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**New Curriculum On Laudato Si'
Inspires Students World-Wide
With Pope's Climate Teachings**

NEW ORLEANS—In 2015, Pope Francis published his revolutionary environmental Encyclical *Laudato Si' On Care For Our Common Home*. Now, to inspire students with these important lessons, the Carmelite NGO has created **Curriculum On Laudato Si' For Secondary Education** and **Laudato Si' Study Guide** for adults and college classes.

The Carmelite NGO will present the Laudato Si' Curriculum to Pope Francis in Rome on Nov. 4.

The Curriculum is available to teachers, students and everyone around the world at laudato-si-for-all.com, in hard copies or downloads in English and Spanish.

Laudato Si' Curriculum, a 252-page volume, includes comprehensive, detailed lesson plans in Theology, Environmental Science, Social Studies and Humanities for grades nine through 12. Lessons, geared to grade level and educational standards, are designed to teach the Laudato Si' Encyclical, lead young people to think critically and protect the earth. The separate Study Guide is ideal for college classes, adults, and church or secular book groups wishing to deepen their understanding of the Pope's Encyclical.

"The Curriculum is an excellent tool for teachers to incorporate Laudato Si' into their daily lesson plans for all subjects," said Sr. Jane Remson, O.Carm., main representative of the Carmelite NGO, who initiated and oversaw the project. The Carmelite NGO, affiliated with the United Nations, advocates and cares for the spiritual needs of the human family and environment.

The faculty of Salpointe Catholic High School, a Carmelite school in Tucson, Ariz., developed the Curriculum. "We took the essence of Laudato Si' and formed our Curriculum with that very essence," says

school President Kay Sullivan.

“When I use the Curriculum with freshmen, they get how important it is and how much our planet, world and human communities need to be cared for. They’re at a wonderful age to tap into idealism, compassion and love for nature,” explains Salpointe faculty member Kathleen McGarey-Vasey.

Students are enthusiastic. Isabel, a Salpointe senior, says “I think the Curriculum is good because it teaches us that the environment and the earth are a common good that are supposed to be shared by everybody. Poorer countries are most particularly vulnerable to climate change.”

Laudato Si’ goes to Rome Nov. 4 when Carmelite NGO representatives present the Curriculum to Pope Francis during the International Congress for Carmelite Secondary Schools, which has adopted it as a model for its schools around the world. The Carmelite NGO also is offering the Curriculum to non-Catholic and secular institutions everywhere.

The Curriculum has been approved by Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans and by Fr. Raul Maraví, O.Carm., General Councillor of the Carmelite Order representing the Americas and President of the International Commission of Carmelite Schools and Youth.

“The Curriculum offers a progressive and experiential learning design, so that the students, guided by the environmental sciences, the Word of God and the richness of the Carmelite spirituality, will be able to integrate into their lives a comprehensive ecological awareness of responsible care of the earth, unique home for everyone,” says Maravi.

Says teacher McGarey-Vasey, “We are equipping ministers for the next generation in the lives we touch in our schools. It’s worth every minute, every commitment.”

About the Carmelite NGO

Headquartered in New Orleans, the Carmelite NGO is affiliated with the United Nations. The Carmelite NGO promotes justice, peace and care for creation.

About Salpointe Catholic High School

Founded in 1950, Salpointe is a Carmelite college-preparatory high school enrolling 1,170 students and accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association.

What Teachers And Students Say About Curriculum on Laudato Si’

“Salpointe Catholic High School is truly pleased to have been selected to pilot the Carmelite NGO Laudato Si’ Curriculum project. We have taken the essence of Laudato Si’ and formed our Curriculum with that very essence.” **President Kay Sullivan**

“Amazingly, not many of the Catholic social justice documents over the past few hundred years have had anything to do with the environment, so this was a particularly innovative perspective for Pope Francis to have.” “Laudato Si’ helps teach students that we’re brothers and sisters for each other. We’re the voice of the voiceless. We commit to solidarity in our world.” **Ellen Fisher, Salpointe faculty member**

“I would hope that as the Curriculum is made available to other schools, other teaching teams would form so that they too might embark on a study of and reflection on Laudato Si’, to see where it takes them for their particular schools.” **Kathleen McGarey-Vasey, Salpointe faculty member**

“Learning about climate change and the environment in our school helps us understand what climate change is and how we can prevent it, slow it down and, hopefully, eventually stop it.” **Kaitlyn, Salpointe senior**

“I like the Curriculum because it’s easy to apply to current events, especially because climate change and environmental issues are such debated hot topics in pop culture and politics, around the world, with poor people being affected, and everyone being affected.” **Anthony, Salpointe senior**

“It has helped me see everything in a different perspective.” **Marcelo, Salpointe senior**

“I never connected climate change with food availability, people being hungry. The Curriculum helps you look at people involved, such as flood victims. We learned about how climate change affects people’s physical and mental health.” **Andy, Salpointe senior**

Fact Sheet

Curriculum On Laudato Si’

- Pope Francis issued his environmental Encyclical, *Laudato Si’ On Care For Our Common Home*, in 2015.
- Soon after, the Carmelite NGO started working on a high school Curriculum to teach *Laudato Si’* to students throughout the world.

- The administration and faculty of Salpointe Catholic High School in Tucson, Ariz., agreed to undertake the pilot program and develop the Curriculum.
- Curriculum on Laudato Si' contains lessons in Theology, Environmental Science, Humanities and Social Studies that integrate the Pope's teaching into classes for grades 9-12.
- Lessons are geared to specific curriculum standards and have been approved by Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Fr. Raul Maraví, O.Carm.
- The Carmelite NGO also developed a Laudato Si' Study Guide for college classes, study groups, book clubs and anyone wishing to explore the Pope's Encyclical.
- The goal of the Curriculum is to help young people understand the Pope's climate lessons and save the earth as they become adults.
- Curriculum on Laudato Si' is a 252-page volume available at laudato-si-for-all.com in English and Spanish. Hard copies in a binder are \$25, downloads are \$6. Adult Study Guides are \$10 for hard copies and \$6 for downloads. Bulk orders are available.

