

Laudato Sí Action Plan

Structure and Composition of the Laudato Sí Steering Committee

November 7, 2022



Xavier officially became a Laudato Sí University in fall 2021

- Shortly after President Hanycz's formal commitment to Laudato Sí, work began on forming a committee, broadly representative of the University, that would be responsible for developing the University's multi-year, multifaceted plan to address Laudato Sí's seven goals.



Structure of the Steering Committee

A nineteen-person Steering Committee, comprised of a five-person Executive Committee and a two-person leadership team for each of the seven goals of the Laudato Sí Initiative.

Each two-person team formed its own working group, in which faculty, staff, and students are represented.

The Executive Committee oversees the activities of the working groups and sets the agenda of Steering Committee meetings.

Executive Committee:

- Bill Madges (Brueggeman Center; CAS)
- Linda Schoenstedt (CPS)
- Bob Sheeran (Facilities; Financial Administration)
- Mich Nyawalo (Faculty Committee)
- JP Parham II (Staff Advisory Committee)
- **Working Groups:** Two leaders for each of the seven Laudato Sí goals: One faculty, one staff member.



The Working Groups

- **Group 1. Response to Cry of the Earth:** Renewable energy, carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity.
 - Becki Lanter (Plant Operations)
 - Brent Blair (Biology)
- **Group 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor:** Ecojustice, special attention to vulnerable groups, improvement of social systems.
 - O'neil Van Horn (Theology)
 - Audrey Calloway (Marketing/Communications)
- **Group 3. Ecological Economics:** Sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, protecting workers.
 - Justin Roush (Economics)
 - John Mercer (Central Procurement)



- **Group 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles:** Reducing waste, recycling, sustainable dietary habits, greater use of public transportation
 - Debbie VanKuiken (Nursing)
 - Jenn Thornton (Payroll, Controller's Office)
- **Group 5. Ecological Education:** Re-designing curriculum to foster ecological awareness, encouraging ecological restoration activities
 - Donna Hutchinson-Smyth (CPS: Early Childhood Education)
 - Anne Ryckbost (Library)
- **Group 6. Ecological Spirituality:** Creation-based liturgical celebrations, developing ecological retreats and formation programs
 - John Sniegocki (Theology)
 - Eric Sundrup, SJ (Bellarmine Chapel; Board of Trustees)
- **Group 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment:** Encouraging sense of belonging in local communities and neighborhood ecosystems
 - Anas Malik (Political Science)
 - Liz Blume (Community Building Institute)



Membership and Activities of the Working Groups

- The two-persons leading each working group have been responsible for building out their team.
- The leaders ensure that students, staff, and faculty are included in each working group.
- The groups set their own meeting times and agenda but are responsive to guidance and deadlines set by the Executive Committee.
- The groups have access to the Laudato Sí Canvas “course,” where they can share ideas and plans and where they can find resources to support their work

In addition to the 19-member Steering Committee, more than 40 other individuals—students, faculty, staff, and area community members—have been involved in creating a draft of Xavier’s Laudato Sí Action Plan as members of the different working groups.





His Eminence
 Cardinal Turkson
 Prefetto, Dicastero per lo Sviluppo Umano Integrale
 Palazzo San Calisto
 00120 Città del Vaticano

Your Eminence:

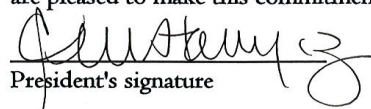
At this time, Xavier University (name of institution), makes a commitment to participate in Pope Francis' *7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology* and understands that the *Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development* will officially enroll our university in the *Journey* on October 4, 2021, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

We understand that as a *Laudato Si' University*, we will chart our own course through the *Journey*, with the assistance of the *Laudato Si' Action Platform*. Over this next year we will gather a group of faculty, students, administrators, staff, and neighbors to develop a *Laudato Si' Action Plan* for our university that will integrally and boldly advance each of the *7 Laudato Si' Goals*:

- Respond to the Cry of the Earth
- Respond to the Cry of the Poor
- Foster Ecological Economics
- Adopt a Sustainable Lifestyle
- Offer Ecological Education
- Develop Ecological Spirituality
- Support Local Communities

We further understand that our university will annually report to the *Dicastery* on its progress and participate in communication with other universities on the *Journey* around the world. In Year 7, we will celebrate our accomplishments and those of our fellow universities and enjoy Pope Francis' formal recognition of our work as a *Laudato Si' University*.

We appreciate this opportunity to advance Pope Francis' powerful *Laudato Si'* message and are pleased to make this commitment.


 President's signature

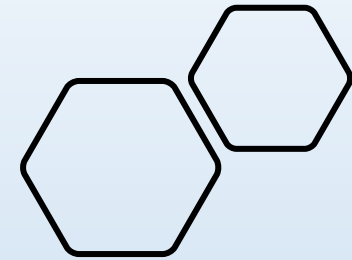
Colleen M. Hanycz, Ph.D.
 Print President's name

October 19, 2021
 Date





Painting by Holly Schapker: Brueggeman Ctr



*Fundamental
premise of
Laudato Si:
Everything that
lives is
interconnected
and
interdependent*



ALL FOR ONE