



## LAUDATO SI -SCHOOL REFLECTION

Lake Montfort School, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

(26 December 2022)

**A journey towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology**

**“Ascension is implementing the Laudato Si’  
Action Platform to express our  
commitment to sustainability and”  
connection to our Mission to all associates.**



### Environmental Sustainability

We will focus our activities in three primary areas:

- First, we will focus on our carbon footprint and the operational efficiency of our facilities, including sustainable transportation. Our goal is to be net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- Second, we will focus on responsible purchasing. Our goal is to recycle 50% of non-hazardous waste from all our facilities by 2028 and be zero waste by 2035.
- Finally, the heart of our Environmental Impact work is about healthy communities. This work is focused on the relationship between environmental sustainability and Social Determinants of Health. Our goal is to walk alongside the individuals and communities most affected by climate change in an effort to improve their lives and livelihood — which is at the core of our Mission.

**“We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”  
— His Holiness Pope Francis, Laudato Si’**

Ascension is accomplishing this on a System-wide and community level, leveraging Green Teams that have been established in all of our major sites of care. This work has an inherent connection with Mission Integration, Ascension Catholic identity, and care of God’s creation.

With a mission of unity and reconciliation based on John 17:21 – “that all may be one” – the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine state in our Constitutions that we pledge ourselves “to the pursuit of justice by making our own the teachings of the Church and by a heightened social consciousness among ourselves and those with whom we minister.” (p. 54 of Constitutions)

On Dec, 2022, we made our public commitment to join the worldwide Catholic community in responding to Pope Francis’ appeal to participate in a seven-year journey toward sustainability and integral ecology known as the Laudato Si’ Action Platform. We always seek to discern how best to follow the challenges from the Vatican and incorporate elements of the Integral Ecology Plan of the Diocese of Bengaluru that focuses on formation, reducing consumption and waste, and advocacy.

## We have taken several steps along the journey, including the following:

- Identified a LSAP coordinator to animate environmental activities in collaboration with the Congregation's Leadership Team and members of the On-Going Formation Team.
- Planned and held an educational session on "Ecological Spirituality: Love of God, of Neighbour, and All of Creation" in September 2022 attended by more than half of the membership of the School. This was an overview of the 2015 Laudato Si' papal encyclical with a focus on Chapter 6: Ecological Spirituality.
- Encouraged brothers and teaching and non-teaching staff to fill out Ecological Self-Assessments to be used in future planning.

Our mission statement, "Seized by God's love, we work in collaboration with others to bring union and reconciliation to our world, "that all may be one," as well as our vision statement, "centred in contemplation, we work towards changing patterns of relationships which contribute to alienation, poverty and oppression," both lead us to hear the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor as articulated by Pope Francis in Laudato Si'.

## Lake Montfort School has been involved in:

- Implementation of Environmental Education Action Policy.
- We have the policy on the following:-
  - i. E-waste
  - ii. Paper- waste
  - iii. Environmental Policy
  - iv. Policy on waste page-1
- School Environment Management has been formed for the sustainable environment for the future.
- Our school has been associated with "**Green Schools Programme**" (GSP) since 2016. It is a unit which functions under "**The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).**" It is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi. CSE researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable.
- The School is also awarded with **Green School Certificate** and **Green School Ambassador** in the year 2021-22.
- The school actively takes part in all the eco-friendly activity. We have also conducted session on sustainable and better environment for the students.
- Procedures written for **waste management and garden maintenance.**
- Document the **incorporation of ecological** themes in **liturgy and prayer and acknowledge** some key environmental days.
- Introduction of '**Nude Food**' as a daily action across the school community.
- Encouraging staff ownership and responsibility in promoting and supporting the school's ecological conversion journey.
- Environmental/Ecological themes integrated into **Teaching and Learning Activities.** Stronger identification and connection of the cross curriculum priority of sustainability with teaching and learning programs that connects to outdoor spaces.
- Continuation of the **permaculture garden** - "The Living Classroom". This means "no dig" garden that incorporates exclusively organic materials with no pesticides, poisons and only use natural fertilisers. It is self-sustaining where the compost generated from the school community is used to build the garden beds and planting. All dead plant debris and matter is reused as "chop and drop" mulch which is integral to a permaculture garden.
- Continue to use of the school garden as a 'living classroom'.
- Christian meditation and offering holy mass.
- Whole School Recycling that includes,
  - RED bin** - Hazardous wastes

**YELLOW bin** - Clinical waste

**GREEN bin** - Biodegradable waste - (used for composting that goes to the garden.)

- Celebration of liturgies with environmental themes.
- Solar panels and solar street lights have been installed in the school.
- We have Water treatment collection point and use the same water for the garden and for the other purpose.

## **Alignment with Laudato Si' 7 Goals**

### **Cry of the Earth:**

We need to equitably address climate change, biodiversity loss and ecological sustainability. This is the time for us to think over to have better and environmental friendly nature for the better future.

### **Cry of the Poor:**

We need to be always handy for the underprivileged people. Timely help in-term of fulfilling their needs to be taken care. We also collect and preserve some amount for the charity. When there is a crises we always give our hand to help.

### **Ecological Economy:**

Ecological footprints are useful ways for industries, governments and people to assess which practices we need to reduce to keep within the limits of Earth's regenerative capacity. We need to incorporate critical environmental concerns that arise with inputs, outputs and waste.

### **Adoption of Simple Lifestyles:**

Sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation. We need to be grounded in the idea of sufficiency (living with just enough and not excess) to ensure a good life for all. We need to create or develop the following "Net Zero Place, Responsible Supply Chain and Healthy Communities."

### **Ecological Spirituality:**

We need to recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude, promote creation-centred liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats and formation. We need to encourage greater contact and connections with the natural world.

### **Ecological Education:**

We need to re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education. We need to think about "Responsible Supply Chain"

### **Emphasis on Community Involvement and Participatory Action:**

We need to care for creation at the local, regional, national and international levels - promote advocacy and people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighbourhood ecosystem. We need to create a better community.

