

**LAUDATO SI ACTION PLATFORM REFLECTION 2024**

Mga Ruiziano: Kamanlalakbay na may Pag-asa para sa Kapayapaan, Kalikasan at Kabanalan

(*Praying Together with Hope for Peace, Creation & Holiness*)

As our school, Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila School, Inc., continues to journey on its second year of participation in the Laudato Si Action Platform, we, the stakeholders, are inspired by the Holy Spirit to further deepen our commitment to creating a better and greener Earth. The challenges we face today underscore the urgency of our mission. When 2024 began, the rising heat index forced many schools to shift to online classes, highlighting the immediate impact of climate change on our daily lives. The AccuWeather report further revealed the alarming state of our air quality, which has led to a surge in respiratory diseases among both students and employees. This situation is not only a stark reminder of the interconnectedness of environmental health and human well-being but also of the pressing seriousness of our ecological condition.

 Looking back to our first year of journey, we were enthusiastic and truly impelled with the desire to make an immediate and tangible change within our school community. We have implemented various projects and activities under this program, each designed to contribute to the greening of our surroundings and the care of Mother Earth. While the program has seen several successes, it has also faced significant challenges that have impacted its overall effectiveness.

Despite the hurdles, the Laudato Si program of our school has made notable strides in raising environmental awareness and initiating green projects. Community members participated in greening activities, waste management endeavors, and clean-up drives. These activities not only beautified our surroundings but also instilled a sense of environmental stewardship among participants. Additionally, educational campaigns on sustainable living practices were conducted, reaching a wide audience and encouraging more eco-friendly habits.

However, the program encountered several challenges that hindered its full potential:

1. Some projects suffered from inadequate planning. Without thorough preparation, certain initiatives faced logistical issues, unclear objectives, and inefficient use of resources. This lack of foresight sometimes resulted in projects not achieving their intended impact.
2. Another significant challenge was the lack of a strong sense of ownership among community members. While initial participation was enthusiastic, sustaining long-term commitment proved difficult. This was partly due to a lack of clear roles and responsibilities, leading to diminished engagement over time.
3. The absence of close monitoring and immediate evaluation of projects also posed a problem. Without regular check-ins and assessments, it was challenging to track progress, identify issues early, and make necessary adjustments. This gap often meant that problems were only addressed after they had escalated.
4. One of the primary obstacles was the lack of sufficient funding. A number of projects and activities required financial resources for materials, tools, and logistics, which were not always readily available. This limitation often led to delays or scaling down of planned activities.

 Amidst these setbacks, the desire to be true advocates for the environment remains strong within our community. To overcome these challenges and enhance the effectiveness of the Laudato Si program, several steps can be taken:

1. ***Improving Planning****: Developing comprehensive project plans with clear objectives, timelines, and resource allocations can help ensure smoother implementation and greater impact.*
2. ***Promoting Ownership****: Encouraging a sense of ownership by involving community members in the planning and decision-making processes can enhance long-term commitment and engagement.*
3. ***Regular Monitoring and Evaluation****: Establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework will allow for continuous assessment of projects, enabling timely interventions and improvements.*
4. ***Securing Funding****: Exploring diverse funding sources, such as grants, partnerships with local businesses, and community fundraising, can provide the necessary financial support for future projects.*

As we reflect on these challenges, the commitment to environmental advocacy within our community remains unwavering. Our resolve to care for our surroundings has never been stronger. We recognize that our actions today will shape the future of our planet. When we embrace sustainable practices and advocate for environmental justice, we can make a significant difference. We can continue to make meaningful contributions to the care of our common home by addressing these issues and implementing strategic improvements,

We continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit in our efforts to protect and preserve our common home. Together, we can create a healthier, more sustainable world for future generations. Our journey with the Laudato Si Action Platform is a testament to our unwavering dedication to this noble cause.

**Laudato Si!**