



REGIS
UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF MISSION

LAUDATO SI ACTION PLATFORM

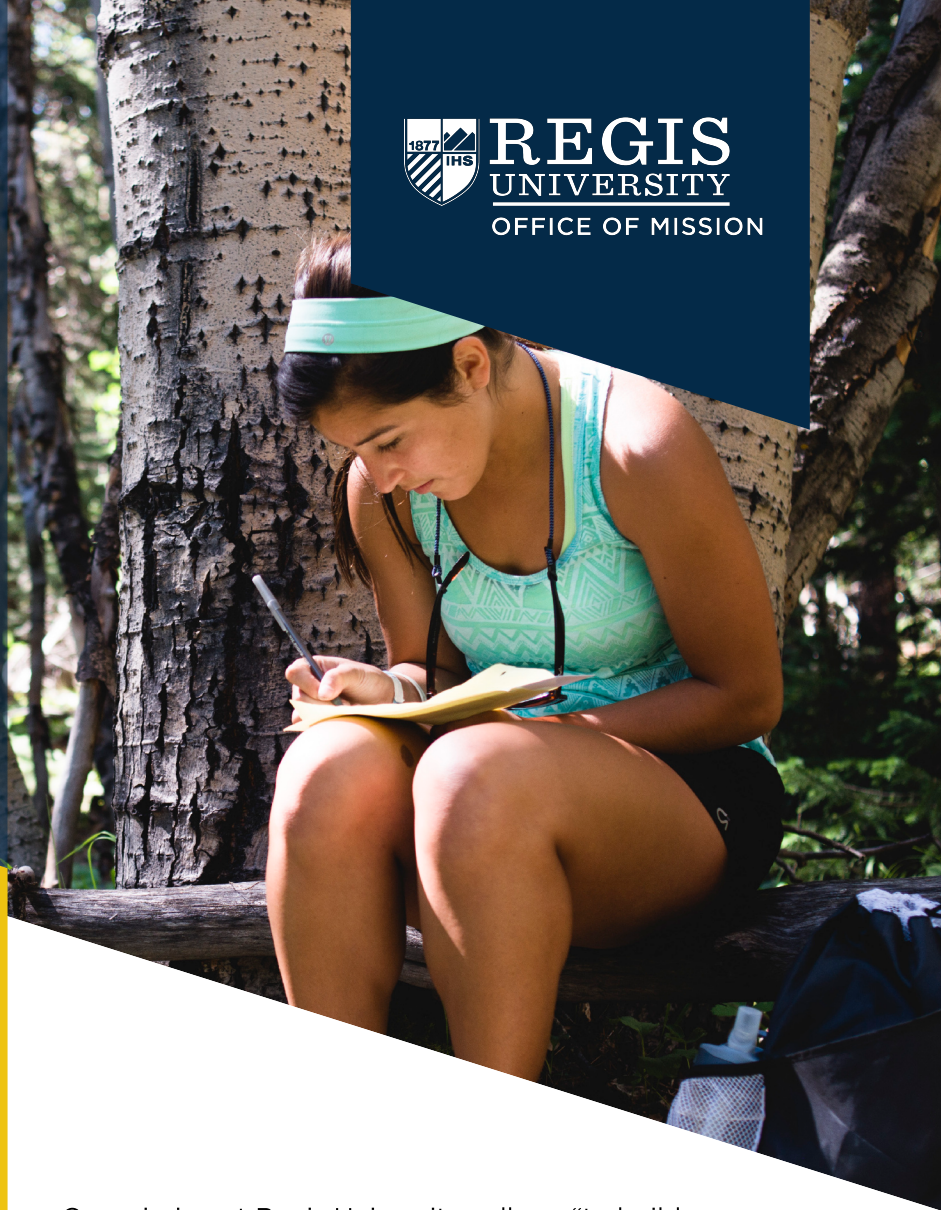
REGIS UNIVERSITY REFLECTION

In 2021, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development launched the Laudato Si Action Platform, an international movement inspired by Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical of that name. Regis University's then-president Fr. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J., committed the institution to developing an action plan resonant with the seven goals of the platform.

Since then, and with the full support of President Salvador Aceves, a group of Regis students, scholars, and activists have come together to reflect and strategize about how our university can work toward a more integrated, holistic and sustainable way of life in our common home.

Our mission at Regis University calls us "to build a more just and humane world through transformative education." Today, creation itself is threatened by changes on a geological level. How are we listening to the cry of the earth, and what are we doing to build a more just and human environment? People living in poverty and marginalized by society bear a greater burden of environmental degradation: what are we doing to hear their cry and to promote their well-being? Faced with these questions, we are called by Pope Francis to a more integral approach: "Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* 49)

We are also aware that we need to reflect on our own history and patterns that have generated and continue to maintain unjust and unsustainable relationships with each other and with the Earth. The challenges we face are global, but they begin at home. We look to the future, but also must right past wrongs.





"We are faced with not two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.

Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature."

POPE FRANCIS
LAUDATO SI' 139

While it is easy for the challenges to feel overwhelming, at Regis we have built a foundation which can support this commitment to integral ecology and ready us for the internal conversion — individual and collective — required for the moment.

Our mission statement asks, "how ought we to live?", orienting our education towards personal and social transformation.

Our curriculum features ecological education and sustainable development as an invitation to global environmental awareness.

Our faculty and staff include environmentally-focused scholars, experts, and practitioners across disciplines of science, sociology, humanities, business, development practice, healthcare, and more.

Our first-year experience program orients traditional undergraduates to nature contemplation and climate action from the beginning of their college studies.

And most importantly, our mission statement empowers us to ask how our education and life together can support a more just, humane, and sustainable world: **"Regis aspires to be a community of learners who labor for a transformed world and renewed ecosystem, and who journey as companions, responsible to each other."**

Our Jesuit tradition provides us with resources to build upon this foundation toward an integral ecology as a university. Ignatian pedagogy provides repeated opportunities to understand our context, learn experientially, reflect on experience in ways that lead to action, and evaluate the learning process. Likewise, the Jesuit commitment to education for justice asks us to support our academic activities — teaching, learning, researching — in addressing the urgent problems caused by climate change, structural poverty, and structural injustice.

We will engage the Laudato Si Action Platform in ways befitting a Jesuit Catholic university community:

- Educating** on the ecological crisis as well as potential solutions
- Promoting** environmental scholarship and research
- Developing** the tools to advocate for good policy
- Nurturing** an ecological spirituality
- Being** responsible in our use of resources
- Reducing** our environmental footprint

As Pope Francis has said, "the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion" (*Laudato Si'* 217). We commit ourselves to interior conversion, to discerning anew our relationship to creation, to promoting justice for the marginalized, and to "journeying with youth in the creation of a hope-filled future" in care for our common home (the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus).