

Comprehensive Reflection on Marist School Marikina's Commitment to the Laudato Si' Action Platform-2021

In 2021, Marist School Marikina has embraced the **Laudato Si' Action Platform** as part of our faith journey and mission to form “good Christians and virtuous citizens.” This global initiative inspired by **Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'***, calls on all people of goodwill to engage in the work of **integral ecology**—a way of living that recognizes the interdependence between people, nature, and the Divine.

At the heart of our commitment are the **core Marist values** that guide our identity and actions: **Family Spirit, Presence, In the Way of Mary, Love of Work, and Simplicity**. These values are deeply connected with the **seven Laudato Si' Goals**, which seek to address the spiritual, environmental, economic, and social dimensions of the ecological crisis.

Our Marist Values Connect to the Laudato Si' Goals

1. **Family Spirit** aligns with the goal of **Community Resilience and Empowerment**. We nurture a sense of unity and shared purpose, encouraging every student, teacher, and staff member to actively participate in ecological advocacy. Environmental action becomes a collective mission, not a personal one.
2. **Presence** connects us with **Ecological Spirituality** and **Ecological Education**. By being fully present to the needs of others and the world around us, we develop mindfulness of our consumption, waste, and impact. We also foster an environment of listening—to creation, to the marginalized, and to the Spirit.
3. **In the Way of Mary**, we are called to imitate her attentiveness, humility, and compassion. Her example leads us to the **Response to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor**, calling us to stand in solidarity with the vulnerable—both human and non-human.
4. **Love of Work** energizes our efforts under the **Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles**. We commit to action with dedication and perseverance, whether through campus greening programs, recycling initiatives, or integrating sustainability across subjects.
5. **Simplicity** helps us internalize the values of **Sustainable Production and Consumption**. It reminds us to live with less and to appreciate the richness found in a simple life lived in harmony with creation.

The Laudato Si' Goal That Speaks to Us Most

Among the seven Laudato Si' Goals, **Ecological Conversion** speaks to us most profoundly. It is more than behavior change—it is a transformation of the heart and mind. In Marist School Marikina, this conversion has led to a renewed awareness of our relationship with nature and with one another. This change is seen in:

- The integration of **ecological themes in our curriculum**, emphasizing stewardship across disciplines.
- **Spiritual reflections and prayer services** focused on care for creation.

- **Student-led ecological initiatives**, like gardening, tree planting and ecological art projects.

This goal has inspired us to look inward, recognize where we have fallen short, and courageously take steps toward renewal.

Understanding How "Everything Is Connected"

The encyclical's key insight—*everything is connected*—has deepened our understanding of the socio-ecological crisis. We've realized that environmental degradation cannot be separated from issues like poverty, inequality, and injustice. In our local context:

- **Frequent typhoons and floods** have displaced families, especially in nearby low-income areas in Marikina.
- **Poor waste management** has led to pollution that affects both people's health and biodiversity.
- The burden of climate impacts falls disproportionately on the most vulnerable.

These experiences have made us more aware that to protect the environment is to protect life. Our mission to educate young people must now also involve forming **ecologically conscious and socially responsible citizens**.

Our Mission and Values in Connection with Laudato Si'

Our mission as a Marist institution is grounded in the teachings of St. Marcellin Champagnat and animated by Gospel values. We seek to:

- Form students who live **with compassion, discipline, and concern for the common good**.
- Inspire them to transformative lead lives of **service and stewardship**.
- Promote a learning environment where **faith meets action**.

The Laudato Si' Goals give our mission a concrete ecological and social dimension. They help us understand that spiritual formation includes **ecological awareness**, and academic excellence must also mean **responsibility for the Earth**.

Why We Feel Called to Join the Laudato Si' Action Platform

We feel called to the Laudato Si' Action Platform because it aligns perfectly with our identity—as a Catholic school, as a Marist institution, and as a Filipino community facing real ecological challenges. This platform gives us:

- **A framework for action**, grounded in Church teaching and science.
- **A sense of global solidarity**, knowing we are not alone in this mission.
- **A moral compass**, guiding us toward justice, peace, and sustainability.

Joining this platform is not just an option—it is a **vocation** and **moral responsibility** that we embrace with conviction.

Our Existing Initiatives Since 2021

Since beginning our Laudato Si’ journey, Marist School Marikina has initiated various programs and reforms, including:

Initiative	Description	Laudato Si’ Goal Addressed
Campus Waste Management System	Implementation of segregation bins, composting, and recycling drives	Sustainable Lifestyles, Cry of the Earth
Tree Planting & Greening Projects	Students and staff plant trees in and beyond campus grounds	Community Resilience, Ecological Restoration
Integration of Laudato Si’ in Curriculum	Infused ecological topics across Religion, Science, and Social Studies subjects	Ecological Education
Plastic-Free Campaigns	Ban on single-use plastics within school premises	Sustainable Production & Consumption
Student Eco-Clubs	Youth-led groups conduct climate advocacy and awareness campaigns	Community Engagement, Ecological Conversion
Prayer Services for Creation	Monthly liturgical and prayer events focused on ecological themes	Ecological Spirituality

We also plan to use **carbon footprint calculators** and **sustainability audits** to measure our progress and set concrete goals moving forward.

Moving Forward in Hope

As we look to the future, we commit ourselves to deepening our ecological conversion, expanding our initiatives, and building partnerships for greater impact. We recognize that this is a long journey—one that demands faith, courage, and collaboration. Inspired by **Mary’s quiet strength** and **St. Marcellin’s passion for mission**, we move forward with confidence.

May our actions, rooted in love and guided by our values, become a testimony to our belief that **another world is possible**—one where creation is cherished, justice is pursued, and the dignity of all life is upheld.