

# Laudato Si' Reflection

*"As expressions of God's healing love witnessed through the ministry of Jesus, we are steadfast in serving all, especially those who are poor and vulnerable."*

*Providence's Mission*

The health of the environment and the health of its people are interconnected. Across Providence, we are witnessing melting glaciers, ravaging wildfires, and unprecedented flooding. The social determinants of health of the people we serve have multiplied, the social stressors exacerbated, and the traumas compounded by this ecological crisis. Their needs are now much higher and will only continue to increase. The ecological crisis is the result of a disconnection between humans in relationship with and responsibility towards God's Creation. As an organization and as individual caregivers, we are committed to care for all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Nature doesn't necessarily have a voice, so it's our responsibility to speak up; to be a voice for the vulnerable. We believe that care for humankind and care for the Earth must be carried out simultaneously.

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*"We are faced not with 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*

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Each of the seven Laudato Si' Goals has strong and direct connections to Providence's Mission, along with our values of **Compassion, Dignity, Justice, Excellence**, and **Integrity**. The Mission and Values are deeply rooted in the scriptures and anchor our commitment to serve not only as a ministry of the Church, but also an education and social services ministry. The person of Jesus and his ministry, animates the sacred work we do as caregivers and grounds us. The idea of steadfast service draws on the gospel mandate and the sacred stories that serve as inspirational models for us to always look outwards to meet the need that may be present around us. At Providence, the dignity of the person, preferential option for the poor, and the common good are foundational principles that inform our values and guide the care we provide.

One of our founding religious communities, The Sisters of Providence, left us with these prophetic words in a document entitled: Hopes and Aspirations for Providence Ministries. "We ask that you be good stewards of all we have been given for this ministry—our people, our resources, and our earth." "We hope Providence will be a model of good stewardship, that we may demonstrate faithfulness to our values, and that others may learn stewardship from us."

**WE ACT** to work toward carbon negative by 2030

**TOGETHER** with caregivers to reduce costs and our environmental footprint on

**HEALTH and JUSTICE** for individuals and the communities we serve for a

**BETTER WORLD** by caring for our common home that we will pass to future generations.