



LORENZO RUIZ DE MANILA SCHOOL, INC.

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LAUDATO SI ACTION PLATFORM REFLECTION 2023

Mga Ruiziano: Kamanlalakbay na may Pag-asa para sa Kapayapaan, Kalikasan at Kabanalan
(*Walking Together with Hope for Peace, Creation & Holiness*)

Amidst political turmoil and chaos, Lorenzo Ruiz De Manila School was founded. Its founder who is a teacher and a visionary dreamt of putting up a school for boys and girls who will be formed into God-loving leaders and be catalysts of change. Thirty-three years from its inception, LRMS remains steadfast to its vision and mission of producing individuals ready to help transform society.

Vision :

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.

Mission :

As an educational community distinctly LAY, CATHOLIC, and FILIPINO,
LRMS is committed to:

- work toward the holistic formation of servant leaders who are centered on the Eucharist, modeled on the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Lorenzo Ruiz and so become witnesses of the Gospel;
- continuously strive for transformative education that is innovative, dynamic and globally responsive; and
- efficiently manage resources for viability and sustainability.

Core Values: COMMUNION, SERVICE, EXCELLENCE

The Core Values of Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila School stem from the philosophy, vision and mission of the school as exemplified by its patron, St. Lorenzo Ruiz.

In a world grappling with environmental crises and challenges, Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si'" shines as a guiding light and a beacon of hope. At the core of this insightful message lies a fervent call for humanity to embrace values that go beyond individual interests and material pursuits. The values of communion, service, and excellence are at the very core of human nature and they deeply resonate with the goals outlined in "Laudato Si'." As we explore how each of the values connect with the other, we uncover a pathway towards a more harmonious relationship with our planet and with one another, sparking a transformative shift towards sustainable living.

COMMUNION: Embracing Interconnectedness

A Ruizian values his relationship with God, with his fellowmen, and with creation.

To become a community who gives witness to the Gospel, the Ruizian has at heart Jesus' prayer: "They may all be one ... that the world may believe." (John 17,21). He tries to live out Jesus' commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13, 34) so that peace and unity may be achieved.

The value of communion reminds us of the intricate interdependencies woven into the tapestry of life on Earth. In "Laudato Si'," Pope Francis underscores the intricate balance of ecosystems, the interdependence of species, and the inseparable bond between humanity and the environment which epitomize the essence of communion. This value urges us to acknowledge our shared responsibility for the well-being of the planet.

Communion resounds with the encyclical's plea to safeguard and preserve our common home. When we embrace our interdependence, we are spurred to make sustainable choices that safeguard the fragile ecosystems that sustain life. By cultivating a sense of communion with nature, we deepen our understanding of the far-reaching consequences of our actions and, in turn, ignite a stronger commitment to environmental stewardship.

SERVICE: Nurturing Compassion and Responsibility

A Ruizian values the good that he can do for others.

Love is service and Jesus gave the example of servant leadership. "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." (*John 13, 14*)

Service, as a value, embodies compassion and a steadfast dedication to the welfare of others. In "Laudato Si'," service extends beyond humanity to encompass the entire web of life. Pope Francis highlights the plight of the marginalized and vulnerable who bear the brunt of environmental degradation. This value calls us to recognize the inherent dignity of all living beings and to take action to alleviate their suffering.

The essence of service seamlessly aligns with the encyclical's aims of addressing the social and ecological imbalances that plague our world. By extending our compassion to all beings, we become agents of transformative change. Engaging in acts of service, whether through championing sustainable practices, advocating for policy reforms, or aiding disadvantaged communities, becomes a tangible manifestation of our commitment to the planet and its inhabitants.

EXCELLENCE: Striving for Harmony

A Ruizian values the gifts that God has given to him.

Every person is God's gift to the other. Creation is a gift of God; every talent is a blessing. Pushed by love, the Ruizian gives his best in all that he does and with everything that he relates to for: "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (*1 Peter 4,10*)

Excellence, as a value, compels us to pursue the utmost standards in all our endeavors. In the context of "Laudato Si'," excellence entails seeking harmony with nature and aspiring to a life that honors the integrity of ecosystems. Pope Francis emphasizes the significance of technological innovation that respects the environment, urging humanity to strive for excellence in sustainable development.

The value of excellence aligns with the encyclical's vision of a world where human ingenuity is harnessed to create solutions that preserve the natural equilibrium of the planet. By valuing excellence, we challenge ourselves to transcend short-term gains and embrace long-term, regenerative solutions. Pursuing excellence in sustainable practices,

renewable energy, and responsible consumption propels the realization of the encyclical's objectives and nurtures a legacy of responsible living for future generations.

The interplay of communion, service, and excellence in the light of "Laudato Si'" generates a transformative synergy that inspires individuals, communities, and societies to transcend complacency and embrace positive change. Communion fuels our sense of responsibility by affirming our interconnectedness with nature and all living beings. Service nurtures compassion and compels us to actively address the inequalities exacerbated by environmental degradation. Excellence propels us to innovate and conceive solutions that harmonize with the natural world.

When these values intertwine, they weave a vibrant tapestry of inspiration that extends far beyond abstract notions. They manifest as tangible actions, igniting movements, and catalyzing initiatives that echo the essence of "Laudato Si'." From local grassroots endeavors to global policy shifts, the embodiment of these values instigates a ripple effect of transformative change that aligns with the encyclical's vision for a sustainable and just world.

In simple, gradual, calculated steps, Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila School endeavored and continues to endeavor to be true to its calling. Programs, projects, and activities are deliberately aligned with its vision, mission, and core values. We have several activities that have been done and are currently in place which are very much reflective of the Laudato Si goals. We believe that there are yet so many other things to be done out of our deeper love for our Creator and all of creation.

Response to the Cry of the Earth. *Waste segregation & Proper disposal of waste -*

Students help reduce the environmental impact of litter, save money, and create a more sustainable future by refusing unnecessary items, reducing waste, reusing items, repurposing items, and recycling materials.



Response to the Cry of the Poor: The *Bodega para sa Pagkakaisa* remains to be a source of hope for most of the school's employees. During the pandemic when soliciting goods and distributing them to affected families (due to COVID and typhoon) were extremely difficult, our brave men and women found ways to visit the affected families.



Ecological Economics: In monitoring, controlling, and optimizing school's energy consumption to conserve use and decrease energy costs, the school has installed LED lights in the offices and classrooms.



Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles: - Answering the call for sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy, the Ruizians find it easy to adopt this simple lifestyle because they have a model of simplicity in the Blessed Virgin Mary & St. Lorenzo Ruiz.



Ecological Education: During the pandemic when classes were done online, environmental education continued to be integrated in the curriculum and actualized by students through their performance tasks.



Ecological Spirituality: Praying and adoration becomes more meaningful when shared with the others. Prayer space is also provided for those who wish to be by themselves.



Community Empowerment and Resilience: Fully committed to respond to Pope Francis' invitation to "a world-changing journey that is both a gift and a call to action", the Ruizian community invited its members to a viewing of the film, "The Letter". This event officially starts the school's pledge to be part of the Laudato Si Movement



We cannot remain indifferent to the environmental challenges that besiege our common home. For us, Ruizians, we see that our values of communion, service, and excellence offer a transformative framework for embracing the goals of "Laudato Si'." As we reflect on the interconnectedness of all life, extend compassion to the vulnerable, and strive for harmonious coexistence, we align ourselves with the encyclical's urgent message. The interplay of these values becomes a beacon of hope, inspiring us to embark on a collective journey towards a more just, equitable, and thriving planet.

By enrolling in the Laudato Si Action Platform this year and be part of the 7-year journey (and beyond), we are manifesting our sincere act of commitment to God, to Mother Earth, and to each other through our vigorous pursuit of responsible environmental stewardship.

Laudato Si!