LAUDATO SI ACTION PLATFORM - MY REFLECTION

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While I was studying Architecture I was exposed to the study of the natural environment. I took interest on it then and participated in conferences and seminars. But then the anxieties and concerns to complete my studies and become and Architect took over together with the dreams of becoming a great designer in detriment of my first intentions towards to learn more about the natural environment. And I focused on the built environment. Now I realised that I became like many others, an aspiring dominator of nature.

The reality is that I did not become a great designer, just an average Architect working mainly in the public sector. I also worked at university teaching a subject related to building construction materials. I did not see then the opportunity I had to research about nature and to encourage my students to also consider nature on their designs. And how to use natural resources in a sustainable manner, etc.

Life had its twists and I ended up being a high school teacher. Teaching Design and Technology. The opportunity to care for creation was there again for me. So as much as I can I guide my students to be aware of how the natural resources are used when creating the built environment. And to apply sustainability principles in their designs. I am happy with that. And more important I recognise that as my responsibility towards our Earth and Creation. And at the same time to utilise the gifts and skills I received from our Creator. Now more than ever since I have become much more aware of the damage caused to our planet through unsustainable practices.

At present I recognise the urgent need for concrete actions to somehow repair the damages and perhaps stop major climate crisis in the future and to prevent mayor natural disasters that we can see already are happening in every corner of the world. Those actions I believe must be taken by each one of us, governments as well as industries.

I am grateful now to the twists in my life that took me to this point where I am sure I needed to be. There were lessons to be learnt and still are.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to return to my spiritual journey. A reconnection with God is a reconnection with the whole of Creation. Not that I went totally away from God but I don’t think I saw him in nature as I do now. Now I recognise that we are all interconnected amongst ourselves and with other beings and with all that exist in nature, in this our home that we share. The only home we have.

In 2016 I had the opportunity to read Pope Francis’s Laudato Si. And that was the catalyst for me to help me in my journey towards ecology conversion.

When I read Laudato Si I was already for three years practicing Christian Meditation to which I attribute a big percentage of my consciousness transformation.

Together with members of my meditation group we have formed an Ecology and Meditation group. We meet once a month to discuss Ecology topic, we exchange opinions and information and very importantly we participate on environmental action initiatives offered by other Ecology groups. We have been learning about Laudato Si Action Platform and some members are about to commit themselves to its goals.

I continue to educate myself on environmental and climate crisis issues. And will continue to encourage and to inform my students on sustainable practices, climate urgency and awareness that as scientists are telling us we need to act now if we are to save our Earth. To act now while there is still time.

I hope I will be able to complete my Laudato Si goals and to make a positive contribution for our future.

I trust the Holy Spirit will guide me in achieving them.