

2024 CTE Faculty Fellow

By Roy Fisher

Office of Mission and Ministry

“Care for our Common Home: *Laudato Si’* in the LMU Classroom”

In 2015, Pope Francis released his landmark encyclical [Laudato Si’](#) or *On Care for Our Common Home*, the first papal encyclical to focus on the environment and its destruction. In *Laduoato Si’*, he addresses irresponsible development and environmental degradation, calling on people to take "swift and unified global action" against this present ecological crisis. In May 2021, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in Rome launched the [Laudato Si’ Action Platform](#). The platform aims to be a bold and active response to the present ecological crisis. Numerous institutions around the world have committed to the platform – dioceses and religious orders, schools and universities, hospitals, businesses, and community organizations – and will develop an action plan to guide their "journey towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of [integral ecology](#)". In short: seven years to ecological renewal. Loyola Marymount University has signed on to this platform along with our [sponsoring religious communities](#) and 52 (so far) of our fellow Jesuit universities. This is a commitment by the entire university community to transformative action that fulfills the [Laduato Si' goals](#) by 2030.

As the CTE fellow with the Office of Mission and Ministry, I have been tasked to work with colleagues, especially the Center for Justice and Reconciliation (CSJ) and the LMU *Laudato Si’* Action Platform (LSAP) working group, to explore the role that ecological spirituality (ecospirituality) can play in the LMU classroom. To this end, I facilitated numerous faculty events during spring semester 2024. These events included organizing and speaking on two panels for the CSJ symposium in February, giving multiple campus presentations to faculty, participating in the LSAP online working group sessions, leading an evening workshop at the annual Mission and Ministry sponsored faculty writing retreat, and collaborating with

the Center for Ignatian Spirituality to facilitate the April 17th CTE workshop “Care for our Common Home: Laudato Si’ in the LMU Classroom.”

Following on this work, and with the hope of reaching the wider campus community, in fall 2024 I will work with the Office of Mission and Ministry and the CTE to continue exploring the ways in which LMU’s participation in the Laudato Si’ Action Platform brings a particularly LMU flavor to the question of ecological awareness and action in the classroom. In particular, we will continue to explore the intersections in our pedagogy between LMU Mission/Identity and ecological awareness/action. We hope that you will join us in the fall to share your insights and experiences with colleagues.