestyles**

Reduction of waste and recycling of materials. We have employed a dedicated printer who has dramatically and effectively reduced paper waste across the school. Care for Common Home Participation in Ride to School Day. Promotion and participation in Earth Hour, Earth Day, National Sustainability Week, and others.

**Ecological Education for All**

The development of Religious Education Units that further educate and empower our students to be agents for change. For example, Big Issues, Care for our Common Home, From our Mother Land, Religion through the Eyes of Art, and various others. Immersion programs which incorporate an understanding of holistic justice (recognising the integral link between caring for humanity and the environment). Environmental Science units.

**Ecological Spirituality**

Staff Professional Learning such as the Seasons of Creation Term. The Season of Creation teaching resources, events and activities. Staff Retreats, Botanical Gardens. The implementation and further development of our Circle of Professional Learning events.

**Community Adaptability and Empowerment**

Outreach participation at Clean up our Nation Day as well as other community events. Promoting Sustainability and significant environmentally focused days within our communities. Mission Leadership Team. Empowering Women’s wing, etc.

**Future Priorities**

The future acquisition of grants such as the Community Grant obtained for the development of the Reconciliation Garden and Gathering Space. Further development of the Mission by motivating student leaders to focus on sustainability and environmental initiatives.