

**Society of the Holy Child Jesus
African Province**

We, the Sisters of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, African Province committed to the Wants of the Age and the Signs of the time are willing to respond to Pope Francis appeal to participate in a seven year journey towards sustainability and integral ecology of Laudato Si' Action Platform.

"Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter Laudato Si marked its fifth anniversary in 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the anniversary, Pope Francis announced a Special Anniversary Year for the celebration of the Encyclical from May 2020 to May 2021. To close the Laudato Si Special Anniversary Year in May 2021, Pope Francis also announced the seven-year Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP) to respond to environmental challenges of our time."¹

'In the words of Pope Francis, "Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live" (LS 139). As a result, integral ecology recognizes that our interactions with the environment are woven into the fabric of economic, political, social, cultural, and ethical dimensions.

...It explores the complex connections between people and nature, considering culture, family, community, virtue, faith, and a strong appreciation for the common good. "As we embrace this holistic approach, we all contribute to a future where the well-being of both the environment and humanity are prioritized"²

This "Laudato Si Action Platform aims to catalyze a cultural shift from exploiting the planet to protecting our common home for the well-being of all."³

As members of the church, we, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, African Province have been doing different things in our local areas to concretely help protect our common home. With the call from Pope Francis, we want to officially and formally link with the Laudato Si Action Platform for more effective actions.



Sr Helen Kbede, SHCJ

¹ Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference Laudato Si Five-Year Action Programme: 2022 - 2026

² Blog on Laudato Si Platform entitled Integral Ecology: A Holistic Approach to Global Challenges posted January 25, 2024

³ Blog About The Laudato Si' Action Platform: A Blueprint For Global Sustainability posted January 9, 2024