

Marianist Reflections on Laudato Si' Action Platform Community Resilience and Empowerment Goal

Wisdom From Our Marianist Founders

Why do new needs require new and greater help? ...Who is the wise person who does not see that the old levers that once moved our moral world now somehow need another fulcrum?

– Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) Goal

Community Resilience and Empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. (LSAP #7)

As Marianists, we strive to build communities of equals where all voices are included. Our spirituality moves us to recognize our brothers and sisters disproportionately affected by climate change and to work for the systemic change needed. We are inspired to advocate for justice at all levels, both as individuals and a community. Our emphasis on community enables us to build empowered and just communities among ourselves and for everyone. Our Marianist qualities of flexibility and adaptation help us be resilient and able to respond to difficult situations.

Reflection Questions

1. How has your participation in a community empowered you to advocate for justice, whether on a local or larger scale? How has being part of a community made you more resilient in facing the injustices you see around you?
2. Call to mind a community or place that you are familiar with that is affected by climate change impacts. How do other factors, such as socioeconomic privilege or injustices, affect this community's resilience when facing the climate crisis?
3. Father Chaminade taught that "new needs require new and great help." Where do you see opportunities for "another fulcrum" to better address the climate crisis?
4. What action will you take to respond and deepen your ecological conversion?

Mindfulness

Our Marianist founders were surrounded by systemic injustice, where society was in chaos and many people were imprisoned or executed. Yet they showed remarkable resilience, building communities and working for greater justice. Think of a community facing systemic injustice. What systemic wrongs do you see? The effects of injustice are often compounding. How does climate change make things worse for this community? Pray for this community, made up of our sisters and brothers in Christ, and listen carefully for what the Spirit is telling you right now.

Additional Resources for Individual and Group Reflection

Resource:

PBS News Hour “A Brief but Spectacular Take on Community Resiliency”:

<https://youtu.be/6TDNkuPOGFo>

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 Community Resilience and Empowerment as a Marianist Encounters update:
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