

Marianist Reflections on Laudato Si' Action Platform Ecological Education Goal

Wisdom From Our Marianist Founders

By educating the mind and the heart, ... [we] can form people who in turn can work at changing the very structures of their society to ensure a community of justice and reconciliation

– Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) Goal

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. (LSAP #5)

As Marianists, we seek to form and educate ourselves in the ways of Christ and the spirit of Mary. We strive to read the signs of our times to educate on relevant needs of our day. Today, an integrated response to the environmental crisis must be a part of our education. We must seek to understand what is happening and inspire each other to take action.

Reflection Questions

1. What is something that you want to better understand in your mind or your heart about integral ecology – the understanding that humans and all of nature are connected?
2. All of us, whether we formally teach or not, have the opportunity to educate others. Where do you have opportunities to teach others and to empower them to work for justice and reconciliation in their communities?
3. How can we better educate our young people concerning ecological awareness and action? What about our adults? How might we better learn from each other and grow in understanding of an integral ecology?
4. What action will you take to respond and deepen your ecological conversion?

Mindfulness

Fr Chaminade taught that education must be for both the mind and heart. In your mind, do you understand how the environmental crisis is affecting the earth and all people? Do you feel it in your heart? Where are the gaps in your understanding? What do you long to learn in your mind or your heart? The signs of the times tell us that we must act. God's people and all of creation are crying out. Where can you teach or influence others to work for a more just society that cares for all human and non-human parts of creation? Where do you need to change yourself?

Additional Resources for Individual and Group Reflection

Resource:

Katharine Heyhoe TED Talk “The most important thing you can do to fight climate change is talk about it”:

https://www.ted.com/talks/katharine_hayhoe_the_most_important_thing_you_can_do_to_fight_climate_change_talk_about_it

Reflection Series Overview

The seven Marianist Reflections on the Laudato Si’ Action Platform (LSAP) are developed to support individual reflection or group discussion on each of the seven goals identified in the LSAP <https://laudatosi.actionplatform.org/>. Inspired by the teaching of Pope Francis in the 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’* on integral ecology – the understanding that humans and everything else in nature are inter-connected – and our rich Marianist heritage, these guides aim to support efforts to live out the principles of *Laudato Si’* through the lens of our Marianist charism. We strive to hear and respond to both “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (*Laudato Si’*, 49) on our journey of “ecological conversion” towards an integral ecology. The reflection guides are intended for use by individuals or groups of small or large size. Familiarity with *Laudato Si’*, the LSAP, the Marianist charism, and the Marianist founders is helpful but not required. Each reflection can stand-alone or can be used with some or all of the rest of the series. To download the complete series, visit www.marianistsjc.net/integral-ecology. Have feedback on these reflections? Send it to us at <https://forms.gle/fFJbQaotrbdA2pVa8>.

Learn More

Learn about the Laudato Si’ Action Platform Goals and how they integrate with the Global Compact on Education and our Marianist Charism at <https://marianistencounters.org>

This resource was developed by the Integral Ecology Team of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative <https://marianistsjc.net> in partnership with the Marianist Environmental Education Center <https://meec.center> as part of our participation in the Marianist Family Encounters Project <https://marianistencounters.org>

Share your story (you can include photos/video) of how your group/community is exploring Ecological Education as a Marianist Encounters update:

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