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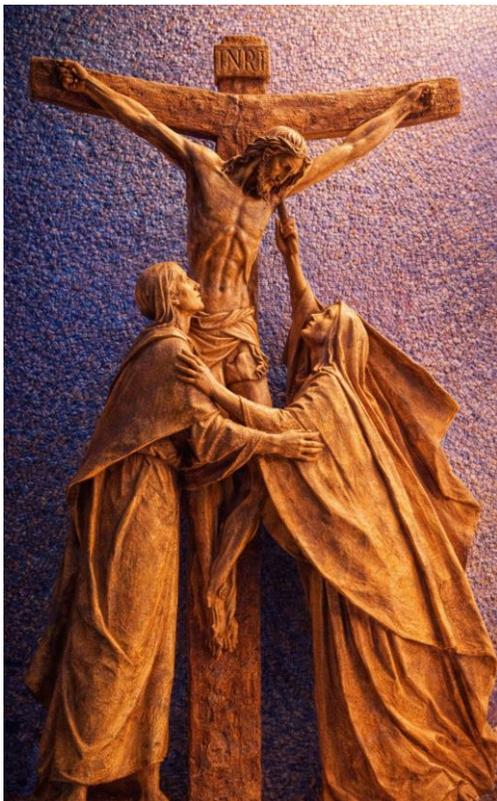
Marianist Social Justice Collaborative



Marianist
Environmental
Education
Center

Marianist Ecological Stations of the Cross

Lent, 2026



The Stations of the Cross are a traditional devotional prayer, used especially during the Holy Week before Easter, for deepening our identification with Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion as portrayed in the Gospel accounts. These stations are offered by the **Marianist Social Justice Collaborative's Integral Ecology Team**. Lead author and team member Tony Garascia, a Lay Marianist and licensed clinical social worker in South Bend, Indiana, was inspired by the stations found in the *Laudato Si Movement Prayer Book* that relate Christ's suffering as the firstborn of all Creation with the suffering of the Earth and climate anxiety. Included for your individual or communal reflection are carefully-chosen passages from *Laudato Si*, inspiration from our Marianist founders, and quotes from *A Call to Courageous Action on the Climate Crisis*. We pray that Mary, Jesus, and our Marianist ancestors guide our ecological conversion process this Lenten season and beyond, so that we may be the gift of faith and love in action that our world so desperately needs.

Image: Terra cotta statue by Sr. Angelica Ballan, PDDM, displayed at the Generalate of the Society of Mary, Marianists in Rome, Italy.

Abbreviations & Sources

- ABT – Letters of *Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon* (Blessed Marie of the Conception)
- CCA – *A Call to Courageous Action on the Climate Crisis* - Responding as a Marianist Family to this urgent sign of our times in the spirit of Mary and our Founders (Integral Ecology Team of MEEC/MSJC)
- LS – *Laudato si* Encyclical - On Care of Our Common Home, Pope Francis
- MTL – Writings of *Venerable Marie-Thérèse de Lamorous*¹
- WJC – Writings of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

First Station - Jesus is condemned to death

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
- LS #49

Love to relieve the suffering members of Jesus Christ. In case you are unable to do this, pray for them to the Father of mercy that he may assist them, mindful of the fact that his divine Son, Jesus Christ, did not disdain to adopt them as his brothers and sisters.

- WJC - v1 # 13; Letter to Marie-Thérèse de Lamorous, January 15, 1799.

The Marianist Family is deeply concerned about the impacts of the climate crisis and environmental degradation. Urgent actions must be taken to help mitigate the most direct environmental effects of climate change and its impacts on the most vulnerable people in our country and world, including young people suffering from climate grief and anxiety and concerned about their future.
- CCA p. 1

Commentary: According to the UN Agency for Human Rights ([UNHCR](#))², an estimated 21.5 million people are forced to move annually due to weather-related events, with over 376 million people displaced by climate-related disasters since 2008. By 2050, projections suggest 200 million people could need annual humanitarian assistance due to climate-related, often internal, displacement.

Prayer: God of life, many of our sisters and brothers risked and lost their lives working to protect this beautiful world You created. We believe they have fallen asleep in You, Lord. May their sacrifice be remembered and honored by those they served. May your Spirit lead us to advocate for those negatively affected by the ravages of climate change. Amen.

The Second Station - Jesus carries his cross

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

One Person of the Trinity entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross. From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy.
- LS# 99

To human eyes, there is no solution! But God is present so there is no need to be troubled!
- MTL, Letter to Rondeau, Oct 7 1822

This time can be overwhelming, causing anxiety and paralysis. Yet our Marianist Family was founded from such a time as this! Our day is similar to the fear and chaos during the French Revolution, when existing faith structures were undone and social needs were unmet. We are inspired by the courageous lives of our faith-filled founders, Blesseds William Joseph Chaminade and Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon (Mother Marie of the Conception); and Venerable Marie-Thérèse de Lamorous, who formed a dynamic network of lay and religious communities of faith and action to address the injustices of their time.
- CCA p. 1-2

Commentary: Climate anxiety (or eco-anxiety) is a chronic fear of environmental doom, causing intense, valid feelings of distress, helplessness, and grief regarding climate change. Affecting millions, especially youth, it can lead to anxiety, depression, and sleeplessness. [Dealing with it](#) involves taking action, limiting media, and seeking support.³

Prayer: Lord Jesus, just as You embraced the burden of our sins, we pray for those who will be forced to carry the burden of environmental disasters caused by our rampant development. We also pray for those who risk their lives to embrace the call of social and climate justice. Amen.

The Third Station - Jesus falls for the first time

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning. - LS# 84

When people for whom we care are being maligned, let us unite the anguish we experience to the sufferings of the Blessed Virgin when she witnessed her adorable Son being mocked and insulted. We shall then acquire merit before God; this will help expiate our sins and a perhaps too emotional attachment we may have had to those persons. - ABT Letter #9, to Agathe Diché, Agen, May 29, 1805?

*We need the courage, faith and action embodied in our Marianist foundations here and now. We are called to build an inclusive community for justice with people of faith and good will and to continually expand our community by hospitality and inclusion, becoming a "spectacle of saints" that Fr. Chaminade envisioned. By joining together as a network of communities, we can extend and multiply individual actions to transform society.
- CCA p. 2*

Commentary: Becoming a compassionate community in the face of the climate crisis involves shifting from individualistic, high-consumption lifestyles to collective, empathetic, and regenerative practices. This approach prioritizes social justice, equity for vulnerable populations, and nurturing emotional resilience alongside physical preparedness, turning, in the words of activists, "[fear into action](#)".⁴

Prayer: Lord, you fell and the earth sustained you. We pray for our sisters and brothers hidden in the darkness of modern slavery, in factories and homes across the world, forced to work in inhumane conditions and deprived of their freedom. Help us to remember those who suffer for our unsustainable lifestyles and give us a change of heart so that this evil may be rooted from our world. As the earth sustained you when you fell, let us work toward creating sustainable communities and workplaces. Amen.

The Fourth Station - Jesus meets his mother

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

*Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!
- LS # 246, Prayer for the earth*

The real means of success is to empty yourself of yourself, and to give yourself entirely over to the spirit of the Lord. The protection of the most Blessed Virgin will be of the greatest utility to you in this twofold task - WJC #966, v1 Bordeaux, May 17, 1837.

As a Marianist Family we are inspired by Mary's action at the Cana wedding (John 2:1-12). Mary had faith in Jesus, saying to the servants - and to us - "do whatever he tells you." Through her faith-filled actions in the face of scarcity, a miracle of abundance occurred. Her powerful intercession reminds us to be compassionate and attentive to the needs around us. With her, we trust that Providence will turn lack into graced fullness. CCA, p. 1

Commentary: Lamenting climate injustice involves grieving the profound, disproportionate suffering inflicted on vulnerable communities, Indigenous populations, and ecosystems due to environmental destruction. This, the [Ecology & Society](#)⁵ and MDPI (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, www.mdpi.com) reports show, constitutes a deep, often unacknowledged, emotional and moral crisis, where the sorrow of loss connects personal pain with structural inequality, turning, according to [Side With Love](#)⁶, grief into a call for urgent action.

Prayer: Lord, by the sorrow You felt in meeting Your mother, we pray that we can meet with compassion our sister mother earth who sustains all life with air, food, and water. We renew our pledge to care for all, through no fault of their own, have been deprived of adequate housing or who have been separated from family members due to unjust economic conditions. Amen.

The Fifth Station - Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!
- LS# 246, Prayer for the Earth

We must often ask the same thing: this good deed, is it done truly according to the principles of faith and for the reasons of faith? The reasons of faith, in our state, are the imitation of our divine Savior, while acting, while speaking, while growing accustomed to asking: my action, such as it is, is it done because God wills it and when God wills it?
- MTL, Advice to Directresses

We express our faith in action for climate justice in the following dimensions: Prayer. Persevering in faith and embodying Mary's hope; praying for our ongoing ecological conversion; pondering in Mary's spirit, aware and mindful of the needs around us from local to global levels, and praying for the people and places impacted.
- CCA, p. 2

Commentary: Accompanying those facing climate injustice involves hearing their voices, supporting local resilience, and advocating for systemic change. Key actions include donating to frontline-led organizations, amplifying marginalized perspectives in media, engaging in, and, most importantly, listening to the specific needs of communities, [especially Indigenous groups](#).⁷

Prayer: Lord, help us to recognize that we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers, and like Simon of Cyrene, help us to alleviate the suffering of those crushed by injustice, poverty, and violence. Like Simon, we promise to walk with the vulnerable and work of economic and climate justice. Amen.

The Sixth Station - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world

One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality.
- LS # 29

We must allow the precious seed which God casts into our hearts to develop good roots. It must not fall on hearts of stone, but on hearts that are tender with the love of God. Nor must we allow it to lie on an unprotected path, for fear that the devil might come and take it away; rather let us guard it with Christian vigilance and humility. Then our seed will not be lying on a road where anyone can take it.

- ABT Letter #33 to Agathe Diché, Agen, February 9, 1806.

We express our faith in action for climate justice in the following dimensions: Theological Reflection and Social Analysis. Being aware of what is happening in our world, and the contributing societal structures and systems. Desiring to be formed by Mary, to respond as Jesus did, and to grow in the virtues needed to change unjust structures. This includes a daily examen and ongoing reflections and dialogue with others. Rooting ourselves in the Scriptures that relate to an event and experience, and asking: What would Jesus do in this situation? How would Mary respond with faith and compassion? What can I and my community or workplace do to change the situation? What are the next concrete steps to take?

- CCA, p. 2

Commentary: [The global safe drinking water crisis affects over 2 billion people](#)⁸ lacking safely managed water and 3.5 billion lacking safe sanitation. Driven by climate change, pollution, and aging infrastructure, this crisis causes over 800,000 deaths annually. It disproportionately impacts women and girls, who spend hours collecting water, and threatens long-term health with diseases.

Prayer: Veronica comforted you and wiped your tears. We pray that we may see the face of Jesus in the faces of all those suffering from illness, particularly those deprived of safe drinking water and shelter from the elements. At Cana you transformed water into wine. Inspire us to work for climate and economic justice in a world where there is so much suffering from conditions exacerbated by climate change such as asthma and heat strokes. Like Veronica, help us to be a source of compassion and comfort. Amen.

The Seventh Station - Jesus falls a second time

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world

For human beings...to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation; for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests or destroying its wetlands; for human beings to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life – these are sins." For "to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God." Patriarch Bartholomew

- LS #8

Penetrate yourself...with these sentiments. Work to make them fill the hearts of all your confrères, your co-laborers. Surely, you will find more of these sentiments there than you think. ...You are all missionaries, fulfill your mission! Perhaps the word "mission" may tax the imagination of several who imagine that to be a missionary one has to go about preaching from city to city, from one parish to another. Such have not formed the idea of a stable and permanent mission. In this matter... we must rectify all contrary ideas.

- WJC, Letter to Father Chevaux, St. Remy, Agen, February 7, 1834.

We express our faith in action for climate justice in the following dimensions: Ongoing Education and Learning. Staying aware of the news, sound science, and contemporary understanding of what is happening in our world and how people and places are impacted. Committing to personal and collective solutions that will best address the issues. Recognizing that we are all educators and models for younger generations and must model sustainable choices, share wisdom, and inspire hope.

- CCA, p. 3

Commentary: Consumerism is a primary driver of climate change, responsible for up to 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions and 50-80% of total land, material, and water use. The relentless demand for goods, fast fashion, and resource-intensive lifestyles fuels emissions across the entire supply chain, [from production to disposal](#)⁹

Prayer: Lord, as You have fallen a second time, so do we fall to our indifferent consumerism. Help us, we pray, to be conscious of our purchasing decisions, to choose what is ethically and sustainably made, and to stand up for those who carry the heavy burden of unjust economic policies. Help us to “do whatever he tells us”, thus accepting the mission to which you call us. Amen

The Eighth Station - Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? . . . Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn. - LS #160

Let us accept trials of which we do not know the outcomes, and let us submit in advance to all that can result from them. – MTL, Letter to Laval, August 25, 1824

We express our faith in action for climate justice in the following dimensions: Building Communities of Encounter and Solidarity. Pope Francis called us beyond our own communities and institutions to encounter others in our midst, as they are. To listen to their needs and concerns and to learn from them. To mutually join together with others of faith and good will, in partnerships of solidarity that broaden our collective impact. - CCA, p. 3

Commentary: Climate change encourages killer childhood disease to spread faster, air pollution affects more and more children, and infants are less able to regulate their body temperatures due to increasing heatwaves [worldwide](#).¹⁰

Prayer: Like the women of Jerusalem, we weep for our children who will bear the brunt of our environmental destruction. God of life, help us to resist the culture of death that seeks only its own gain and to the detriment of all other living beings, including those that are yet to live, Amen.

The Ninth Station - Jesus falls a third time

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world

Many intensive forms of environmental exploitation and degradation not only exhaust the resources which provide local communities with their livelihood, but also undo the social structures which, for a long time, shaped cultural identity and their sense of the meaning of life and community. - LS# 145

. . . Let us see each other in God who is the unique principle and the only lasting bond of all Christian friendship. To love each other in God, for God and because of God is to be sure of a lasting love . . . if a love is rooted in God, come what may, the reasons for loving are always there. - ABT, Letter#1 to Agatha Diché, Agen; February 2, 1805

We express our faith in action for climate justice in the following dimensions: Taking Action in Service and for Justice. We are called to implement solutions in all dimensions of our lives: personal, household, community, institutional and collective. Every step we take that reduces our consumption or increases our conservation of habitat, energy, and other resources contributes to healing our Earth and safeguarding the most vulnerable. Acting together also reduces climate anxiety. Intentional choices in our purchasing, in our investments, and in policies we support, send strong messages to companies and policymakers that environment, social responsibility, and governance matter, thus helping to drive systemic change for the common good. Countering our consumeristic culture and practicing simplicity, moderation, and sacrifice and promoting collective civic actions for environmental wellbeing empowers resilient communities. - CCA p.#3

Commentary: The Earth embraces the cross through a transformative, spiritual, and physical alignment where human suffering, symbolized by the "grotesque" wood of crucifixion, is united with divine love, redeeming pain into beauty, salvation, and ultimate victory over death. Jesus' cross is a product of the earth and we can speak of the earth supporting Jesus in the way of the cross, and receiving him into herself when he dies a painful, vulnerable death.

Prayer: Lord, the weight of the cross caused You to fall a third time. We, too, daunted by unbridled exploitation, fall to anguish and frustration. Give us the strength to rise again and again in our fight for social and climate justice. Amen

The Tenth Station - Jesus is stripped of his clothes

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world

We must continue to be aware that, regarding climate change, there are differentiated responsibilities. As the United States bishops have said, greater attention must be given to "the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests."³¹ We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference. - LS #52

Father Chaminade writing to the Marianist Lay Community of his day: *The Sodality is a society of fervent Christians, who in imitation of the Christians of the early Church, try by means of their frequent reunions to have but one heart and soul, to form one great family not only as children of God, brothers of Jesus Christ, members of his mystical body, but also as children of Mary by a special consecration to her service and by an open profession of faith in the doctrine of her Immaculate Conception - WJC, Greiner, p. 131¹¹*

We express our faith in action by Advocating for Climate Justice. Since Catholics number 18% of both the US and global population, our collective voice can effect change. Let us boldly use our privilege and voice, and overcome our fears in solidarity with our Founders. We can do this by policy awareness and participating in advocacy and people's campaigns. We pledge to increase our action by: Voting with conscience, after reflecting on the breadth of a candidate's stance on social teaching through the lens of Catholic social teaching. Participating in visits, calls, and writing letters to our legislators/elected officials; as well as comment periods, petitions and campaigns that advocate for just policies. - CCA, p.3

Commentary: Climate change accelerates topsoil erosion primarily through intensified, extreme weather events, such as heavy downpours and stronger winds, which physically detach and wash away or blow away fertile soil. Warmer temperatures also reduce soil organic matter, leaving the ground more vulnerable to erosion, with studies predicting an additional 8–21% increase in [soil loss by 2050](#).¹²

Prayer: Jesus, You were stripped of Your clothing and dignity. So, too, the earth is stripped of its minerals and nutrient rich topsoil. Help us to seek and develop a just transition to renewable forms of energy and to restrain our consumption so that the earth may be restored to its glorious bounty. Amen

The Eleventh Station - Jesus is nailed to the cross

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. - LS# 14

And how can we become truly humble without humiliations, obedient without being commanded, detached without the objects of attachment becoming tiresome to us, die to ourselves without feeling the pains of illness, finally, put on the new man without suffering the tearing off of the clothes of the old man stuck so strongly to our weak flesh? - MTL, Letter To Leprince, at Laval: July 30, 1819

Going Forth. As Marianists, disciples of Mary and partners in her mission, we are called to respond to the urgent signs of our times with audacious hope and transformative action. The environmental problems we face, from the climate crisis to the suffering of the vulnerable, cannot be met with indifference or mere words, but by heeding Mary's Cana invitation: "Do whatever he tells you." As we pray boldly, keep learning, form communities of encounter and solidarity, and courageously advocate for justice, we will enter into the dynamic faith and vision experienced by our Marianist Founders through their times of upheaval and uncertainty. We can live out our Marianist call, nurtured in contemplation, through our concrete intentional choices and daily commitments.
- CCA, p. # 3

Commentary: Climate change acts as a "[threat multiplier](#)"¹³ that intensifies, rather than directly causes, conflicts over dwindling natural resources like water and arable land. By causing droughts, desertification, and floods, climate change heightens competition for resources, particularly in fragile regions, often leading to migration-related tensions and localized violence.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, our misguided models of progress have blinded us to the wonder and sacred destiny of Your creation. Conflict over natural resources are the nails with which we crucify You over and over again. Forgive us our greed and awaken Your abiding presence in us. Amen

The Twelfth Station - Jesus dies on the cross

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world

Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power. Completely transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness.
- LS # 241

Oh my God! Of what can a religious complain? Is not her God everything for her? Come, let us call upon our courage; we are following the career of the saints. We must never abandon the sacred standard of the Cross. The Saints have preceded us, the route is traced, let us follow in their footsteps.
- ABT Letter#439 to Sr. Saint François Arnaudel, Tonneins, June 17, 1821

In the spirit of Mary and our Founders, let us not be daunted by the magnitude of the challenge, but be energized by the possibility of grace. The world is waiting for our response as we move as a Marianist family, from concern to courageous commitment. How will you answer the call? - CCA p# 4

Commentary: The crucifixion of Jesus is increasingly linked to climate change through theological, ecological, and ethical perspectives, where the destruction of the environment is viewed as a "crucified creation" or a form of modern ecocide. The cross is interpreted as a symbol of God's suffering with the earth, urging a compassionate, and actionable [response to environmental degradation](#)¹⁴.

Prayer: Jesus, by dying on the cross You surrender Your will to the Father so that we may have life. Help us, we pray, to surrender our indifference to the plight of people displaced from their homes by climate-induced floods, famine, and war. Amen.

The Thirteenth Station - Jesus is taken down from the cross

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world

Mary...is the mother and Queen of all creation. She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart and now understands the meaning of all things...In the meantime, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. - LS # 241, 244

Mary conceived us at Nazareth, but it was on Calvary, at the foot of the cross of the dying Jesus, that she gave us birth (see Jn 19: 25-27). This is the reason all the children of this divine Mother should commit themselves to this reunion of heart and Spirit on Calvary at three o'clock. - Institute of the Children of Mary¹⁵

For this reason our Founders/Animators encouraged all in the Marianist Family to remember the hour that our Savior gave his life for us; we are encouraged to remember this moment by praying the Three O'Clock Prayer.

Three O'Clock Prayer (Traditional version)¹⁶

Lord Jesus, we gather in spirit at the foot of the Cross
with your Mother and the disciple whom you loved.

We ask your pardon for our sins, which are the cause of your death.
We thank you for remembering us in that hour of salvation
and for giving us Mary as our Mother.

Holy Virgin, take us under your protection
and open us to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Saint John, obtain for us the grace of taking Mary into our lives as you did,
and of assisting her in her mission.

May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

The Fourteenth Station Resurrection, Pentecost and the Birth of the Church

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world

In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for "if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must inquire who gave it this beginning, and who was its Creator." Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. - LS #244

Let us prepare ourselves well for the coming of the Holy Spirit. We should find ourselves present in spirit at the various appearances of Jesus risen from the dead. Let us rendezvous on Sunday with the apostles to whom Jesus appeared when he said "Peace be with you". We shall imagine that we were there, hearing that sweet word. We shall form the resolution to live in peace with every one, whatever we have to suffer at other's hands - ABT Letter #37, to Agathe Diché, Agen, April 10, 1806)

Commentary: Climate scientist [Katharine Hayhoe](#)¹⁷ (article and video) advocates that hope in addressing climate change is not blind optimism, but a rational belief that a better future is possible through collective action. She emphasizes that fear paralyzes, whereas hope, combined with action and conversations, empowers people to adopt solutions.

Sending Forth Prayer - A Marianist Family Prayer for Ecological Conversion

O God, Creator of all, we praise you for the beauty of our common home.
You have entrusted us, your children, with the care of this sacred gift.
In the spirit of Blesseds William Joseph Chaminade, Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon (Mother Marie of the Conception), and Venerable Marie Therese de Lamorous,
we turn to you as a family, united in Mary's mission,
to build a global community where no one is left out.

We ask for the grace of ecological conversion.
Help us to hear the cries of the Earth, the poor, and our youth.
Free us from a throwaway culture and a mentality of indifference.
Guide our hearts to a new way of living justly, sustainability, and with respect for all Creation.
Empower us, like the servants at Cana, to "do whatever You tell us"
from the smallest daily acts to our collective actions.

Mary, walk with us and embolden us with courage and hope as we advocate
for the protection of our common home and all who depend on it.
In each encounter, may we, your Marianist Family, be instruments of your
peace and healing as together we build a resilient future for generations to come.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, and with the intercession of Mary,
the mother of all Creation, and our Marianist Founders, Amen.

- Laura Koonce, MSJC/MEEC Integral Ecology Team, CCA, p. 4

Reflection Questions

Suggested questions for pondering (individually) and for group sharing:

- 1) What moved in you or inspired you during these reflections?
- 2) How might you continue to walk and pray with our Marianist Founders/Animators, and *Laudato si* invitation to respond to the threefold cries of the poor, the earth and young people?
- 3) What next action step(s) might you take to nurture your ecological conversion and response to the *Call to action on the climate crisis*

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Notes

¹ Marie Thérèse Thoughts, Compiled by a member of the Sisters of Mary and Joseph of the Miséricorde. Translated from the French by Ben Dougherty, personal communication.

² How climate change impacts refugees and displaced communities. USA for UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency. <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/how-climate-change-impacts-refugees-and-displaced-communities/>

³ *Climate anxiety: Mental health experts' advice on coping with worries about climate change*. Unicef <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/mental-health/climate-anxiety>.

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