

Marianist Reflections on Laudato Si' Action Platform Ecological Economics Goal

Wisdom From Our Marianist Founders

I am like a brook that makes no effort to overcome obstacles in its way. All the obstacles can do is hold me up for a while, as a brook is held up; but during that time it grows broader and deeper and after a while it overflows the obstruction and flows along again. This is how I am going to work.
– Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) Goal

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. (LSAP #3)

As Marianists, we seek to be attentive to the signs of our times. We recognize that the economic impact of our decisions affects other people and the earth's ecosystems, and we see that economic policies often under-value both. We are inspired to make decisions with the climate crisis in mind and to support policies with greater justice for all people and our living planet)

Reflection Questions

1. How do you consider the economic effects of your decisions? Do you think about the policies of corporations you support and your power to affect them as a consumer?
2. Consider an everyday item you purchase regularly, such as a cup of coffee. Would you pay more if it meant greater justice for the workers who made it for you and the environment that supported it? How much more would you pay?
3. Blessed Chaminade taught that challenges help us to grow “broader and deeper”, enabling us to overcome obstacles. What barriers to economic justice do you see? Do they help you to grow broader and deeper in your ability to respond to the climate crisis?
4. What action will you take to respond and deepen your ecological conversion?

Mindfulness

Reflect on how you are part of an economy that is connected to all of humanity and the entire integrity of Creation. Your choices affect everyone and everything. Do you consider that in the buying decisions you make, in the things you discard, and in the policies you support? The next time you are considering an impulse purchase, say a prayer. Do you really need this? How does this purchase affect other people and the environment? Pray for the wisdom to recognize your economic impact on the climate crisis and on vulnerable people and ecosystems all over the world.

Additional Resources for Individual and Group Reflection

Reflection Prayer: Reflect on these quotes from *Laudato Si'*: *We urgently need a humanism capable of bring together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision.... Today, in view of the common good, there is urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life* (#141,189)

Resource:

Kate Raworth TED Talk “A healthy economy should be designed to thrive, not grow”:

<https://youtu.be/Rhcrbcg8HBw>

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 exploring Ecological Economics as a Marianist Encounters update:

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