

“The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change... It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter... can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face.”

—Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 13, 15



In his encyclical, *Laudato Si' On the Care of Our Common Home*, Pope Francis calls for a new and universal commitment to “strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family.” As such, his is an appeal for a global obligation to integral ecology and compelling responsibility for our home, the earth, and for each other. Pope Francis reminds us nature and human beings are indivisible.

NCEA, as the United States representative of the *Laudato Si'*, invites all Catholic schools in the United States to take up the task to follow the principles of *Laudato Si'* and model to their communities how to truly care for our Common Home and all who live in it.

Measuring Integral Ecology in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*



RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

(greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality, efforts to protect and promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.)



RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

(defense of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.)



ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

(sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.)



ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES

(sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet and reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.)



ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

(re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education etc.)



ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

(recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude, promote creation-centered liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.)



EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY ACTION TO CARE FOR CREATION AT THE LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

(promote advocacy and people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighborhood ecosystems, etc.)



Nine Lines of Action

Seven Years of Ecological Conversion for Schools



1

BE AWARE of the impact that spiritual conversion can have on commitment and action at the social, economic and political level; and consequently the importance of spiritual formation.

4

FOSTER OPPORTUNITIES for individual and community contemplation and reflection in open spaces.

7

PROMOTE PASTORAL DIALOGUE with those in search of harmony with creation (also from an ecumenical and inter-religious perspective), particularly through events organized to promote protection of the planet and of life.

2

PROMOTE MONASTIC TRADITIONS in their wise combination of contemplation, silence, prayer, liturgy, work and service.

5

EDUCATE to a sense of personal and collective responsibility towards creation and future generations.

8

ENCOURAGE ENCOUNTER and dialogue between the different cultural and social groups working to promote an integral ecology.

3

ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES linked to Laudato Si' to help the faithful understand and integrate the care of creation as an essential part of our Christian vocation.

6

RAISE AWARENESS of the importance of the connection between "personal equilibrium", "social equilibrium", and "environmental equilibrium".

9

ENCOURAGE TRUST and a frank debate between the economic-financial, political-institutional, agricultural-environmental and bioethical-health sectors, in order to overcome the self-absorption and suspicions that can hinder open dialogue.

*Journey Towards Care for Our Common Home –
Five years After Laudato Si'*

Enroll as a Laudato Si' School:

Go to: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/> to enroll your school.

- Enrollment begins now and ends on Earth Day, April 22, 2022.
- Journey for seven years with the Vatican in your school's ecological conversion.
- Learn of the seven goals of Laudato Si' and the seven sectors served.
- Gain resources and see examples of Laudato Si' schools across the globe.

