



Saint Louis School, Honolulu, Hawai'i Marianist Family Encounter Project Commitment Statement

Context

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote an encyclical entitled, “Laudato Si’” which reiterates the Church’s call for responsible stewardship of all creation, calling us to ensure that our methods of production and consumption honor our Creator, respect creation, and serve the needs of the human family. In 2021, the Laudato Si’ Action Platform was initiated in order foster a multi-year process to make communities around the world totally sustainable in the spirit of the integral ecology of Laudato Si’.

Also in 2021, Pope Francis initiated the Global Compact on Education, which aims to develop Catholic Schools in a more rigorous educative and justice oriented process for the social concerns of our time and place.

The Laudato Si’ Action Platform is a call for Catholic persons and organizations at all levels to collaboratively integrate seven action areas into their day-to-day life. At the same time, the Global Compact on Education is a call to families, communities, institutions, schools, and universities to take up seven commitments to bring about a new universal solidarity.

The Marianist Family Council of North America has endorsed the formation of the Marianist Family Encounter Project to facilitate a multi-year journey of responding to the action areas and commitments proposed by Pope Francis in both the Laudato Si’ Action Platform and Global Compact on Education. The focus of the Encounters Project is to invite us, personally and in our communities and ministries, to bring about meaningful and life-giving encounters at the intersection of the cry of the poor, the cry of the earth, and the gift of our Marianist charism. To better facilitate participation in the action areas and commitments of both initiatives, the Encounters Project will combine these ideas into a single set of Marianist Encounter Goals.

Goal 1 – Promote Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation

Goal 2 – Transform through Integral Ecology

Goal 3 – Listen and Educate in Faith

Goal 4 – Foster Sustainable Lifestyles

Goal 5 – Empower through Family Spirit

We at Saint Louis School recognize how we belong to our O‘ahu community and we are united in the concern for preserving our beautiful island. At Saint Louis School, ‘āina based learning (‘ĀBL) helps our students connect to the wider community and foster a spirit of responsible stewardship that they can take into their personal lives and into our collective future. By learning to care for the environment, our students are able to develop a sense of responsibility for future generations. Environmental challenges effect us all. ‘ĀBL helps our students to use their gifts and talents to work in solidarity with people across the globe and in our local community as we care for God’s creation.

‘ĀBL Activities at Saint Louis School

Zero Waste Composting Program/ Pollution and Climate Change

One of the issues that Pope Francis addresses in Laudato Si’ is that of Pollution and Climate Change. Here at St. Louis, we have a zero waste composting program designed to help shrink our school’s ecological footprint. We are currently collecting food waste from our K-5 students that is turned into compost for our garden areas.

Palolo Stream Restoration/ The Issue of Water

As Pope Francis shares in Laudato Si’, natural resources are being depleted and the quality of water is diminishing across the globe. Through our involvement in the restoration of Palolo stream, which runs through our campus, we have helped to remove over six thousand pounds of trash from the stream over the past two years. This effort has helped teach our students the importance of caring for our ‘āina, as well as helped our students connect with the larger community.

Gardens/ Educating for the Covenant Between Humanity and the Environment

In Laudato Si’, Pope Francis emphasizes the need for ecological citizenship and education in environmental responsibility. Our ‘ĀBL program helps our students to accomplish both of these goals in many ways- one of them being our on campus gardens. Students from all grade levels assist in our Saint Louis School gardens. From growing edible food crops, such as papaya, lilikoi, corn, and sweet potatoes, to native plant restoration, our students are involved with all of the many responsibilities of stewarding a garden.

Connecting Science and Culture

As Pope Francis reminds us in Laudato Si’, new processes should be rooted in local culture, in dialogue with the richness of our cultural traditions and practices. In our Hawaiian studies and indigenous science programs, students learn the historical stories that make up this place and implement traditional wisdom through cooking, medicines, ecology, and other local justice practices. Students are inspired as they are taught scientific systems and data alongside this cultural knowledge to approach cultures and creation in a more integrative light. As in the Catholic perspective of life, the Hawaiian understanding of aloha ‘āina is that we exist as a part

of creation, and this interconnectivity forms the fabric that makes up our existence. Students dedicate themselves to integrating this cultural tradition for the health and betterment of all.

Commitment Statement

In response to Pope Francis' proposals and the spirit of our Marianist charism, Saint Louis School in Honolulu, Hawai'i commits to being an active part of the Marianist Family Encounter Project.

By joining our efforts to the Marianist Family Encounter Project, we agree to:

- Appoint a representative from our entity to be in contact with the Marianist Encounters Team and engage in mutual dialogue about ways to best advance the Marianist Encounter Goals.
- Submit an annual report in words, images, and/or video of our plans, process and accomplishments.
- Share our stories on our own media and with the Marianist Encounters website: <https://marianistencounters.org/>
- Continue to advance our 'ĀBL program in preparing our students to impact change in our world.
- Foster local partnerships with mutual goals for sustainability, justice, and care for our 'āina.
- Educate ourselves on local issues and innovative techniques for ecological development.
- Welcome students from varying backgrounds and support them in their academic success.
- Market our 'ĀBL program and its embodiment of Marianist values to the larger community to inspire creative solutions at other schools in O'ahu and the Marianist Family at large.

For more information about the Marianist Family Encounter Project, please visit:

<https://www.marianistencounters.org/>