



JESUIT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
A GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
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<https://www.scu.edu/jst/>

LAUDATO SI ACTION PLAN

MAY, 2023

PREAMBLE

Over the course of the next six years, the Jesuit School of Theology will work to integrate our commitment to Laudato Si into the cultural, spiritual, and institutional identity of the JST community. We are compelled to do this for these reasons:

- We are enrolling in the Laudato Si Action Platform because, as followers of Christ, we are called to put our beliefs into action.
- We believe that humans and God's creation deserve to live in harmony with one another, respecting the life of all sentient beings.
- We believe that the cry of the Earth is the cry of the poor, and we are called to respond to this cry in our academic, spiritual, and social lives.
- We believe that as a theological institution, it is our duty to care for all of creation, and to teach others to do likewise.
- We believe that we cannot have justice for humanity if we do not have justice for the natural world.
- We believe that we come from the Earth and will return to it, and as such we are Earth care-takers, not its owners.
- Because we believe all of the above to be true, we commit to taking concrete actions. This document is a first step in making our beliefs a reality.

We dedicate the work of our Laudato Si Action Plan to the late
Dean of the Jesuit School of Theology, Fr. Joseph Mueller, SJ.

The actions that follow are based on the Seven Goals of the Laudato Si Action Platform,
as articulated by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Action Plan Commitments

JST MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN

Jesuit School Community

Integrate Laudato Si into JST's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan

Staff, faculty, students and administrators will participate with other constituencies in articulating how JST's commitment to Laudato Si shapes its mission in relation to ecological care and the renewal of creation. These perspectives will be integrated into the school's Mission Statement as well as the new Strategic Plan that is being developed.

Action Plan Commitments
TEACHING/ MINISTERIAL FORMATION/ RESEARCH
Jesuit School Faculty

1) Establish an Annual Laudato Si Symposium

The Annual Laudato Si Symposium will bring together faculty and students in an interdisciplinary exploration of each of the Goals of the Laudato Si Action Platform, focusing on one goal each year. The symposium will offer students integrative perspectives on each Goal and will encourage faculty and students to focus their own research on topics that address integral ecology. The symposium, held early in the fall semester of each year, will set a focus for the academic and co-curricular activities throughout the year.

2) Integrate Laudato Si Across the Curriculum

Through processes of curriculum mapping and conversation, faculty will explore their integration of integral ecology across JST's course offerings and ministerial formation program. This common effort will witness to students the critical nature of the Laudato Si Goals to our common future. It will likewise interact with the culturally contextual methods already established in the JST curriculum.

3) Foster Faculty and Curriculum Development in relation to Laudato Si Goals

Collaboration, creativity, and mutual enrichment regarding the Laudato Si Goals will be fostered among faculty through dedicated discussions and experiments in faculty exchange. Faculty are invited to participate in faculty development programs such as Santa Clara University's offerings in teaching sustainability and Laudato Si across the curriculum. Curriculum development will include a new course in Environmental Ethics, beginning Fall, 2023, and new possibilities for collaboration with GTU/UCB for additional offerings.

4) Offer Qualified Students a Certificate in Social and Environmental Justice

JST will develop and offer a Certificate in Social and Environmental Justice that will certify students in any degree program who have completed foundational studies in ecology, sustainability, and environmental justice. Further reflection will be given to potential skill-building courses that might be offered in relation to this Certificate.

Action Plan Commitments
CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS
Office of Student and Community Life / Office of Spiritual Formation

1) Connect Human Formation with Integral Ecological Vision

The Office of Student and Community Life, as it attends especially to the promotion of human formation within the JST student body, will integrate an integral ecological vision for these purposes. The Office will support student personal growth and community engagement in its co-curricular programming, rooting itself in the intercultural dynamics of earth justice as witnessed by our vibrant student body. Resources for students' self-care

(for their material, physical, and mental well-being) will be developed and offered in a manner that reflects attention to our ecological context and the sustainable grounds for each. Those furnishing co-curricular student and community life formation will facilitate programming that animates our commitment to an integral ecology, activates our personal responsibility to earth's care, and inspires faith-filled action on climate justice with and for all.

2) Facilitate An Ecological Spiritual Formation Program

The Office of Spiritual Formation will articulate a richly conceived spiritual formation reflecting integral ecological commitments to sustainability, ecological renewal, and compassionate response to climate injustices. Those furnishing co-curricular spiritual formation will facilitate liturgies, retreats, and occasions of spiritual practice that animate our commitment to integral ecology and climate justice.

3) Collaborate, with Gospel depth, for the protection and renewal of creation.

As co-curricular partners in the holistic formation of JST students, the Office of Student and Community Life and The Office of Spiritual Formation will engage in collaborative processes with students, faculty, and administration as we learn, share, and act to sustain our earth in response to Laudato Si. Annually, these offices will co-create complementary programming and activities to animate the Fall Symposium and integrate key themes into our JST communal life. Similarly, both Offices will promote engagement with educational partners, such as Santa Clara University's main campus, the Graduate Theological Union, and Cal Berkeley, as well as with other local, ecclesial, and private organizations that serve our ecological commitments.

Action Plan Commitments OPERATIONS, GROUNDS AND FINANCE Office of Assistant Dean of Finance and Administration

1. Facilitate an Energy Audit for JST Facilities

This assessment will explore current use of energy around the campus, including the use of automatic lights/timers and an evaluation of all lighting toward replacement with modern energy efficient Led bulbs. It will also explore additional uses of renewable energy that the school might use to reduce its energy footprint. To foster more sustainable use of energy, it will seek to evaluate the bike parking station in the JST parking garage for improvement, so as to encourage more bike transportation among the school community.

2. Facilitate an Audit of Water Use, Grounds Upkeep

This assessment will explore current use of water within campus buildings as well as the watering of gardens on the grounds. Based on the audit, decisions will be made regarding adaptation of current systems, especially a reduction of any over-use.

3. Facilitate an Audit of Recycling and Composting

Given the significant investment JST has made in recent years to develop appropriate means of recycling materials as well as composting all compostable materials used, this audit will explore if there are further steps that can be taken to redirect used materials so as to avoid waste of any kind.

4. Facilitate a review of Purchasing

This review will assess current purchases of cleaning materials and other materials used for the upkeep of the campus. It will search out best practices, best purchasing sources, and strategies for reducing our ecological footprint and avoiding any toxic substances that might cause harm to the environment and to those using the materials.

5. Facilitate Review of Food Policies and Purchases

This assessment will focus on the sourcing of food and meals served on campus and a review and formulation of policies of what foods are served, where and how they are purchased, and why. Interaction with all those involved in creating meals for campus groups will be integral to this process to insure common ownership of the outcomes.

Action Plan Commitments COMTEMPLATIVE GROUNDS Laudato Si Action Platform Committee

Beautify and Maintain the Laudato Si Contemplative Terrace

Creating the Laudato Si Contemplative Terrace will involve a cleaning and maintenance of the terrace, the restoration of the small fountain on the terrace, and the planting of pollinator plants around periphery of the terrace. The terrace will be used for individual and/or small group prayer, conversation, celebration. The Blessing and dedication of the Laudato Si Contemplative Terrace took place on November 3, 2022.