

# Marianist Reflections on Laudato Si' Action Platform Ecological Spirituality Goal

## Wisdom From Our Marianist Founders

*Should nature not draw our attention to the wisdom of the Creator? Look at the smallest blade of grass. Is there a human being skillful enough to make its life? Is there anyone else endowed with the power and authority to cause a grain of seed to multiply, as God does? Everything in nature sings of the grandeur of God.*

– Blessed Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon (Marie of the Conception)

## Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) Goal

*Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities. (LSAP #6)*

As Marianists, we strive to be present to the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth that yearn for healing and God’s saving presence. Like Mary recognizing that the wine had run out at Cana, we stay attentive to the needs of our brothers and sisters and those of all of creation. Seeing those needs and recognizing God’s Spirit at work, we are moved to action.

## Reflection Questions

1. Reflecting on the beauty and mystery of creation, is there a favorite spot in your local area that reminds you of God’s goodness and creative energy?
2. How do you stay attentive to the needs of God’s creation – both humans and all of nature – around you? How are you moved to do something about it?
3. When you listen to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth, what concerns you?
4. What action will you take to respond and deepen your ecological conversion?

## Mindfulness

Try to notice God’s presence in the environment you live in. Reflecting on your relationship with nature, what do you notice? Like Mary at Cana, do you see the needs of creation around you? Reflect on Mary’s words “do whatever he tells you”. How are you moved to respond? Do you fill the stone jars with water like the servants at Cana? Ask yourself, “what is mine to do when it comes to listening to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor? Do I see that all of God’s creation is good, and do I live that way?” Try to name a specific action you and your community can take to help repair the damage done to creation, to assist those who are economically disadvantaged and to deepen your own ongoing ecological conversion.

## Additional Resources for Individual and Group Reflection

### Reflection Prayer:

*THE OFFERING: Since once again, Lord - though this time not in the forests of the Aisne but in the steppes of Asia - I have neither bread, nor wine, nor altar, I will raise myself beyond these symbols, up to the pure majesty of the real itself; I, your priest, will make the whole earth my altar and on it will offer you all the labours and sufferings of the world. Over there, on the horizon, the sun has just touched with light the outermost fringe of the eastern sky. Once again, beneath this moving sheet of fire, the living surface of the earth wakes and trembles, and once again begins its fearful travail. I will place on my paten, O God, the harvest to be won by this renewal of labour. Into my chalice I shall pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from the earth's fruits (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, The Heart of Matter, location 2,084)*

### Resource:

*Lectio Divina in Creation:* <https://laudatosimovement.org/download/lectio-divina-in-creation/>

## 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://laudatosiplatform.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](http://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 Spirituality as a Marianist Encounters update:**  
[support@marianistencounters.org](mailto:support@marianistencounters.org)