



CERTIFICATE IN INTEGRAL ECOLOGY (CIE)

at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary (SJVTS)
(FIRST PHASE: SEMINAR TYPE)

RATIONALE



In its 1988 pastoral letter on ecology (“What is Happening to Our Beautiful Land?”), the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) suggested to set up “a Care of the Earth ministry at every level of Church organization; from the basic Christian communities, through the parish structure and diocesan offices right up to the national level” (31st paragraph). Moreover, according to the decree in the *Second Plenary Council of the Philippines* (PCP-II), dioceses should set up “an ecology desk ... in social action centers” that would make ecology their special concern (see PCP-II, part IV, title VI, section 4, article 31).

Although some dioceses have already responded to this urgent call, others are still starting to materialize it. Moreover, dioceses with existing ecology desks need to strengthen and update their program to become integral in scope and responsive to the present challenges of caring our Common Home.

In *Laudato Si’* (LS), Pope Francis offers a [theological and moral] framework of an Integral Ecology which tries to bring together the environmental, economic, social, cultural, and everyday life ecologies (see LS 138–55), including the ethical principles of the common good, human rights, intergenerational justice, and the intrinsic value of nature (see LS 140). His theological appropriation of integral ecology essentially includes “taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us” (LS 255).





OBJECTIVES

- 1** To help the dioceses in Mindanao, especially CABUSTAM, establish and/or strengthen their existing Integral Ecology/*Laudato Si'* Desk (Care of the Earth Ministry);
- 2** to allow the participants to share their existing good practices and success stories in responding to the challenges in their respective contexts;
- 3** to offer a basic and updated course on Integral Ecology for priests, religious, and parish workers in Mindanao context; and
- 4** to help the participants organize the CABUSTAM sub-regional Integral Ecology/*Laudato Si'* Desks that make concrete plan of actions.



DESIGN OF THE PROGRAM



This certificate program is composed of eleven (11) courses that combine the theology of creation and key principles from *Laudato Si'* with some practical subjects related to the application of these principles in caring for the environment at the local level.

The duration of this non-degree program is 36 hours, which can be offered in two hours per session for 18 Saturdays. Classes will begin on the second Saturday of August 2021.

Considering the present threats of the pandemic, the course would be given online (either Zoom or Google meet) but may be combined with face-to-face classes if the situation would allow. The reading materials could be shared via email. Power-point presentations and short videos could be integrated in the course. The use of Group FaceBook and Group Chat (Messenger) for online interaction will also be explored.

Part of the methodology is to allow the participants to share their urgent ecological challenges, their good practices, and their available resources in view of helping one another in establishing and strengthening their respective Integral Ecology Desk/*Laudato Si'* Centers. There should be some time for interaction, open forum, and sharing of experiences among the participants towards the end of each session.

At the end of the program, participants per diocese are required to submit a relevant action project that shows how they would either establish their Integral Ecology Desks/*Laudato Si'* Centers or strengthen them by becoming creatively responsive to their particular contexts and challenges.

COMPONENTS OF THE CERTIFICATE COURSE

(Some of the proposed topics (*) may slightly change as the resource persons are given the freedom to creatively modify their respective topics)

FIRST PART: THEOLOGICAL/MORAL FOUNDATIONS		
TOPICS & RESOURCE PERSONS	TOPIC DESCRIPTION	SCHEDULE & DURATION
INTRODUCTION and ORIENTATION (Fr. Reynaldo D. Raluto & Abp. Antonio Ledesma, S.J, DD)	This includes sharing of experiences, expectations, and contexts of establishing and strengthening the Integral Ecology Desk/ <i>Laudato Si'</i> Center.	Aug 14 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)
Contemporary Cosmology and Theology of Creation (Fr. Reynaldo Raluto)	With the help of the best available knowledge today—including contemporary cosmological theories, theologies of creation, and emerging ecological spiritualities—this topic attempts to understand our Christian faith in our ultimate origin, fundamental integrity, and final destiny as God's creation.	Aug 21 & Aug 28 8:30-10:30 (4 hours)
Sustainable Agriculture (Mr. Victorino Tagupa)	Mr. Victorino Tagupa was head of the Sustainable Agriculture Center of Xavier U College of Agriculture from 1990 - about 2015. He has a training farm in Dumarait, Balingasag. He also represents the country in IFOAM, an international federation of organic agriculture practitioners. He can discuss the seven dimensions of Sustainable Agriculture and show photos of his farm area.	Sept 4 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)
Ecological Spirituality* (Fr. Pedro Walpole, SJ)	<i>The description will be posted later...</i>	Sept 11 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)
Overview of Catholic Social Teaching on Ecology (Abp. Antonio Ledesma, SJ, D.D.)	This topic explores the development of the Catholic social teaching on ecology from <i>Rerum Novarum</i> (Pope Leo XIII) to <i>Laudato Si'</i> (Pope Francis) with special attention to the magisterial teaching on stewardship, integrity of creation, and sustainable future.	Sept 18 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)
<i>Laudato Si'</i> and Integral Ecological Perspective (Fr. Ritchie Gomez, MSC)	A deeper understanding on the context and content of <i>Laudato Si'</i> is the main thrust of this course in view of establishing and strengthening the Integral Ecology Desks/ <i>Laudato Si'</i> Centers. Thus, this will highlight the principle of Integral Ecology that enables us to see everything as interrelated and interdependent whole.	Sept 25 & Oct 2 8:30-10:30 (4 hours)
Environment & IP Culture (Ms. Easter Canoy)*	<i>The description will be posted later...</i>	Oct 9 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)

**SECOND PART:
SOME APPLICATIONS OF THE KEY PRINCIPLES OF *LAUDATO SI'*
TO THE LOCAL CONTEXTS**

TOPICS & RESOURCE PERSONS	TOPIC DESCRIPTION	SCHEDULE & DURATION
<p>Bamboohay and Watershed Protection (Fr. Ben Beltran, SVD)</p>	<p>Fr. Ben will share his bamboo advocacy to combat climate change, prevent erosion and flooding, provide jobs for the poor. We will learn from his advocacy which uses a systems approach to the bamboo sanctuary project in the Marikina River Basin.</p>	<p>Oct 16 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)</p>
<p>GANDA NATURAL FARMING (Ms. Ann-an Denuyo)</p>	<p>Ms. Ann-an Denuyo has developed this technology, particularly in producing low-cost organic fertilizer, using native earthworm castings, sea salt, and spoiled rice. She may also include her companion program of Hapag-Asa, a supplemental feeding program for undernourished children. She has been helping the Lumad communities in Taglimao Parish in utilizing local materials like bamboo, growing turmeric and allay, etc. Her approach is wholistic in terms of maximizing local resource utilization.</p>	<p>Oct 23 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)</p>
<p>Payment for Ecological Services (Mr. Roel Ravanera)</p>	<p>Mr. Roel Ravanera, Director of Xavier Science Foundation, can explain this scheme for the reforestation of 1,000+ hectares on Kalatungan Mountain by the Lumad community. MILALITTRA is an association of five Lumad barangay communities. Lowland institutions like cooperatives contribute to a fund, handled by XSF, as payment for the tree growing by the upland Lumad communities. Roel can also explain the Social Tenure Domain Management (STDm) program that helps Lumad occupants identify their present landholdings, even in the absence of formal land titles. In this way, many local land problems are prevented. The present project of XSF on STDm extends to Pangantucan municipality.</p>	<p>Oct 30 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)</p>
<p>Peace-building in Lumad Communities (Bro. Karl Gaspar, CSSR)</p>	<p>Bro. Karl Gaspar can give the history of the indigenous peoples of Mindanao, and how they are the frontliners in conserving the environment. Their culture should also be respected and preserved. The coming of migrants from Luzon and the Visayas have posed ongoing challenges to Lumad communities. Many of them have been pushed up further onto upland areas.</p>	<p>Nov 6 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)</p>
<p>Integrating Lumad Education for Sustainable Development (Fr. Pedro Walpole, SJ)*</p>	<p>Fr. Pedro Walpole, SJ, has been operating a Lumad school and cultural center (Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center) in Bendum since the 1990's. He can describe the evolution of this school as a training ground for future Lumad leaders. Fr. Walpole himself can share the scientific research findings of the Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) which he directs. His team has made a detailed ecological map of Bukidnon.</p>	<p>Nov 13 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)</p>

<p>Inclusive Business and Cooperative Development (Atty. Burt Estrada & Mr. Roberto Ansaldo)</p>	<p>Mr. Roberto Ansaldo and Atty. Burt Estrada can describe an ongoing situation of how a Bukidnon Tagoloanon Lumad community has been able to develop 100 hectares of their ancestral domain to cacao production through a contract growing agreement with a corporation. In this way, the Lumad community holds on to their land as the tillers instead of leasing or selling their lands to outsiders. This is also an effective way for the Lumad community to preserve its culture.</p>	<p>Nov. 20 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)</p>
<p>Cooperatives for Development of Lumad Communities (Dr. Anselmo Mercado)</p>	<p>Dr. Anselmo Mercado of FICCO Foundation can describe successful models of small farmer coops that have been able to engage in large-scale farming. Cooperatives are needed to qualify for loans from the banks. The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach can be explained.</p>	<p>Nov 27 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)</p>
<p>Land Issues in Lumad Communities (Mr. Orlando Ravanera)</p>	<p>The description will be posted later..</p>	<p>Dec 4 8:30-10:30 (2 hours)</p>

Note: Some schedules of the proposed topics (*) may be adjusted to accommodate the availability of resource persons.



PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS & ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

This certificate program is designed initially for the CABUSTAM sub-region but may also be open to other dioceses of Mindanao, if there are still available slots.

With online connections, this program can accommodate up to 30 participants. Each diocese may send up to three participants who would eventually help either in establishing their respective Integral Ecology Desks or in strengthening them (for those who already have existing Integral Ecology Desks/*Laudato Si'* Centers).

Although the preferred participants are college graduate (4-year course), the undergraduate applicants (i.e., non-college graduates) may be admitted if their present advocacies and apostolates have predisposed them to serve the Integral Ecology Desk/*Laudato Si'* Center.

Applicants need to present an electronic copy (PDF or Scanned copy) of the following requirements: (1) personal letter of intent, (2) one ID picture ("2x2"), (3) copy of transcript of records, and (4) recommendation or certification from their bishop. **They will be submitted before August 7, 2021** through email to: Fr. Reynaldo D. Raluto: reynaluto.creation2@gmail.com and Ms. Emy Quijano: vianneyregistrar@gmail.com.

The registration fee per participant is PhP2,500.00, which may be shouldered by his or her diocese. Although participants may apply for full scholarship, donation is greatly appreciated to sustain the program. You may contact Fr. Reynaldo D. Raluto through email: reynaluto.creation2@gmail.com. You may also communicate to him through mobile number: 09985509790.

SOME COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS



INSTITUTIONS	CONTACT PERSONS
Sacred Springs (Loyola School of Theology)	Dr. Edna Zapanta Manlapaz
Birhen sa Kota Development Foundation (BKDFI): On Inclusive Business and Peace Building	Abp. Antonio Ledesma, SJ Roberto Ansaldo
Xavier Science Foundation (XU)	Mr. Roel Ravanera
Balay Mindanao: On Barangay Development Planning	Dir. C. Manlupig
First Community Cooperative (FICCO) Foundation	Dr. Boy Mercado
Assisi Development Foundation: On Network Against Extreme Poverty	Mr. Ben Abadiano
Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) and Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center (Bendum, Malaybalay)	Fr. Pedro Walpole, SJ
Columban's Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), Mindanao Chapter; and Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM)-Pilipinas	Mr. John Din Fr. John Leydon, MSSC
Caritas Philippines Academy (CBCP Social Action Training and Learning Institute)	Nelsie Alvarez Uy

Prepared by the CIE-SJUTS Team:

Fr. Reynaldo D. Raluto, Ph.D., S.Th.D

*Academic Dean
St. John Vianney Theological Seminary*

Fr. Christopher L. Lapez, S.T.L.

*Assistant to the Academic Dean
St. John Vianney Theological Seminary*

Most. Rev. Antonio J. Ledesma, SJ, D.D.

*Archbishop Emeritus of Cagayan de Oro
St. John Vianney Theological Seminary*



ST. JOHN VIANNEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Seminary Hill, Camaman-an

9000 Cagayan de Oro City

Tel/Fax No. (088) 857-4486; Email: jvianney@philcom.ph; sjvtscdo@gmail.com