



Malvern Preparatory School's *Laudato Si' Action Platform* Reflection

July 23, 2025

About Malvern Prep:

Malvern Preparatory School is an independent, Augustinian, Catholic school for young men in grades six through twelve, located in Malvern, PA in the United States of America. Since 1842, the school's tradition has been to prepare young men for college, for leadership, and for life. Malvern educates its students in a caring environment focused on academics while maintaining a balance between spirituality, arts, athletics, and activities. Students are learning a foundation of knowledge today so that they may lead with integrity tomorrow. Our current enrollment is 650 students and 140 faculty/staff.

Overview of our Reflection:

Rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition and animated by the charism of Saint Augustine, Malvern Preparatory School's participation in the *Laudato Si' Action Platform* reflects our identity as an Augustinian, Catholic school committed to forming faith-filled servant leaders. In fidelity to our mission to inspire students through academic excellence, servant leadership, and the pursuit of Truth, Unity, and Love, we embrace the call of *Laudato Si'* as both an invitation and a responsibility to care for creation and one another.

Responding to the call of Pope Leo XIV, our Augustinian Brother Cardinal Robert Prevost, O.S.A.:

As an Augustinian school, which marks the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, we are encouraged by the recent words of Pope Leo XIV, a "son of Augustine," who reaffirmed the Church's unwavering commitment to integral ecology and praised the growing global movement for environmental justice inspired by this landmark encyclical.

Integration of Malvern Prep's Augustinian Values of *Truth, Unity, and Love* with the goals of *Laudato Si'*:

Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, Malvern Prep embraces the call to action to protect God's creation and to promote justice for the most vulnerable among us. Our participation in this platform aligns us with thousands of Catholic institutions, communities, and families around the world who are responding with urgency and hope to the "cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor."

As a school rooted in the Augustinian values of *Truth*, *Unity*, and *Love*, we are integrating the seven goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform into all areas of school life - from curriculum and campus sustainability to spiritual formation and community engagement. These goals include:

1. Response to the Cry of the Earth
2. Response to the Cry of the Poor
3. Ecological Economics
4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles
5. Ecological Education
6. Ecological Spirituality
7. Community Resilience and Participatory Action

With activities already begun and plenty of room for improvement, our values guide not only our academic journey, but also our relationships, decisions, and responsibilities to the world around us.

Truth: Our pursuit of *Truth* invites us to seek understanding not only through books and lessons, but also through the living realities of our common home. In this spirit, we engage students with the natural world and the call to sustainability. At the Rosengarten Ranch and our Greenhouse, students cultivate crops that are later donated to communities with limited access to fresh produce - an act that embodies the goal of responding to the **Cry of the Earth**. This hands-on learning also forms the foundation of ecological education, where students come to see the interconnection between food, justice, and the health of our planet.

Unity: Our commitment to *Unity* leads us into solidarity with those who suffer from environmental and economic injustice. Through partnerships with organizations such as Sanctuary Farm, the Chester County Food Bank, and service sites throughout Philadelphia and Camden, students learn to listen deeply and respond generously - living out the call to address the **Cry of the Poor**. Whether through year-round initiatives like Meal Move or immersive national and international service trips, our students encounter the dignity of every human being and begin to understand that care for the earth and care for people are inseparable.

Love: At the heart of our community is *Love*...a love that manifests in action, reflection, and the desire to build a more just and sustainable future. This love takes many forms: a commitment to simpler lifestyles, a movement toward reducing waste, and thoughtful efforts to strengthen our **ecological economics** and campus infrastructure. Students are invited to contribute their ideas through sustainability design competitions and incubator grants, and we continue to explore ways to minimize single-use plastics and enhance our composting and recycling practices.

Throughout campus life, opportunities arise for students to deepen their understanding of sustainability through faith and reason. In the classroom, particularly through our theology curriculum, students reflect on our moral responsibility to care for creation, integrating

ecological spirituality into their personal and communal formation. Our liturgies and retreats, too, are beginning to reflect this awareness, creating space for prayer and gratitude for the gift of the natural world.

As a learning community, we also embrace the role of formation and leadership. Through events like Earth Week, the Villanova Sustainability Workshop, and mentorships with scholars and professionals, we foster a culture of **ecological education** - one that encourages students to think critically, act intentionally, and lead with conviction for integral ecology.

Finally, our vision for the future includes growing in **community resilience and empowerment** - ensuring that our initiatives are not isolated efforts, but part of a larger culture of sustainability. We continue to invite faculty, staff, families, and local partners into this work, believing that change takes root when it is shared, nurtured, and sustained by the whole community.

Concluding Thought & Reflection:

At Malvern Prep, we believe that an education grounded in *Truth, Unity, and Love* must also be grounded in hope. As we listen to the signs of the times and discern the needs of creation and humanity, we are called to live in right relationship - with one another, with the earth, and with God. In that spirit, we move forward together - with joy, courage, and care.

“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,” writes Pope Francis (*Laudato Si’*, §217).

We believe that participation in the *Laudato Si’ Action Platform* assists us in the continual invitation to our entire school community - students, families, alumni, faculty, and friends - to join us in this transformative journey of ecological conversion and integral human development.