THE MARIST BROTHERS USA PROVINCE

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN

- 2026 -



INTRODUCTION:

In his 2015 Encyclical, Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home, Pope Francis states that "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (217). These words remind us that our call to care for creation is an essential part of Christian life and the life of the Church. In his 2023 Apostolic Exhortation, Laudate Deum, Pope Francis makes plain that this vocation requires the Church, at every level, to take bold, urgent, and faith-filled action.

The spirit of Laudato Si' has deep roots in the Marist charism, which emerged among rural Christians from the French countryside in the early 19th century. As Marists, we seek to embody what St. Marcellin Champagnat called a "simple and down-to-earth spirituality" grounded in the Four Pillars of Presence, Simplicity, Family Spirit, and Love of Work (WFR, n.23). We look to our own Brother François – the first Superior General of the Marist Brothers, and an herbalist and infirmarian – as an exemplar for what it means to live out this ecological spirituality.

Brother François spent his early life working on a farm, tending to sheep and lambs, nurturing a deep sensitivity to ecological spirituality. He advised the early Brothers to "watch, listen, and hear" to contemplate the natural world. He likened the heavens to "an immense temple that God has raised up for his glory" (Br. François, Notebook n. 303, p. [560]). He was attentive to the movement of leaves, the songs of birds, the fragrance of flowers, the behavior of animals, and the changing of seasons. He marveled at the profound bond between humans and nature, writing that, "Humans live on air and breathe it constantly" (Br. François, Notebook n. 303, p. [676]).

Brother François experienced God at work in nature. He once observed a farmer who, after planting seeds in the field, could only wait and hope for "the precious produce of the land," and for God to "send the rains of the first and last seasons" (Br. François, Personal Letters, T2. 1664, Notebook of Letters n. 7, p. 1076). He wrote that, "The study of medicine has led me to praise God, who has given healing power to different remedies" (Br. François, Notebook n. 301, p. [77]). Br. Francois recognized and praised God at work in planting, in the land and its produce, in the rains and the seasons, and in the healing properties of various herbs. Near the end of his life, he wrote: "God in everything; God everywhere; God alone, and my conscience as I face eternity" (Br. François, Notebook n. 302, p. [166]). Like St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology, Br. François invites us to see the goodness of God in all creatures.

In Laudato Si', Pope Francis connects ecological spirituality with a call to embrace "a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free from the obsession with consumption" (LS, 222). Br. François embodied this ethic in his own time, advising early Marist Brothers to, "Eat less and chew more to aid digestion and maintain health; this is a good recipe for healing or preventing illnesses" (Br. François, Notebook n. 301, p. [149]). He also reflected that, "Being a happy person, engaging in gentle exercises, and having modest meals are three reliable medicines" (Br. François, Notebook n. 301, p. [86]). Br. François believed that a healthy body and a sound spiritual life are achieved through moderation, temperance, and discipline—virtues essential for resisting consumerism and protecting Mother Earth.



CALL FROM OUR MARIST INSTITUTE

In light of the ecological crisis, The General Chapter calls Marists for an urgent change to "live based on an integral ecology (LS, ch. I)"; to move away from a culture shaped by "'ego-s' and adopt that of the 'eco-s' (ecology, ecosystems, and economy of solidarity)." We must "awaken in ourselves and those around us an ecological awareness that engages us in caring for 'our common home'"

(From the Message of the 22nd General Chapter in 2017)

USA PROVINCE

In response to this call, and with firm trust in the work of the Holy Spirit, the Marist Brothers USA continues its commitment to Laudato Si' through its Province-wide Laudato Si' Action Plan. The plan is comprised of three main components: 1) Province Commitments; 2) Laudato Si' Action Plans from all USA Marist ministries; and 3) Laudato Si' Action Plans from all USA Communities.

The Province is committed to living the 7 goals of Laudato Si in the following ways:

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

- The Province will promote sustainable lifestyles and best practices among all its communities and Marist Ministries.
- All Province Team Members and individual Marist Communities will participate in our recently established Carbon Offset Program.
    - In 2024, we announced our Marist Brothers USA Carbon Offset Program to help compensate for the environmental costs of travel in solidarity with the Laudato Si' Action Platform. With the help of the Catholic Climate Covenant, this program is an effort to work toward a Net Zero Emissions pathway for the Province. All Province staff are currently logging their car and air travel emissions annually which subsequently is now being offset by the planting of trees across the Province.
- The Province is committed to annually donating to programs which directly respond to the Cry of the Earth, including The MBCE, Blue Missions, and Magnificat Farm.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

- The Province will promote annual Marist Solidarity Projects which will raise needed awareness among all in our Province about how our Marist Institute is responding to many of our poorest and most marginalized Brothers and Sisters. Our Solidarity efforts will also raise needed funds annually to support these worthy projects.
- The Province will continue to support the MBCE and its Mid-Hudson Valley Camps which serve many of the most marginalized populations in our country, including mentally and physically disabled persons, children with cancer, and impoverished children living in our inner cities.
- The Province will promote and support opportunities for all Province Members including Marists of Champagnat and young people to directly serve those most in need by means of volunteer opportunities including immersion experiences and Mission trips.
- The Province will continue to support two Marist Brothers from our Missionary Areas to avail of post graduate degrees at Marist College.

- The Province is committed to continue to directly and indirectly work with and support immigrants, refugees and migrants in all possible ways such as our current work in El Paso and Brownsville.
- The Province is committed to continue to provide needed assistance and relief to communities during emergency disasters such as our efforts to the victims of the earthquake in Syria in 2023, victims of devastating flooding in Eastern Kentucky in 2024, victims of the fires in California this year.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

- The Province will ensure that its Finance and Investment Teams utilize the Best Practices of Catholic Social Teaching and its Guidelines in all Financial matters.
- Likewise, each of our Marist Ministries will utilize similar Guidelines.
- The Provincial Council is committed to utilizing appropriate Province financial resources to needed Marist Programs that promote the goals of Laudato Si, such as support for an annual Earth Day Weekend, Ecology Grants to Marist Schools, donations to Marist Solidarity Projects, etc.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

- As stated in Wherever You Go, our Marist Brothers Rule of Life (18), "Assume a simple and sober style of life and protect life in all of creation. Care for nature, be actively concerned about the environment, defend those who are poor and promote human development."
- As Marists we are called to live a spirituality of Simplicity and, like St. Marcellin Champagnat, to respond to the signs of our times. We commit ourselves to adopting simple and sustainable lifestyles so that we might better care for our Common Home and more profoundly witness such values to all who enter our lives, especially young people.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

- The Province will provide resources to all USA Marist Schools on promoting Ecological Education (see USA Marist Integral Ecology Resources) as well as how to teach the principles of Laudato Si' across school curricula.
- The Province is committed to sponsoring an annual Earth Day weekend in Esopus to inspire young people from our ten USA Marist Schools to become leaders in our Marist Ecology efforts
- The Province is committed to employing Mr. Sam King as the Province-wide Ecology Coordinator and to utilize his gifts and deep passion and knowledge in the area of Ecology as a resource to all USA Marist Ministries.
- The Province Coordinator of Ecology will work with our other USA Marist Ministries to assist them in developing ways they can promote ecological learning to the young people each of those ministries serve.
- The Province will offer Ecology Resources through its weekly Province Newsletter, Friday Notes.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

- The Province will promote Ecological Spirituality by sharing appropriate reflective readings in its monthly Religious Calendar.
- The Province will provide Ecologically themed Prayer Services on special occasions such as the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Earth Day, Laudato Si Week, the Season of Creation, etc.
- The Province will offer Ecology Resources including spiritual reflections through its weekly Province Newsletter, Friday Notes.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

- The Province will engage young people and adults, who have a deep passion for ecology, from across the USA Province to be part of the Province Green Team, which will serve as an ecological think tank for the Province and assist the Province to move forward in its commitment to the Principles of Laudato Si'.
- The Province is committed to providing annual Ecology Grants to each of our Marist Schools to empower young people to creatively embrace the principles of Laudato Si' with new ecological initiatives on their local level.
- The Province will engage with Marist Ecological efforts within our Arco Norte Region as well as with the wider Institute.
- The Province will, when possible, engage with other Ecological organizations such as the Catholic Climate Covenant and the Laudato Si' Movement.

Province Plans

The second dimension of the plan calls for Province Leadership to work with all USA Marist ministries and communities to ensure they develop local Laudato Si' Action Plans. These plans articulate how each community, in its own context and with God's people, plans to pursue the Seven Goals of Laudato Si' in simple and profound ways. All plans can be found in the pages that follow.

The Laudato Si' Action Planning Process

Bearing in mind the diversity of ministries and communities across the Province, the Laudato Si' planning process aims to create a simple process in which all ministries and communities could participate.

Laudato Si' Action Platform and the Seven Goals of Laudato Si'

The Marist Brothers USA is enrolled in the Laudato Si' Action Platform and requested that each individual USA Marist Ministry and Marist community enroll as well. The Laudato Si' Action Platform is an initiative of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development with the goal of helping create Laudato Si' Action Plans based on the Seven Goals of Laudato Si.'

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

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.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

The response to the cry of the poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on earth.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

Ecological economics acknowledges that the economy plays an important role in protecting the well-being of our common home. Actions could include purchasing sustainably produced goods, ethical investments, and protecting the dignity of workers.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

The adoption of sustainable lifestyles is grounded in the idea that in our personal lives and in communal life, we can make intentional choices regarding our use of resources and energy that can promote the well-being of the planet.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

Ecological education prioritizes formation and educational opportunities that promote ecological awareness and transformative action.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

Ecological spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to discover God in all things.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

Community resilience and empowerment promotes active and conscious involvement and participatory action to care for creation at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

The Province Plan Format

Informed by a community assessment and listening session, each community plan is comprised of two main elements: the Laudato Si' Statement and Commitments for all USA Marist schools and communities. The Community Laudato Si Statement articulates why caring for creation is important to that individual community. The Community Commitments are new or continued tangible undertakings discerned by the local teams of each Marist Ministry or local Marist community. Local teams were asked to follow the acronym SMART when developing their commitments: they should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant to the Goals of Laudato Si', and Time-bound. Having measurable goals with timeframes will help each community monitor their progress and, each year during the Season of Creation, update and evaluate their plans.

Contact: Sam King
Email: s.king@yale.edu

MARIST USA COMMUNITIES

LEAVITT STREET

10114 South Leavitt Street, Chicago, IL 60643

Community Laudato Si' Statement:
As Marist Brothers, we recognize care for creation as part of our commitment to simplicity and care for our common home. At Leavitt Street, we express this commitment through responsible use of energy and resources, recycling, and support for ecological education and advocacy. Our daily choices help us put the principles of Laudato Si' into practice in community life.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Continue reporting carbon dioxide emissions, measured in kilograms of CO_2, associated with our car use and other travel.
  - Timeframe: Current and ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: All community members, Br. Hank and Br. John

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

*No specific commitment provided.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Continue participating in the Nexamp community solar initiative associated with Commonwealth Edison. The community reports an annual cost of approximately $1,250, compared with approximately $2,100 for its regular Commonwealth Edison service.
  - Timeframe: Current and ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: All community members, Br. Hank and Br. John

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Continue participating in the City of Chicago's recycling program for paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastic, and wood.
  - Timeframe: Current and ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: All community members, Br. Hank and Br. John
- **Commitment:** Continue removing coffee grounds from K-cups before recycling the cups.
  - Timeframe: Current and ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: All community members, Br. Hank and Br. John
- **Commitment:** Continue using a programmed thermostat to lower the house temperature during the heating season when no one is home.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: All community members, Br. Hank and Br. John
- **Commitment:** Conserve water and energy by running the dishwasher only when full and using the energy-saving cycles on both the dishwasher and clothes washer.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: All community members, Br. Hank and Br. John
- **Commitment:** Continue using the battery-operated lawn mower purchased to replace the community's gas-powered mower.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: All community members, Br. Hank and Br. John

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Continue learning about ecological issues in Illinois through membership in Environment Illinois and the information it provides.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing membership
  - Person or Group Responsible: Leavitt Street community

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

*No specific commitment provided.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Continue supporting ecological advocacy in Illinois through membership in Environment Illinois, including financial support.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing membership and support
  - Person or Group Responsible: Leavitt Street community

Laudato Si' Action Team

- Coordinator:
- Team Members:

ARCHBISHOP MOLLOY HIGH SCHOOL

83-53 Manton St, Briarwood, NY 11435

School Laudato Si' Statement: Care of Creation is important to the Archbishop Molloy Community because the Earth is our common home and caring for it means caring for all the people, plants, and animals within it. At Molloy, we seek justice for all, especially the marginalized, and caring for all creation ensures the problems and challenges of all people are addressed. We commit to making Care for Creation a part of our school identity and to engage in Province wide efforts as well as local efforts to protect our Common Home

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Recycling efforts overseen by Molloy's I Am Green Team, which include local beach clean-ups, recycling within the school.
  - Timeframe: Club meets monthly
  - Person or Group Responsible: Chris Dougherty, Rich Costa

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Mission trips, Annual food and clothing drives during Thanksgiving and Christmas, other fundraisers for people in need. Opportunities to serve the homeless community
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry Team
- **Commitment:** To Continue to participate in Province-wide Solidarity efforts which annually raises awareness of many of our poorest and most marginalized Marist Projects in the world as well as raise needed funds to support those Projects
  - Timeframe: Annually
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry Team
- **Commitment:** Continued opportunities for students to volunteer at the Mid-Hudson Valley Camps in Esopus which serves many of our most marginalized populations including children, young adults and adults with mental and physical disabilities, children with cancer, and inner city children.
  - Timeframe: Each Summer
  - Person or Group Responsible: Local Esopus Camp Coordinators (Jim Sheldon)

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Molloy's Endowment Fund and Investments are in line with Catholic Social Teaching guidelines.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School President and School Finance and Investment Teams

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Cafeteria efforts, Water refilling station throughout the building, St. Anne's garden, LED Lighting throughout the building, new outdoor learning space, Bee keeping efforts
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Facility Staff

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** All students come to know the 7 principles of Laudato Si through the school's Religion curriculum. (Religion Chairperson)
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Religion Chairperson and Department Members

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Ecologically themed prayer services are utilized throughout the year on such occasions as the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Laudato Si Week, Earth Day, Season of Creation, etc.
  - Timeframe: As-needed
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry, School liturgy committee

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Faculty and Student leaders are encouraged to be part of the Province Green Team; Student leaders formulate ideas to apply for annual Province Ecology Grants and coordinate efforts to implement those Grants at Molloy
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Rich Costa

Laudato Si' Action Team

- Coordinator**:** Rich Costa
- Team Members**:** Chris Dougherty, Matt Corrado, Student Green Team Members

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

3000 SW 87th Avenue. Miami, FL 33165

School Laudato Si' Statement: Care of Creation is important to the entire Christopher Columbus Explorers Community because the Earth is our common home and caring for it means caring for all the people, plants, and animals within it. At Columbus, we seek justice for all, especially the marginalized, and caring for all creation ensures the problems and challenges of all people are addressed. We commit to making Care for Creation a part of our school identity and to engage in Province wide efforts as well as local efforts to protect our Common Home.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** To continue to embrace the comprehensive circular economy recycling program that was established at Columbus in 2024. Through this program all plastic waste collected at the school is tracked and subsequently re-introduced to Columbus as repurposed plastic in the form of lanyards, sportswear and other needed items.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Administration
- **Commitment:** To embrace recycling with collection of aluminum cans through our partnership with a local upcycling company. Through this program all aluminum can waste collected at the school is tracked and donated to a company that recycles the aluminum into new products.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Administration

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** To continue to provide opportunities for students to participate in Blue Missions and other Mission trips; Opportunities to serve others through the school's extensive Service Program with such activities as Special Olympic events, Junior Day of Service, Children's Hospital toy and food drive, distributing diabetes kits to the homeless, holiday events for children in the foster care system, etc.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry Team, Director of Service Outreach Programs, MAS Program
- **Commitment:** To continue to participate in Province-wide Solidarity efforts which annually raises awareness of many of our poorest and most marginalized Marist Projects in the world as well as raise needed funds to support those projects.
  - Timeframe: Annually
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Administration, Campus Ministry Team

- **Commitment:** Continued opportunities for students to volunteer at the Mid Hudson Valley Camps in Esopus which serves many of our most marginalized populations including children, young adults and adults with mental and physical disabilities, children with cancer, and inner city children.
  - Timeframe: Each Summer
  - Person or Group Responsible: Local Esopus Camp Coordinators (Br. Al Rivera, Br. Peter Guadalupe, Br. Robert Dittus).

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Christopher Columbus' Endowment Fund and other investments are in-line with Catholic Social Teaching guidelines.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School President and School Finance and Investment Teams

- **Commitment:** Christopher Columbus is committed to the implementation of a Sustainable Procurement Policy which will ensure the school's reduction of waste generation and landfill dependence; Support suppliers that prioritize ethical labor practices, environmental stewardship, and local economic resilience; and Model environmental leadership in education and practice for our students, staff, and broader community.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Administration, School Board Members, Ms. Christine Taylor

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Christopher Columbus will continue to ensure that all new construction will meet the standards of being certified as Gold LEED buildings.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Facility Staff

- **Commitment:** Christopher Columbus will continue to expand its breakthrough circular economy recycling program and incorporate the recycling of aluminium cans.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Facilities Department, Ms. Christine Taylor

- **Commitment:** Christopher Columbus will continue to expand its commitment to ecological sustainability by maintaining its many water refilling stations, solar powered charging stations across campus, and LED Lighting throughout the campus.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Administration and Facilities Department

- **Commitment:** As Christopher Columbus continues to plan for future building and campus improvements, it commits to expanding its natural green space.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Administration, School Board, and Facilities Department

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** All students come to know the 7 principles of Laudato Si through the school's Religion curriculum beginning with the incorporation freshman year of a capstone project that focuses on the scriptural components and culminates senior year with a social justice project.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Religion Chairperson and Department Members
- **Commitment:** Columbus will continue to expand opportunities for students to avail of courses in Environmental Science.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Religion Chairperson and Department Members

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Ecologically themed prayer services are utilized throughout the year on such occasions as the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Laudato Si Week, Earth Day, Season of Creation, etc.
  - Timeframe: As-needed
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry Team

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Faculty and Student leaders are encouraged to be part of the Province Green Team; Student leaders formulate ideas to apply for annual Province Ecology Grants and coordinate efforts to implement those grants at Christopher Columbus.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Ms. Christine Taylor

Laudato Si' Action Team

- Coordinator**:** Ms. Christine Taylor
- Team Members**:** Sustainability Task Force members - Keith Crossman, Eric Pino, Mercy Aycart, Cristina Cruz, Dr. Diana Gonzalez-Eastep

MARIST BROTHERS CENTER

1455 Broadway. Esopus, NY 12429

MARIST BROTHERS CENTER AT ESOPUS
MID-HUDSON VALLEY CAMP

Laudato Si' Statement: Care of Creation is important to the MBCE because the Earth is our common home and caring for it means caring for all the people, plants, and animals within it. At the MBCE, we seek justice for all, especially the marginalized, and caring for all creation ensures the problems and challenges of all people are addressed. We commit to making Care for Creation a part of our Vision and to be a sacred space for all members of our Province who utilize the MBCE each year.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** To continue to offset the carbon crisis through the strategic planting of new trees on an annual basis
  - Timeframe: Club meets monthly
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** To continue to provide week-long camps for each of the marginalized communities that are served each summer
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: MBCE Team, Mid-Hudson Valley Camp Directors
- **Commitment:** To provide continued opportunities for students from All Marist Schools to volunteer at the Mid-Hudson Valley Camps in Esopus which serves many of our most marginalized populations including children, young adults and adults with mental and physical disabilities, children with cancer, and inner city children
  - Timeframe: Each Summer
  - Person or Group Responsible: MBCE Team, Mid-Hudson Valley Camp Directors

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** The MBCE's Endowment Fund and Investments will continue to be in line with Catholic Social Teaching guidelines
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: MBCE Finance and Investment Teams

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** The MBCE will continue to upgrade its facilities with environmentally friendly heating and cooling systems and move away from the long standing oil based system
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan, MBCE Building and Grounds Committee.
- **Commitment:** The MBCE will continue to ensure that LED Lighting is utilized throughout the entire MBCE Facilities
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan, MBCE Building and Grounds Committee.
- **Commitment:** The MBCE will continue to expand its usage of solar based energy when possible and practical
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan, MBCE Building and Grounds Committee.
- **Commitment**: The MBCE will commit to expand the use of Water refilling stations throughout the entire MBCE Facilities
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan, MBCE Building and Grounds Committee.
- **Commitment**: The MBCE will commit to expand its recycling efforts and seek a more sustainable way to utilize food waste
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan, MBCE Team
- **Commitment**: The MBCE will continue to utilize the unused food from retreat groups or camps and share with local homeless shelters on a timely basis
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: MBCE Staff

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** The MBCE will continue to host such ecological educational programs as the annual Province Earth Day weekend
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan, Province Green Team Members

- **Commitment:** The MBCE will implement an educational series on local ecological interests for interested visitors to the property and share these via simple QR codes distributed in key locations on the property such as adjacent to the Hudson River, near the permanent eagles' nest on the property, or adjoining native plants or trees
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan, Province Green Team Members
- **Commitment**: The MBCE will develop a simple fact sheet on sustainable efforts at the MBCE and circulate this information at key locations on the property such as in bedrooms, scullery, bathrooms, etc.
  - Timeframe:
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan, Province Green Team Members

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** The MBCE will grow its efforts to ensure all retreat participants gain greater appreciation of the sacred grounds of the MBCE and wider connection to our Common Home
  - Timeframe: As-needed
  - Person or Group Responsible: MBCE Team
- **Commitment:** The MBCE will ensure reflective books and materials on Ecological Spirituality as well as other Spirituality topics are readily available to individuals on retreats
  - Timeframe:
  - Person or Group Responsible:

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** The MBCE will continue to host the annual Province Earth Day weekend as a means of empowering young people to become servant leaders in this most needed area
  - Timeframe:
  - Person or Group Responsible: Tomas O'Riordan and Province Green Team
- **Commitment:** The MBCE will build relationships with local Ecology-based agencies such as Hudson Riverkeepers and explore ways of possible collaboration.
  - Timeframe:
  - Person or Group Responsible:

Laudato Si' Action Team

- Coordinator: Tomas O'Riordan
- Team Members: MBCE Staff

MARIST HIGH SCHOOL

4200 W 115th Street. Chicago, IL 60655

School Laudato Si' Statement:

Marist High School is committed to ensuring that all people, and the earth, have, and work toward, the good that is God's intention for us.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We are committed to sustainability by embracing renewable energy through the installation of solar panels, consistently offering plant-based protein options in our café and at adult events, and ensuring that all food service utilizes reusable or compostable products across our locations and gatherings.
  - Timeframe: 2025/2026 school year, ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Finance & Plant, Cafeteria, Business
- **Commitment:** We are committed to caring for creation by promoting biodiversity through sustainable lawn care and no-mow areas, deepening awareness of global and local water concerns, and engaging in mission trips and fundraisers—such as support for the Marist Alumni–founded Blue Missions—that address water justice. Through education, including a Spring Break credit course, we will foster advocacy and action for the protection of this vital resource.
  - Timeframe: 2026/2027 school year
  - Person or Group Responsible: Finance & Plant, Athletics, Campus Ministry, Curriculum

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We commit to feeding the hungry through service at "Almost Home," Thanksgiving food drives, and food pantries such as those at Lighthouse Church and Lazarus House in Lawrence, MA. We pledge to continue participating in Province-wide solidarity efforts, ensuring that our mission reflects a consistent care for those most in need.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry, Administration, Religious Studies

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We are committed to ecological economies by promoting sustainable production and consumption practices: replacing paper towel dispensers with energy-efficient hand dryers and making eco-friendly investment and divestment choices. Embracing the principles of a circular economy, we will support local businesses for uniform purchasing, host biannual uniform resale events to extend the life of student clothing, and provide a formal wear resale opportunity to reduce waste and foster responsible consumption.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Board of Directors, Finance

- **Commitment:** We commit to reducing our environmental impact by auditing the amount of plastics used in our school, working to eliminate single-use plastics, and beginning in 2025–26 the transition toward compostable alternatives through intentional planning and conversation.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Finance & Plant

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We commit to adopting sustainable lifestyles by expanding recycling, observing Meatless Fridays throughout the year, and encouraging greener transportation through Bike to School Days and more accessible bike racks. We will reduce unnecessary consumption by offering stickers instead of T-shirts at events, remain mindful of energy use by turning off lights and projectors when rooms are not in use, and continue to integrate sustainable agriculture practices as part of our care for the Earth.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Facility Staff

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We commit to ecological education that forms the whole person by inviting every academic department to identify where integral ecology can be emphasized across the curriculum. We will empower student leadership through presentations to incoming freshmen that share our Laudato Si' work, goals, and identity as an LS school. In solidarity with our wider Province efforts, we will integrate learning, advocacy, and action so that care for people and care for our common home are woven through all we teach and practice.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry, Curriculum, Administration

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We commit to nurturing ecological spirituality by developing a retreat centered on integral ecology; celebrating prayer services on the Laudato Si' anniversary and the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi; including prayers for the earth at every Mass and prayer service; and incorporating Laudato Si' prayers into our daily, school-wide prayer—so that care for our common home is woven into our worship and formation.
  - Timeframe: Annually
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry, Religious Studies

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We commit to shaping our school culture so that all decisions and actions are viewed through the lens of integral ecology. As part of this vision, we will actively engage in service with the Edna White Community Garden and the Major Taylor Trail Keepers, linking our local volunteer efforts with our broader call to care for creation and community.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Admissions, Administration, All Stakeholders

Laudato Si' Action Team

- Coordinator**:**
- Team Members**:**

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

300 Hampshire Street. Lawrence, MA 01841

Laudato Si' Statement: Care of Creation is important to the Central Catholic Community because the Earth is our common home and caring for it means caring for all the people, plants, and animals within it. At Central Catholic, we seek justice for all, especially the marginalized, and caring for all creation ensures the problems and challenges of all people are addressed. We commit to making Care for Creation a part of our school identity and to engage in Province wide efforts as well as local efforts to protect our Common Home.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Renewed partnership with the City of Lawrence to ensure comprehensive and school-wide recycling efforts.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Edwin Candelario and Facilities staff in partnership with school leadership and the School Green Team
- **Commitment:** Expanding Service Opportunities for students to include environmental efforts, including maintaining the Spicket Riverbank that borders the campus.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Maureen Shanahan and Campus Ministry team

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** To continue to provide opportunities for students to participate in Mission Service Trips, as well as continuing and expanding our current service requirement for graduation. We will continue our partnership with Lazarus House Ministries and continue with events such as Hoops and Scoops Charity Basketball Event, Annual Christmas Project as well as food and clothing drives.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing/Annual
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry Team and School Administration
- **Commitment:** To continue to participate in Province-wide Solidarity efforts which annually raises awareness of many of our poorest and most marginalized Marist Projects in the world as well as raise needed funds to support those projects.
  - Timeframe: Annually
  - Person or Group Responsible: School Administration, Campus Ministry Team

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Central Catholic's Endowment Fund and other investments are in-line with Catholic Social Teaching guidelines.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: School President and School Finance and Investment Committee

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Maintenance and upkeep of the Champagnat Peace Garden and outdoor learning amphitheater, dedicating this year's Walk funds to freestanding re-fillable water stations and LED lighting on campus.
  - Timeframe: Water stations (second semester), the rest- ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Edwin Candelario, Bob Hebert, Zach Blaszak, Institutional Advancement Team, School Facilities Team

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** All students come to know the 7 principles of Laudato Si through the school's Religion curriculum. (Religion Chairperson)
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Religion Chairperson and Department Members

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Ecologically themed prayer services are utilized throughout the year on such occasions as the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Laudato Si Week, Earth Day, Season of Creation, etc.
  - Timeframe: As needed
  - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry Team

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Faculty and students are encouraged to be part of the Province Green Team and the School's Green Team; Student leaders formulate ideas to apply for annual Province Ecology Grants and coordinate efforts to implement those grants at Central Catholic.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Chris Sullivan and Heather Angell

Laudato Si' Action Team

- Coordinator**:** Heather Angell
- Team Members**:** Chris Sullivan, Edwin Candelario, Student Green Team Members

SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

101 Saint Joseph Drive. Brownsville, TX 78520

Laudato Si' Statement: Guided by the Marist charism and the mission of Saint Joseph Academy, we embrace Pope Francis' call in Laudato Si' to care for our common home as an essential part of our faith and discipleship.

We commit ourselves to forming young men and women who recognize creation as a gift from God, who will act as responsible environmental stewards, and who will respond with compassion to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth.

Rooted in the love of Jesus and animated by the Church's preferential option for the poor, we will cultivate in our students a deep ecological awareness, integrate sustainable practices as much as possible into our daily lives, and encourage active participation in service and advocacy for the most vulnerable in our community and in the lower Rio Grande Valley. In doing so, we will prepare our students not only to excel in higher education but also to lead lives of faith, justice, and always Care for Our Common Home.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Recycling efforts overseen by the school's Bio Green Team which include participating in local beach clean-ups and recycling within the school. For recycling within the school, the Bio Green Team works with RedFish Recycling, a local recycling company. A subsidiary of Marck Industries Inc., RedFish Recycling has 20 years of recycling and waste management experience and expertise.
  - Timeframe: Bi-biweekly/as-needed.
  - Person or Group Responsible: Luis Jaime Peña – Bio Green Team Moderator, Rose Timmer & Marija Jette - Redfish Recycling

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Mission trips, annual food and clothing drives during Thanksgiving and Christmas, other fundraisers for people in need. Opportunities to serve the homeless community.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Ryan Richter, Daniela Solis – Campus Ministry & Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor
- **Commitment:** Continue to participate in efforts which annually raise awareness of many of our poorest and most marginalized Marist Projects in the world as well as raise needed funds to support those Projects.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Ryan Richter, Daniela Solis – Campus Ministry & Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Sustainable Facilities Planning Initiatives: SJA's Buildings & Grounds Committee is collaborating with an architect and engineer to incorporate environmentally responsible design into campus upgrades. Plans include transitioning to energy-efficient systems, integrating sustainable building materials, and implementing strategies for water conservation—all with the goal of improving energy performance and minimizing environmental impact. These initiatives are outlined in SJA's five-year strategic plan.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Melissa Valadez - School President, School Finance and Investment Teams

- **Commitment:** Resaca Restoration Project: This ecological restoration initiative—conducted in partnership with the City of Brownsville—will reinforce SJA's resaca shoreline by installing a retaining wall and planting native trees, helping to stabilize the area, prevent erosion, and promote biodiversity along the campus waterway.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Melissa Valadez - School President, School Finance and Investment Teams

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Community Garden: Saint Joseph Academy has established a campus vegetable garden as a hands-on learning opportunity for students. Vegetable gardens, when approached with a spirit of stewardship and integral ecology, can be powerful tools for embodying the principles of Laudato Si'. This initiative not only provides educational experiences in environmental stewardship, science, and history, but may also serve the wider community by donating fresh produce to those in need. Through this garden, students actively engage in caring for creation while supporting the hungry with the fruits of their labor.
  - Timeframe: Seasonal (Fall)
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor, Nancy Martinez and Amanda Siyanbade – Café Coordinators, Luis Jaime Peña – Bio Green Team Moderator

- **Commitment:** Campus-Wide Plastic Reduction Initiatives: SJA's cafeteria, the Bloodhound Café, will eliminate the sale of beverages in single-use plastic containers. In conjunction, the school's lunch program will provide a reusable water bottle to each student enrolled, replacing the daily distribution of plastic bottles. These two actions alone are projected to reduce plastic waste by approximately 150–200 bottles per day.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor, Nancy Martinez and Amanda Siyanbade – Café Coordinators, Luis Jaime Peña – Bio Green Team Moderator

- **Commitment:** Enhanced Water Refill Infrastructure: To support the school's efforts in reducing single-use plastics, an additional water refill station will be installed in the Brother Francis Garza Student Center. In parallel, the Athletic Booster Club has funded a 30-gallon mobile hydration system for school athletic teams, further minimizing the reliance on individual bottled water during practices and games.
  - Timeframe: Phase 1 (planning) in progress
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor, Nancy Martinez and Amanda Siyanbade – Café Coordinators, Luis Jaime Peña – Bio Green Team Moderator

- **Commitment:** Stewardship of Natural Spaces: The Bio Green Team will coordinate efforts to plant xeriscape and pollinator gardens, as well as incorporate wildlife-friendly landscapes and garden spaces to attain Certified Wildlife Habitat recognition from the National Wildlife Federation and Best of Texas Backyard Habitat certification from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This, along with the development of policies and priorities to preserve the natural landscape that surrounds and defines our campus - outlined in SJA's five-year strategic plan, will ensure that future planning and development decisions safeguard the environmental integrity of Saint Joseph Academy's grounds for generations to come.
  - Timeframe: Phase 1 (planning) in progress
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor, Nancy Martinez and Amanda Siyanbade – Café Coordinators, Luis Jaime Peña – Bio Green Team Moderator

- **Commitment:** Outdoor learning spaces: Areas on school grounds have been designated for lessons, discussions, and collaborative activities, providing a natural environment for learning across various subjects.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor, Nancy Martinez and Amanda Siyanbade – Café Coordinators, Luis Jaime Peña – Bio Green Team Moderator

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Saint Joseph Academy will continue offering a unique religious studies program, Spiritual Ecology, that engages students in a theological exploration of environmental stewardship. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, climate science, and the writings of Pope Francis—Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum—this program empowersstudents to "read the signs of the times," as called for by the Second Vatican Council, the USCCB, and the Marist Brothers. The curriculum equips students with the knowledge and spiritual grounding to understand the climate crisis, discern personal, institutional, and global responses that reflect care for our common home, and be able to share the "care for our common home" message through Laudato Si' presentations, so that all SJA students come to know the 7 principles of Laudato Si'.
  - Timeframe: 2025-2026 School Year
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Ecologically-themed prayer services will be utilized throughout the year on such occasions as the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Laudato Si' Week, Earth Day, etc.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing / 2025-2026 School Year
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Ryan Richter, Daniela Solis – Campus Ministry & Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor, Joseph LoGiudice – Student Activities Director, Luis Jaime Peña – Bio Green Team Moderator

- **Commitment**: Developed by the school's Student Council under the guidance of the Student Activities Director and with input from the Bio Green Club, ecologically-themed activities will be established throughout the year as part of celebrations (pep rallies and Trashion Show), retreats, and formation programs.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing / 2025-2026 School Year
  - Person or Group Responsible: Brother Ryan Richter, Daniela Solis – Campus Ministry & Brother Sam Amos – Spiritual Ecology Instructor, Joseph LoGiudice – Student Activities Director, Luis Jaime Peña – Bio Green Team Moderator

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Faculty and student leaders are encouraged to be part of the school's Bio Green Team.
  - Timeframe: Federal Fiscal Year: October 1 to September 30, Texas State Fiscal Year: September 1 to August 31
  - Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

- **Commitment**: Student leaders will formulate ideas to apply for Wildlife, Environmental, and Ecology Grants, and coordinating efforts to incorporate and implement those grants in Saint Joseph Academy's Laudato Si' Action Plan.
  - Timeframe: Federal Fiscal Year: October 1 to September 30, Texas State Fiscal Year: September 1 to August 31
  - Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

- **Commitment:** Saint Joseph Academy will continue working together with organizations focused on education and wildlife conservation such as Sea Turtle, Inc., Gladys Porter Zoo, and Texas State Aquarium.
  - Timeframe: Federal Fiscal Year: October 1 to September 30, Texas State Fiscal Year: September 1 to August 31
  - Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

Additional Actions:

Various other school organizations and service projects work synergistically with those directly involved in SJA's commitment to the previously mentioned efforts to embrace the Laudato Si' Goals; carrying out actions that complement those outlined above, enhancing the overall outcome.

- **Marist Day of Service** - SJA students and Faculty, through the Marist Youth Leadership Team, serve the community by helping organizations such as the Brownsville Animal Shelter, the Brownsville Wellness Coalition, and the Brownsville Farmers' Market, among many others.
- **Good Neighbor Service Project** - Throughout the year, SJA students extend a helping hand, dedicating their time to volunteer at the Good Neighbor Settlement House, a nonprofit organization committed to uplifting the vulnerable members of our community. As part of their involvement with school organizations and clubs (such as Marist Youth, the Call to Ministry (CTM) class, and the Rotary Interact Club), students actively participate in preparing and serving meals, contributing invaluable assistance to the patrons of this vital community resource.
- **Scripture Club Activities** – By deepening their understanding of scripture and its relevance in our lives today, students in this club (7th to 12th grade), may become mindful stewards of God's creation in daily life. Students come to understand that caring for the Earth is an essential aspect of Christian faith and a way to protect the dignity of all, especially the poor and vulnerable who are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation, and use that understanding to organize and engage in activities that reach out to our community and assist in feeding the poor.

<u>Laudato Si' Action Team</u>

Brother Sam Amos –Spiritual Ecology Instructor

Joseph LoGiudice – Student Activities Director

Nancy Martinez – Café Coordinator

Luis Jaime Peña – Biology Instructor and Bio Green Team Moderator

Brother Ryan Richter – Campus Minister

Amanda Siyanbade – Café Coordinator

Celeste Solis – Social Justice Educator and Marist Youth Co-Moderator

Daniela Solis – Associate Campus Minister and Service Coordinator

Melissa Valadez – School President



MONSIGNOR EDWARD PACE HIGH SCHOOL

15600 NW 32nd Ave. Miami Gardens, FL 33054

School Laudato Si' Statement:
Care of Creation is important to the entire Monsignor Edward Pace family because the Earth is our common home and caring for it means caring for all the people, plants, and animals within it. At Pace, we seek justice for all, especially the marginalized, and caring for all creation ensures the problems and challenges of all people are addressed. We commit to making Care for Creation a part of our school identity and to engage in Province wide efforts as well as local efforts to protect our Common Home.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth
We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Establish and maintain a school greenhouse to provide fresh fruits and vegetables for the community.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Evergreen Club

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor
We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Donate produce from the garden to community members in need, including students.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Evergreen Club

Goal 3: Ecological Economics
We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Organize a beach clean up project.
  - Timeframe: Annually
  - Person or Group Responsible: Evergreen Club

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles
We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Encourage group members to practice eco-friendly practices such as recycling and composting organic waste.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Evergreen Club

Goal 5: Ecological Education
We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Provide a hands on learning experience for all students by allowing access to the greenhouse.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Evergreen Club

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Emphasize the value of having respect for creation by coming up with faith-based reflections into our Pace Garden.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Evergreen Club
- **Commitment:** Create the Pace Garden with the intended purpose of creating a living symbol of faith, unity, and care for creation.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Evergreen Club

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** Create a safe and inclusive environment for all by incorporating members of the Spe Salvi program and teach them plant care and promote a school wide responsibility to care for the environment.
  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: Evergreen Club

Laudato Si' Action Team

- Coordinator**:**
- Team Members**:**

MOUNT SAINT MICHAEL ACADEMY

4300 Murdock Ave. Bronx, NY 10466

School Laudato Si' Statement:
The Green Team is dedicated to repairing the ecosystem and fostering a culture of eco-sustainability within the Mount Saint Michael community. We aim to implement eco-friendly practices through activism, education, and community engagement. By collaborating with local organizations, students, parents, faculty and staff (all relevant stakeholders), we empower our students to become active protectors of the Earth and leaders in environmental change. Together, we strive to cultivate a greener, healthier planet, beginning with informing and engaging individuals who believe in the power of collaboration and collective action for a better tomorrow.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We believe that first and foremost, addressing this goal requires adequate education around the issues of climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. Our commitment to this goal will be to develop an ecological curriculum that partners with appropriate academic departments within our school to do this effectively to our entire student body.

    a. **English** → Nature writing (Transcendentalism), eco-poetry, analysis of ecological forms of media, maybe a book that the English Teachers would recommend (Outside Reading)

    b. **Science** → Have a guest speaker come into science classes to teach mini-lessons about ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate change. Once a week for a few weeks at the start of the year

    c. **Theology Department** → Utilizing resources and writings such as Laudato Si, the Creation story, as well as Catholic Eco-Spiritual writers such as Thomas Berry and partnering with the local Thomas Berry Forum (run out of Iona University), to be able to teach why caring for our common home is directly related to our Catholic Identity

    - Timeframe: Ongoing
    - Person or Group Responsible: The Academic Council, and respective Department Chairs of said academic departments

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We believe that this goal is directly related to advocacy around ecological issues and ecological justice and societal justice. Therefore, we propose a plan that will use student ambassadors of the Green Team to promote "hot-topic" ecological issues to demonstrate advocacy around the school that will both educate and galvanize student support around these global issues and initiatives.

    a. **Posters around the school** promoting the Green Team, as well as highlighting facts about hot topic ecological issues

    1. Additional website links and possible donation links focused on ecology and protecting the earth that are added to the Mount Saint Michael Website (essentially starting web-campaigns to promote these issues)

    b. **Hosting an Ecology Week** & Creating an Earth Day event: For a week, science

    1. Classes from junior high to high school will prepare projects to present on ecological issues, akin to the science fairs. Alongside this grand lobby of projects, there will be an Earth Day-themed cafe in the gym.
    2. Collaborate with the National Honor Society & Student Council ii. Students come in during lunch mods.
    3. Conduct a contest where students vote through a poll on best project and most important issue
    4. The winning class will receive a dress-down day

    c. **Mini Projects**

    1. Eco-Poetry Wall→ For over a week, a wall in the gym will be decorated with an ecology theme and poetry attached to it to spread awareness about a particular ecological issue. Students will pass by and see the wall and the poetry that comes with it.

    - Timeframe: Ongoing
    - Person or Group Responsible: Green Team & the Science Department, as well as the National Honor Society and Student Council

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We believe that this goal is best achieved by demonstrating within our school exactly how cost-effective and fruitful "green initiatives" can be, by using some of our physical plant to generate funds that will go right back into our operating account, "paying it forward" to educate and motivate students that "caring for our common home" actually saves us money, and can generate money, directly reducing our carbon footprint while generating funds to support our school.

    a. **Promoting and utilizing the installation of our Solar Panels** (across the roof of our gym) and educating students on how solar energy works, while also educating them on how utilizing solar energy can be cost effective on increasingly high electricity bills in NYC.

    1. "Lights off" Days → On particularly sunny days, we could use natural light instead of the LED Lights to light up the classrooms. The School uses natural light, which cuts costs, reduces energy use, and raises awareness about electricity consumption. We can leave the blinds open and lights on for hallways and stairways. This will start a conversation, and a buzz about our own utilizing of electricity, and hoping to inspire others to do this in their home, leading to talks on the environment.
    2. Recycling Initiative - For the past two years, the Green Team has successfully started and sustained a recycling program, where the Green Team ambassadors collect all of the plastic bottles from classrooms, twice a week, and bring them to our local recycling center, in exchange for money. The funds have been donated directly back to the Marist Solidarity initiatives each year. (*This is a way for students to also receive Community Service hours through Campus Ministry.)

    - Timeframe: Ongoing
    - Person or Group Responsible: Green Team & the Science Department, as well as the National Honor Society and Student Council

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We believe that this goal is best achieved through action, and modeling more "green-centered" intentional living. It is our goal to create these initiatives (alongside the ones that are ongoing mentioned above), that will spark students' curiosity, and demonstrate, how small ways of living eco-friendly can make large impacts to the health and well-being of our Earth.

a. Take schoolwide surveys of ecological changes that students would like to see implemented (more students are interested in sustainability than you think)

1. Zero-waste lunches → Encourage Students to bring lunches without disposable packaging (plastic sandwich bags, plastic juice/drink bottles, etc.)
2. Small Things initiative → Creating classroom windowsill herb gardens, seed jars, or mason jar plants, and growing plants in cups, similar to how we used to when we were younger in elementary school, and highlight these classrooms and spaces to our community in our weekly "Mount Updates" to continue to highlight, celebrate and educate the severity of how "going-green" is important to our Mount community.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Person or Group Responsible: Green Team & the Science Department, as well as the National Honor Society and Student Council

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We believe that this goal is directly tied into education. So, alongside the inter-curriculum practices we implement listed above, within the Theology Department, we will create a Laudato Si curriculum where all students (6th-12th) will take on a focus on one of the seven principles of Laudato Si per year, embedded in our religion curriculum framework. Along with some of the fieldwork experiences we hope to create in the 25/26 school year outlined below.

  a. Organize field trips to botanical gardens, wildlife sanctuaries, waste management facilities and sustainable farms

  b. Continuing our efforts with SUGI, a company that has already mapped-out and developed a designated space on our campus to plant a pocket garden, creating a biodiverse habitat directly on our campus

  c. Continuing the "Small Things" initiative by:

  1. Creating a Butterfly enclosure on our campus
  2. Growing plants in cups during science classes

  - Timeframe: Ongoing
  - Person or Group Responsible: The Maintenance Staff (working with SUGI), the Theology Department & Campus Ministry, and any other person or Department who wishes to participate in the "Small Things" initiative.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We believe that this goal will be embedded throughout all of the initiatives of each of our respective proposed goals, as the Green Team's mission is deeply rooted in our Catholic identity and faith through the Laudato Si document itself. However, Campus Ministry will be taking an active role in the Green Team, as well as designing worship around our Earth, and highlighting the Catholic nature of our Green Team's mission.
    1. Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
    2. Hosting an Earth Day Mass
    - Timeframe: Ongoing
    - Person or Group Responsible: Campus Ministry & the Theology Department

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

- **Commitment:** We hope that active and conscious participation and involvement with our Green Team and its initiatives will come through the buzz of embedding eco-conscious initiatives within our school's culture. But, through our efforts, we will continue to motivate and energize student and faculty involvement in these initiatives by honoring their efforts, highlighting their efforts, and offering incentives for these initiatives where applicable as outlined below.
    1. Hosting contests for the Eco-Poetry wall such as a free dress down day or free lunch
    2. Awarding service hours for those who participate in eco-centric community service or our recycling program
    3. Highlighting classrooms or individual faculty members who take on the "Small Things" initiatives in our weekly newsletter to parents, and within our annual report to highlight this support to our Alumni, Board and donor-base.
    - Timeframe: Ongoing
    - Person or Group Responsible: The Green Team, Campus Ministry & our Administration

Laudato Si' Action Team

- Coordinator**: Mr. Thomas Sulaimanee (SY 24/25) & Ms. Hanan Mobarak (SY 25/26)**
- Student President & Vice President: **Ezekiel Akahoho ('26) & Zavier Torres ('26)**