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LAUDATE DEUM: MORAL INSIGHT & IMPERATIVE FOR THE HARMONY OF LIFE

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Abstract

This paper explores the intersection of environmental issues, moral understanding, and global harmony through the lens of Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum*. It emphasises the Pope's call for recognising climate change as a structural crime with profound moral implications. The paper discusses the IPCC's assessments, highlighting the urgency to limit global warming and the disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities. It delves into the multifaceted consequences of climate change, including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss. International cooperation, as evidenced by the Paris Agreement and COP meetings, is examined as a crucial response to the global environmental crisis. The research also touches on *Laudate Deum*'s emphasis on moving away from fossil fuels and the Pope's critique of a technological paradigm that neglects ethical considerations. Furthermore, it explores the challenges and potential solutions presented at COP28, emphasising the need for a holistic and inclusive ecological approach. The research underscores the importance of individual responsibility, community engagement, and

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ethical anthropocentrism in fostering ecological harmony. Ultimately, it aligns with Pope Francis's call for gratitude, positive action, and the glorification of God as integral elements in addressing the intertwined issues of climate change and moral responsibility.

Key Words: Climate Change, Global Harmony, Integral Ecology, Technocratic Paradigm, COP28, *Laudate Deum*

Introduction

Pope Francis addressed environmental issues in his Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*, highlighting the importance of social justice, human dignity, and the well-being of vulnerable populations. He argued that climate change is not just an ecological problem but a global social issue with profound implications for human life. The term "structural sin" is used to emphasise the moral dimension of the environmental crisis. The Pope acknowledges the evolving nature of the situation and presents the Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum* as a response to the pressing challenges faced by the world. The overall tone is one of urgency, calling for a collective and immediate response to address the environmental crisis.

1. Warnings & Projections of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) & Rebutting the Sceptics

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) regularly releases assessment reports on climate change, its impacts, and mitigation strategies. The IPCC emphasises the need to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to avoid severe climate impacts. It highlights the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities and regions, including food and water security threats, increased conflict risks, and challenges to economic development. To mitigate climate change, the IPCC recommends reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and implementing sustainable practices. The following presents warnings from the IPCC, which are cause for concern according to Pope Francis, as he says, "We are now unable to halt the enormous damage we have caused. We barely have time to prevent even more tragic damage" (LD 16).

1.1. Temperature Rise

Since 1880, there has been about a 1.1° Celsius (1.9° Fahrenheit) increase in the average world temperature. Since 1981, the pace of warming has more than doubled, rising by 0.18°C (0.32°F) per ten

years. 2022 was the sixth-warmest year on record, 1.55°F warmer than the 20th century average and 1.90°F warmer than the pre-industrial period, with the 10 warmest years occurring since 2010. By 2050, it is predicted that the world temperature would have increased by 1.5°C (2.7°F) and 3.6–7.2°F (2-4°C) by 2100. The following are some of the primary industries that produce greenhouse gases: land use, buildings, transportation, energy, and agriculture.[1]

1.2. Sea Level Rise

The average water level of the seas on earth is rising and the average sea level has increased by 8 to 9 inches (21 to 24 cm) since 1880. The average sea level worldwide reached a new peak in 2022, rising 4 inches above 1993 levels. Melting ice sheets and glaciers as well as warming saltwater are two effects of global warming that lead to sea level rise. According to research released in February 2022, by 2050, sea levels are expected to rise by one foot. Sea level rise varies by area and is not consistent worldwide.[2]

Global warming is causing sea levels to rise due to melting glaciers and ice sheets, expanding ocean volume, and a decline in liquid water on land due to human depletion. From the 1970s to the last decade, both melting and heat expansion contributed to sea level rise. However, the melting of mountain glaciers and ice sheets has accelerated, with glacier loss quintupling over the past few decades. Greenland Ice Sheet ice loss increased seven-fold, while Antarctic ice loss nearly quadrupled. As a result, sea level rise due to melting was nearly twice as much as thermal expansion from 2005-2013. This increase in ice loss is largely due to human depletion of groundwater.[3]

1.3. Extreme Weather Events

India experienced extreme weather events almost every day in the first nine months of 2023, resulting in nearly 3,000 deaths. The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) reported that extreme weather occurred on 86% of days from January to September, causing 2,923 deaths, destroying crops, destroying homes, and killing over 92,000

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[1] Rebecca Lindsey and Luann Dahlman, 'Climate Change: Global Temperature,' Climate.gov, 18 January 2023, http://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-temperature.

[2] 'Sea Level Rise', Understanding Global Change, accessed 19 November 2023, https://ugc.berkeley.edu/background-content/sea-level-rise/.

[3] Rebecca Lindsey, 'Climate Change: Global Sea Level', Climate.gov, accessed 19 April 2022, http://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-sea-level.

animals. Between January and September 2023, India saw severe weather occurrences on 235 of 273 days. The following were the most often documented events: 176 lightning and storm occurrences, 132 occurrences of heavy rain, flooding, and landslides and 49 occurrences heatwaves. Cold waves, snowfall, cyclones, cloudbursts, and wildfires are among the other extreme weather phenomena. Uttar Pradesh in northwest India had the most extreme weather days, followed by Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan. Climate change, primarily caused by fossil fuel burning, is causing more frequent and intense extreme weather events worldwide. The world is significantly off track to limit global warming to 1.5°C, which requires countries to halve emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030.[4]

1.4. Ocean Acidification

Ocean acidification is the decrease in ocean pH due to the dissolution of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) into the ocean. This CO2 reacts with water molecules to form carbonic acid, which breaks down into hydrogen ions and bicarbonate. Human activities, such as burning fossil fuels and land use change, are the primary cause, with oceans absorbing about one-third of all CO2 released from fossil fuels since the industrial revolution. Between 1950 and 2020, the average pH of the ocean surface fell from around 8.15 to 8.05.[5] Chemical changes in the water can have a negative biological and ecological impact. Sea snails, for example, are highly vulnerable to ocean acidification.[6] There is a potential alteration of predator-prey relationships, such as smaller sea urchin larvae under acidic conditions. The decrease in marine species like pteropods, foraminiferans, and coccoliths may lead to changes in predator diets, putting pressure on unaccustomed organisms. There is also a risk of extinction for many marine species that are critical to food chains. Additionally, acidification poses a threat to coral reefs, which are essential habitats for various marine species.[7]

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[4] 'India Saw Extreme Weather Events Almost Every Day from Jan to Sep 2023: Report', Frontline, accessed 1 December 2023, https://frontline.thehindu. com/news/climate-crisis-india-saw-extreme-weather-events-almost-every-day-from-jan-to-sep-2023-report/article67590713.ece.

[5] Stephen Barker and Andy Ridgwell, 'Ocean Acidification', 2012, https://www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/ocean-acidification-25822734/.

[6] Jennifer Bennett, 'Ocean Acidification', accessed 30 April 2018, https://ocean.si.edu/ocean-life/invertebrates/ocean-acidification.

[7] John P. Rafferty, 'Ocean Acidification', accessed 6 December 2023, https://www.britannica.com/science/ocean-acidification.

1.5. Biodiversity Loss

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) reported in September 2020 that global biodiversity is under threat due to human activity. The report warns of the degradation of nature and its potential to increase the risk of future pandemics. Biodiversity loss refers to the decline or disappearance of biological diversity, including the variety of living things that inhabit the planet, their different levels of biological organisation, their respective genetic variability, and the natural patterns present in ecosystems. Climate change, pollution, habitat destruction, invasive alien species, and overexploitation of the natural environment are some of the main causes of biodiversity loss. The effects of biodiversity loss include species extinction, threats to human well-being, pest proliferation, and increased CO2 emissions. As we degrade ecosystems, the risk of future pandemics increases.[8]

Climate change significantly impacts agriculture, causing changes in temperature, growing seasons, water scarcity, rainfall patterns, extreme weather events, pests, diseases, and shifts in agricultural zones. Frequent heatwaves, droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events can negatively affect crop yields, crop suitability, and supply chains. Climate change also increases plant disease spread, necessitating adjustments in crop practices and crop choices. Rising sea levels can also impact soil quality and land suitability. Pope Francis felt obliged to clarify that our earth is sick because of certain dismissive and scarcely reasonable opinions that he encountered even in the Catholic Church (LD14). Also, environmental problems can be considered moral issues because they can harm the welfare of humans and other sentient beings. As Pope John Paul II says, "The ecological crisis is a moral issue." Thus, recognising the intrinsic value of nature in relation to humans and beyond, we ought to wake up and contribute to bettering the climate.

2. Global Cooperation Efforts to Address Climate Change

Global cooperation is crucial in tackling climate change, involving international agreements like the Paris Agreement, COP meetings, emission reduction commitments, financial support, technology transfer, adaptation plans, capacity building, scientific collaboration,

[8] 'Biodiversity Loss, a Risk for the Environment and for Humanity', Iberdrola, accessed 19 November 2023, https://www.iberdrola.com/sustainability/biodiversity-loss.

civil society, NGOs, carbon markets, disaster risk reduction, and public-private partnerships. The Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to below 2°C, while developed countries provide financial support to developing nations.

2.1. Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is a significant international convention that brought nations together in a collaborative effort to control global warming and cut greenhouse gas emissions. It was negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and approved on December 12, 2015, in Paris, France, at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21). On November 4, 2016, the agreement went into effect.

The Paris Agreement aimed to limit the global average temperature increase to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. Parties submitted voluntary Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outlining their steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The agreement established a system for regular reporting of emissions and progress towards meeting NDCs, with a global stocktake every five years to assess collective progress. Developed countries committed to provide financial support to developing nations, with a goal of mobilising $100 billion per year by 2020.

The agreement promoted technology transfer and capacity building to support mitigation and adaptation efforts. It also acknowledged the importance of adaptation planning and the concept of loss and damage associated with climate impacts. Market mechanisms like emissions trading were allowed to help countries meet mitigation targets cost-effectively. The long-term goal was net-zero emissions, aiming for a balance between sources and sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of the century. The Paris Agreement is a significant global climate governance achievement, which required ongoing commitment, transparency, and enhancement of countries' climate action plans. COP26 in 2021 focused on advancing the agreement's implementation and increasing global ambition in the fight against climate change.[9]

[9] 'What Is the Paris Climate Agreement?', Tree Aid, accessed 19 November 2023, https://www.treeaid.org/blogs-updates/paris-climate-agreement/.

2.2. COP Meetings

COP meetings, or Conferences of the Parties, are annual gatherings organised under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to discuss and negotiate actions to address climate change. These meetings play a crucial role in advancing international cooperation on climate-related issues. Key COP meetings include COP1 (Berlin, 1995), COP3 (Kyoto, 1997), COP6 (The Hague, 2000) and COP6bis (Bonn, 2001), COP11/MOP1 (Montreal, 2005), COP15/MOP5 (Copenhagen, 2009), COP17/MOP7 (Durban, 2011), COP21/MOP11 (Paris, 2015), COP22/MOP12 (Marrakech, 2016), COP24/MOP14 (Katowice, 2018), COP25/MOP15 (Madrid, 2019), and COP26/MOP16 (Glasgow, 2021), COP27 (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt), and COP28 (Expo City, Dubai, UAE).

COP meetings provide a platform for countries to negotiate, share experiences, and make decisions on global climate action. They are critical in shaping the international response to climate change and advancing efforts to limit global temperature increases. The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) concluded with a historic decision to establish and operationalise a loss and damage fund. COP meetings continue to be central to ongoing global efforts to address the challenges posed by climate change.[10] Over the years, over 190 countries have met to address climate change and the conferences have been failures, such as Copenhagen (2009), while others have made significant steps forward, like Kyoto (1997). The COP3 Protocol set the goal of reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions by 5% by 2012, but this was not achieved.

The Paris Agreement generated an agreement that involved everyone and provided flexibility for developing countries. However, it has not yet been binding, and some provisions for sanctions or effective instruments for fulfilling commitments remain. COP26 in Glasgow (2021) relaunched the agreement, but it was put on hold due to the pandemic's effects. COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh (2022) was threatened by the invasion of Ukraine, leading to increased carbon use and a growing concern for developing countries. The Conference in Egypt marked a step forward in consolidating a system for financing "loss and damage" in countries most affected by climate disasters, but

[10] Conference of the Parties (COP), accessed 7 December 2023, https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop.

many points remained imprecise, particularly regarding the concrete responsibility of the countries that contribute.

Accords have been poorly implemented due to a lack of suitable mechanisms for oversight, periodic review, and penalties for noncompliance. International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries that prioritise their national interests over the global common good.[11]

2.3. Green Climate Fund (GCF)

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the world's largest climate fund, tasked with supporting developing countries in achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) goals towards low-emission, climate-resilient pathways. The fund uses a transformative approach, investing across four transitions: (a) Built environment, (b) Energy & industry, (c) Human security, livelihoods and wellbeing, and (d) Land-use, forests and ecosystems.

It operates through a network of over 200 accredited entities and delivery partners, fostering coalitions between private investors, development agencies, and civil society organisations to achieve transformative change and harmonise standards and practices. GCF can structure its financial support through a flexible combination of grants, concessional debt, guarantees, or equity instruments, with 50% invested in mitigation and 50% in adaptation, with at least half in climate-vulnerable countries. GCF adds value to its partners by enabling them to raise their ambitions for climate action, leveraging its risk management capacity and its own frameworks to accept higher risks for early-stage project development and policy, as well as institutional, technological, and financial innovation. The GCF plays a crucial role in global efforts to address climate change by facilitating financial support for developing countries and promoting sustainable development pathways. It is an integral part of the international climate finance architecture.[12]

2.4. Technocratic Paradigm & Environmental Decay

In *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis is identified as a climate alarmist, techno-sceptic, and degrowther, emphasising the abandonment of

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[11] Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation to All People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis, *Laudate Deum*, accessed 4 October 2023: 44-52.

[12] 'Green Climate Fund', accessed 7 December 2023, https://www.greenclimate.fund/.

fossil fuels.[13] Pope Francis criticises the "technocratic paradigm" that views reality, goodness, and truth as a result of technological and economic power. "The notion of a human being with no limits, whose abilities and possibilities can be infinitely expanded thanks to the technology" (LD 21). This paradigm encourages the idea of unlimited growth, appealing to economists, financiers, and technology experts. Recent advancements in artificial intelligence and technology further reinforce this notion of unlimited human abilities and possibilities.[14] Human connections with God, other humans, and the environment can all suffer under the technocratic mindset. It may also make it challenging to challenge the accuracy of technical reasoning.

2.5. Human Power & Responsibility

Laudate Deum highlights the limitations of human power, citing historical examples of the destructive consequences of technological advancements. "Let us stop thinking, then, of human beings as autonomous, omnipotent and limitless" (LD 68). It warns against projects that promise local progress and economic growth but result in land clearing and damage to life quality. The concept of "meritocracy" is critiqued for its potential to consolidate power in the hands of a few, furthering social and environmental inequalities. *Laudate Deum* raises questions about the meaning of life, one's time on Earth, and the ultimate meaning of work and effort, especially in the context of environmental impact and future generations' harm.[15]

3. COP28 & Energy Transition

The United Arab Emirates recently hosted the Conference of Parties (COP28), with the goal of accelerating the energy transition and demonstrating the seriousness of the efforts made since 1992, just like the Pope said, "We can keep hoping that COP28 will allow for a decisive acceleration of the energy transition" (LD 54). Despite large expenditures on renewable energy, global emissions continue to rise, and the shift to clean energy sources such as wind and solar is not moving quickly enough. The possibility of diversion is a problem, as we must get beyond looking concerned but lacking the resolve to make significant changes. At this rate, global temperatures will exceed the maximum advised limit of 1.5°C and approach 3°C, posing a

[13] David Wallace-Wells, 'The Pope's Journey to Climate Outrage', *The New York Times*, 11 October 2023, sec. Opinion, https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/11/opinion/the-popes-journey-to-climate-outrage.html.

[14] Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, 20-23.

[15] Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, 24-33.

substantial danger of hitting a tipping point. It is critical to emphasise that focusing solely on technological solutions to environmental concerns isolates interrelated issues and obscures the fundamental difficulties of the global system. The creation of effective, required, and readily monitored energy transition forms is what will make COP28 historic. This will lower carbon dioxide levels and aid in the restoration of credibility to international politics. The children's future and the greater good must be placed ahead of one's self-serving interests to show the noble nature of politics and stop more bad things from happening.[16]

3.1. The Urgency of Energy Transition

The global energy transition is a pressing issue due to various environmental, economic, and social factors. And thus, it is urgent to transition to more sustainable and cleaner energy. "Fossil fuels still provide 80% of the world's energy, and their use continues to increase" (LD 50). Climate change is caused by the burning of fossil fuels, which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and extreme weather events. Traditional energy sources, like coal and oil, result in health impacts and ecosystem damage. Transitioning to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower can help mitigate these concerns.

But, "gas and oil companies are planning new projects…with the aim of further increasing their production…(it) would be suicidal, for it would mean exposing all humanity, especially the poorest, to the worst impacts of climate change" (LD 53). Therefore, we must understand that energy security and independence are enhanced by reducing dependence on imports and diversifying the energy sources available locally. Diversified energy sources increase resilience and reduce disruptions to a single energy source. Economic opportunities arise from job creation and investment in clean technologies, while technological advances lead to cost reduction and innovation. Access to clean and affordable energy can help alleviate energy poverty and support social and economic development.[17]

3.2. Fossil Fuel Phase-out

"Regrettably, the climate crisis is not exactly a matter that interests the great economic powers, whose concern is with the greatest profit possible at minimal cost" (LD 13). Prophetically, the argument of Pope

[16] Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, 53-60.

[17] *Conference on 'Laudate Deum'*, 2023, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ee7ftRs8dwc.

Francis still holds weight. Over 80 nations, including the United States, the European Union, and small island states, are advocating for an agreement that explicitly calls for the "phase-out" of fossil fuels, which are the primary contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. However, they face strong resistance from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, who oppose any language in the COP28 deal that directly targets fossil fuel usage. OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, along with Russia and other members, has argued that the summit should concentrate on reducing emissions rather than focusing on the sources of those emissions. China's top climate envoy, Xie Zhenhua, stated that a successful COP28 deal must address fossil fuels, though he did not specify support for a phase-out. Negotiators have been given time to resolve their differences. Saudi Arabia's delegation emphasised the need for a deal that does not discriminate against specific energy sources but instead aims to reduce emissions. Some countries, like Britain and Australia, hinted at possible compromise, provided there are adequate safeguards.[18] On December 13, 2023, COP28 came to an end with a resolution advocating for a "transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems." Additionally, according to the agreement, this transition must be carried out "in a just, orderly, and equitable manner."[19]

3.3. Significant Firsts

It appears that COP28 included a number of innovative activities and events across a number of industries, highlighting the ways in which climate change is related to health, water, agriculture, finance, faith, and fashion. COP28 hosted the first-ever Health Day, where over 100 health ministries committed to action in the first climate-health ministerial. Food, Agriculture, and Water Day, co-convened by the UAE and Brazil, saw ministers from over 15 countries prioritise efforts on water and food. The first-ever Global Stocktake on climate change was set to conclude at COP28. The Faith Pavilion, inaugurated at COP, united religious representatives, communities, and institutions in support of climate action and the Paris Agreement goals. The UK announced the first-ever climate-resilient debt clauses in Africa,

[18] 'COP28 Enters Last Leg as Negotiators Make Final Push for Fossil Fuel Phase-Out,' India Today, accessed 11 December 2023, https://www.indiatoday.in/environment/story/cop28-enters-last-leg-as-negotiators-make-final-push-for-fossil-fuel-phase-out-2474456-2023-12-11.

[19] Mark Poynting, 'What Was Agreed on Climate Change at COP28 in Dubai?', *BBC News*, accessed 25 October 2023, sec. Science & Environment, https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-67143989.

starting with Senegal, with 73 countries calling for their adoption. The first-ever fashion show at COP28 showcased sustainable fashion brands showcasing wearable and accessible creations, highlighting the fashion industry's role in addressing climate change.[20]

4. Our Proactive Response

God invites us to treat everything in the cosmos with the same love and care that He would, since He made us in His image and likeness. Humans are a part of God's creating, rescuing, and sanctifying power as the creator, saviour, and sanctifier. We must establish God's existence in the world as real, observable, and trustworthy since we are part of God's image. We should accompany and energise everything in creation as if God were present and active, which is an existential imperative.[21]

We must also remember Pope Francis, who calls for an integral ecology. The idea of integral ecology acknowledges the relationship that exists between the natural world and humanity. It is worried about the underprivileged, the environment, and disadvantaged people. Its premise is that actions made by humans have an impact on the natural world, other people, and future generations. It is a holistic ecology that acknowledges the connections between environmental, economic, political, social, cultural, and ethical challenges. According to Pope Francis, integrated ecology necessitates having the foresight to consider all-encompassing answers to problems that affect both the environment and people. The following are a few ways we could use them to accompany and energise the creation around us.[22]

4.1. Educating Ourselves

Understanding the climate crisis is essential for finding effective solutions. Familiarising oneself with the fundamental concepts of climate change, such as greenhouse gases, global warming, and the greenhouse effect. Recognising the scientific consensus on climate

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[20] Akriti Anand, 'Many Firsts at COP28, from Sustainable Fashion Show to Faith Pavilion', mint, accessed 11 December 2023, https://www.livemint.com/news/world/cop28-sees-many-firsts-sustainable-fashion-show-health-day-faith-pavilion-top-five-picks-11702229006541.html.

[21] Paulachan Kochappilly, "All for Life; Life for All," in *Environmental Interface: Literature, Law, Science, and Philosophy,* edited by Jose Nandhikkara (Bangaluru: Dharmaram Publications, 2015), 291.

[22] Thomas Reese, 'Integral Ecology: Everything Is Connected | National Catholic Reporter', accessed 12 December 2023, https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/faith-and-justice/integral-ecology-everything-connected.

change, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Exploring the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, weather patterns, sea levels, and biodiversity, and how human activities contribute to these changes. Understanding the social and economic implications of climate change, including its effects on communities, economies, and global inequality. Familiarising oneself with renewable energy sources like solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power, and learning how they can replace fossil fuels. It is also imperative to take individual actions to reduce our carbon footprint, such as using public transportation, reducing meat consumption, and minimising waste. Staying informed about climate change developments and research and participating in discussions about climate change. Remembering that the climate crisis is complex, and staying informed is an ongoing process. Keep learning, adapting your lifestyle, and advocating for positive change to contribute to global efforts in addressing climate change.

4.2. Cultivating Mindfulness and Spiritual Connection

Encouraging practices that foster mindfulness and spiritual connection with nature is integral to promoting environmental harmony. Activities like meditation, nature walks, and community gardening serve as transformative experiences that deepen individuals' understanding of the interconnectedness of all life. These practices not only instill a sense of appreciation for the environment but also promote a holistic approach to well-being, emphasising the intrinsic relationship between humans and nature.

4.3. Anthropocentrism with Limits & Ecological Reconciliation

Anthropocentrism with limits advocates for ethical boundaries and restrictions to promote ecological sustainability, acknowledging the environmental impacts of human activities like pollution, deforestation, and resource depletion. It emphasises the importance of understanding the interdependence of living things and ecosystems, as human welfare is closely linked to the world's state. It advocates for sustainable growth that meets current demands without jeopardising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

4.4 Advocating for Sustainable Urban Planning

Emphasising the importance of sustainable urban planning is crucial for creating cities that prioritise green spaces, eco-friendly infrastructure, and public transportation. Sustainable urban development contributes to healthier living conditions and actively

addresses the reduction of the carbon footprint. This approach not only enhances the quality of life for residents but also establishes cities as stewards of environmental sustainability, setting an example for future urban landscapes.

4.5. Restoration of Forests & Wetlands

Restoring forests and wetlands is crucial for environmental conservation and sustainable resource management. They play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity, regulating water cycles, sequestering carbon, and providing ecosystem services. The process of forest restoration involves a thorough assessment of the area's current condition, biodiversity, and functions. To enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, native species are planted, and diverse habitats are restored. Community involvement is also crucial, and education and training on sustainable forest management practices should be provided. Regular monitoring and adaptive management must also be implemented.

4.6. Social Activism

"Civil society with its organisations is capable of creating effective dynamics that the United Nations cannot" (LD 37). Raise your voice and encourage others to follow suit. It's among the easiest and fastest methods to change the world. Speak with your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbours. Inform company owners that you are in favour of radical changes, such as zero-emission cars and products and packaging made without plastic. Urge global and local leaders to take immediate action. We all have a duty to take action on climate change.

4.7. Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

Save energy at home by reducing heating and cooling use, using LED light bulbs and energy-efficient appliances, and using cold water for laundry. Switch to renewable energy sources like wind or solar to reduce your carbon footprint by up to 1.5 tons of CO2e per year. Walk, bike, or take public transport instead of driving to improve health and fitness. Switch to an electric vehicle to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Reduce travel habits by avoiding aeroplanes that burn fossil fuels. Recycle items like electronics, clothes, and plastics to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Eat more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds, and less meat and dairy to lower environmental impact. Reduce food waste to save resources and energy used to grow, produce, package, and transport it. Plant native species to protect biodiversity and reduce food waste. Clean up

your environment by using what you need, disposing of trash properly, and educating others about responsible waste management.

Conclusion

Laudate Deum derived from Latin, signifies gratitude, reverence, and worship towards God, often used as a means of expressing reverence. When contemplating the moral insight and requirement for life harmony within the framework of thanking God, it is important to remember to praise and show gratitude to God, developing a sense of satisfaction and appreciation for the benefits of one's life. Praising God can also act as a reminder to live a virtuous life, instilling morals and righteousness. Praising God frequently entails a sense of connection with something higher than oneself, building a sense of solidarity with those who have similar beliefs, and contributing to societal harmony, as individuals may be encouraged to treat others with love and compassion.