



Caring For Our Common Home

As persons for and with others we also strive to be for and with all of creation. With an awareness of our interconnectedness and with compassion and commitment, we walk together to transform our knowledge, attitudes, habits and practices in order to reconcile ourselves with all beings, all elements of the world, and with the Creator. We do this individually and collectively, both locally and globally, with the Ignatian spirit of faith and joy for a sustainable and hope-filled future. For Christians this is an ecological conversion “whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue” (LS 217).

Individual / Self

Reflection

- In what ways is caring for our common home important to me?
- How do I make time, away from distractions, to nurture a relationship with creation?
- How can I participate in my school’s mission to care for our common home?

Action

- Inventory my habits and practices: List the small daily actions that consider the environment in my purchases and lifestyle. What changes do I feel impelled to make for a sustainable future? Which of my daily activities reflect my concern for Mother Earth?
- Educate myself about ecological justice issues and sustainable ways of living. Identify where I am doing well and where there is room for growth.
- Celebrate a God-given gift or talent I can use to contribute to the creation of a sustainable and hope-filled future.

Students

Reflection

- As students, do we make time in school, in classes, clubs, assemblies, prayer, worship, and activities, to discern together our relationship with our common home?
- What is our faith asking us to do to protect creation?
- How does our school journey with us in positive and active ecological transformation?

Action

- As students, identify the impact our daily actions, attitudes, and habits have on protecting the environment.
- Act together to influence the school culture to take a more conscious and active stand in protecting our common home.
- Ask the school to support you in generating spaces for reflection and to nurture a love for nature.

Faculty / Staff

Reflection

- How do I model caring for our common home for myself, my students, and my school community?
- How can we, individually and collectively, experience and understand the Ignatian perspective on caring for our common home?
- How can we share the joy, excitement, and mystery of the natural world, and nurture our students’ inborn sense of wonder?

Action

- Participate in at least one professional development opportunity each year on caring for our common home.
- Design lesson plans and activities which give students an experience of the inter-dependence of all of creation and model care for our common home, initiating curricular change in all subjects.
- Include service learning and advocacy for local environmental concerns in curriculum.

Executive / Administration / Management

Reflection

- How does our school leadership shape the culture of caring for our common home among students, faculty, staff, and alumni?
- Where is the promotion of the common good and the care for the environment embedded throughout the school, including in the architecture, curriculum, landscape, and other basic assumptions?
- How can we, as school leadership, better collaborate with school community leaders who have committed themselves for caring of our Common home?

Action

- Organize retreats, seminars, or workshops which promote an ecological Examen, leading to environmental conversion of heart of the school’s distributed leadership. Use resources such as Laudato Si’, Fratelli Tutti, and A Living Tradition.
- Organize environmental campaigns such as tree planting, conservation of resources, appropriate waste management, or events discouraging the “throw away culture” eschewed by Laudato Si’.
- Conduct periodic audit of curriculum to identify areas in which school curriculum could deepen the promotion of environmental justice. Redesign curriculum using resources such as the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

Governance / Board Of Trustees / Governing Board

Reflection

- Do we – individually and collectively – understand caring for our common home within the context of the Universal Apostolic Preferences?
- What policies and procedures do we have in place to ensure that caring for our common home is considered in all school decisions, including budgets and funding for sustainability?
- How do we, evaluate the progress of school efforts in implementing actions that help care for our common home?

Action

- Commit to board or governing body formation in Laudato Si, the Universal Apostolic Preferences, and the Ignatian Perspective on caring for our common home.
- Include caring for our common home as a regular agenda item for governance meetings.
- Regularly evaluate and report on the effectiveness of sustainability programs and policies.

Families

Reflection

- How does our family reflect upon the environmental problems/ challenges of our planet?
- As parents, how will we connect care for the environment, our faith, and our family?
- In what ways can we, as parents, help our child understand how to incorporate caring for our common home in all areas of life: cooking, purchasing, transportation, services?

Action

- As a family, discuss the most serious environmental challenges facing your community and/or the world.
- Identify and list the current environmental practices of your family members.
- As a family, commit to one environmental practice (habit/ lifestyle) you will change to care for our common home.

Alumni

Reflection

- How do I, as an alumnus/alumna of a Jesuit school, embody compassionate commitment towards all of creation?
- How do we alumni deepen our understanding of the Ignatian perspective on caring for our common home?
- How can we alumni transmit the value of the natural world and keep the young person’s appreciation of their non-utilitarian values?

Action

- Define ways to engage in actively caring for our common home: personally, in my work, in my community, and in my former school.
- Connect with the Jesuit network to mentor students, teachers and staff on best ecological practices.
- Commit to sharing time, talents and/or finances to aid my school’s transition toward environmental sustainability.