

Marianist Reflections on Laudato Si' Action Platform Response to the Cry of the Earth Goal

Wisdom From Our Marianist Founders

...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.

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

Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) Goal

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.
(LSAP #1)

As Marianists, we listen and respond to the cry of our friend, the Earth. We strive to be aware of how our collective actions often harm ecosystems, straining the Earth's many species. We seek to root our friendship with the Earth in God and to understand the pain and suffering of our brother and sister species and degraded ecosystems. We work toward solidarity with the Earth's suffering and care for all humans, plants and animals that are affected by the ecological crisis.

Reflection Questions

1. How do you hear the cry of the Earth in your life? Where do you see the effects of the ecological crisis in your own local area or around the world?
2. Mother Adele calls us to lasting friendship. Do you think of yourself as a friend of the Earth? How does that friendship shape your decisions and actions?
3. Do you live in solidarity with the suffering of Mother Earth and all living beings, landforms and waters? How would you like to grow in living in greater solidarity with the Earth?
4. What action will you take to respond and deepen your ecological conversion?

Mindfulness

Mother Adele calls for an abiding friendship with others that is rooted in God. We must also live this way with our friend the Earth. Take a moment to breathe in the realization of life. Remember that all life on the Earth is a gift. Remember the presence of God. As you breathe in, recall the goodness of creation. Allow the unity of creation to deepen your empathy for all who suffer, including species whose ecosystems are threatened by environmental degradation. Breathe out your care as you recognize that all life on Earth is rooted in God. Pay attention to how the Spirit is speaking and how you are moved to respond to the Cry of the Earth.

Additional Resources for Individual and Group Reflection

Resource:

Netflix *Our Planet* series: <https://www.netflix.com/title/80049832>

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://laudatosiactionplatform.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 responding to the Cry of the Earth as a Marianist Encounters update:
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