



JMJ
MARIST BROTHERS
NOTRE DAME OF DADIANGAS UNIVERSITY

Marist Avenue
General Santos City 9500
P.O. Box 100

Cable Address:
MARIST DADIANGAS
Tel. Nos. 552-4351, 552-5196
Fax No. 552-3385

REFLECTING ON THE LAUDATO SI GOALS

- Review the Laudato Si' Goals [here](#). Which of these goals speaks to you the most, and how have they inspired changes for you or your community?

Among the seven goals, "Response to the Cry of the Earth" and "Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles" speak to us most profoundly as a Marist community. As an institution situated in East Asia, we are keenly aware of our region's ecological vulnerability, and these goals provide a clear roadmap for our shared mission at NDDU. They have inspired us to move beyond theoretical teaching toward a genuine ecological conversion in our daily operations and campus culture.

By embracing the Marist values of simplicity and presence, we have been challenged to re-evaluate our collective habits—reducing our environmental footprint and fostering a culture of mindful consumption. These goals have strengthened our resolve to build community resilience, ensuring that we are not just an academic center but a sanctuary of stewardship. We recognize our responsibility to speak for those who cannot speak—the marginalized communities and the natural world itself—by using our platforms to advocate for justice in a way that is both firm and pleasant, reflecting the Marist way of "gentle persistence."

Moving forward, we are committed to weaving these responsibilities into the very heart of our curriculum and our daily dealings. We strive to form students who see the "cry of the earth" and the "cry of the poor" as one, empowering us all to act as compassionate instruments of God in the care of our common home.

- Enrich your understanding of how “[everything is connected.](#)” How has the socio-ecological crisis affected your community?

To us, the principle that “everything is connected” is most visible in the shared vulnerability of our local landscape and our people. In the context of General Santos City and the surrounding provinces, we see that the socio-ecological crisis is not two separate problems, but one complex emergency. When our marine ecosystems in the Sarangani Bay face degradation or when the Buayan River system is compromised by siltation and unregulated quarrying, it is our small-scale fishers and upland farmers who immediately suffer the loss of livelihood. We witness how extreme weather patterns, like the intensifying El Niño droughts or the flash floods in Mindanao, do not only damage our infrastructure but also worsen the "cry of the poor" by driving up food prices and threatening the health of the most marginalized. This interconnectedness has taught us that we cannot achieve social justice without environmental protection. Consequently, we have integrated this understanding into our daily dealings at NDDU, recognizing that every watt of energy we save and every sustainable habit we model in our lessons is a direct act of solidarity with those whose lives are most tied to the health of our common home.

- What is your mission and/or your values?

Notre Dame of Dadiangas University is a Catholic, Filipino Institution of Academic Excellence established by the Marist Brothers of the Schools (FMS). As such, the school's mission are to a) share in the Church's mission of evangelization by integrating life and faith, b) preserve Filipino culture and propagate love of country and its people, c) respond to the challenges to the locality it is serving. The NDDU Core Values the school uphold are family spirit, Marian spirit, simplicity, presence and participation, preference for the least favored, love of work, integrity of creation and quality education.

- How do your unique mission and/or values and identity connect with the Laudato Si' Goals?

Notre Dame of Dadiangas University connects its mission, values and identity with the Laudato Si' Goals through the lens of Marist Spirituality. This connection is not only theoretical but through theory and practice, NDDU aligns itself with Pope Francis' call towards integral ecology.

One of NDDU's core value is integrity of creation, which is a direct bridge to the Laudato Si' Goals. NDDU teaches that everything in this world is created by God and everything is interconnected. As such, we have implemented the use of solar panels in our main campus, the "no to single-use plastics" policy, and making Green NDDU as a program across all campuses.

Our community involvement activities and the core value preference for the least favored is connected with Laudato Si's "Cry of the Poor". We have programs like the Maristabangay Project, which helped underprivileged students cope up with online classes during the pandemic through providing them with gadgets of their own. Our Pastoral Day activities help bridge the gap between our students and personnel with the underprivileged children, orphans, CICL and those in the "laylayan" by giving them opportunities to share what they have and enjoy each other's company.

The Marist value of simplicity connects with Laudato Si's "Sustainable Lifestyles". Students are encouraged to live transparently and honestly through their RE subjects, implement the ban on single-use plastics, introducing the "sapat" lifestyle by using and consuming only what is necessary and avoid excesses and luxuries. These reminds students and personnel that long-term solutions start with sustainable practices through everyday decisions.

- Why do you feel called to join the Laudato Si' Action Platform in your journey to integral ecology?

As a Marist and Catholic Institution, NDDU feels called to join the Laudato Si' Action Platform because our identity aligns with the concept of Integral Ecology. NDDU aims its graduates to become Christian Leaders and Community-Oriented Citizens; thus, it is but right that we educate our students not only theoretically but also practically, integrating faith and culture along the way.

By joining the platform, NDDU moves from not only educating the young but also institutionalizing our goals in line with the Laudato Si' Goals. Pope Francis' call to hear "the cry of the earth and the poor" resonates with our mission to respond to local challenges. Through the Laudato Si' Goals, NDDU can integrate these themes across all departments. And, as a member of the Global Marist Community, we are able to share best practices and standing in unity with making the Earth, our "Common Home".

- Whether you have already been taking action on Laudato Si' for some time or are just beginning your journey, what are your existing initiatives or the efforts you have already started? Use any online calculators that are helpful to you, or use the table below.

	Current Actions	What's working well	Areas for Improvement
Response to the Cry of the Earth and Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilization of Solar Panels in the Main Campus • Ban on Single-Use Plastics • Practice of 7S of Good Housekeeping • Maintaining of trees and fauna in the surroundings of the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of solar panels has reduced the university's carbon footprint. It generates approximately 695,000 KWH per year and prevents the emission of roughly 417 to 450 metric tons of CO2 annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the ban on single-use plastics by including other plastic containers and lessen the use of paper cups. • Eradicate invasive plants and plant more Philippine native trees.
Response to the Cry of the Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maristabangay • Pastoral Day • Tabang Marista 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maristabangay Project has helped more than 20 students during the pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen the reach of the Tabang Marista by channeling donations through HINABI Gensan, a group organized by HEIs in Gen. Santos City.
Ecological Education and Ecological Spirituality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental planning course and other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RE Integration Program was widened the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensify research initiatives of

	<p>research initiatives pertaining to the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of RE Integration Program • Celebration of Mindanao Week of Peace, Prayer for Unity, Inter-religious Dialogue 	<p>consciousness of students in the different programs and activities of the Church in the locality.</p>	<p>environmental planning course and BS Biology where research can help the locality and other environmental concerns.</p>
Community Resilience and Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangrove & Tree Growing Activities • Church-involvement of the school in ban on open-pit mining • Linkages with USAID Safewater, GMA, HINABI, PMPI, LGU General Santos other Government agencies and non-government organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has involved its with the Church's strong stance against open-pit mining in Tampakan and the coal mining in Brgy. Ned, Lake Sebu. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to have more intensive collaboration with different environmental groups and Church-based organizations against open-pit mining and coal mining. Relationships with policymakers should also be intensified so that policies can address the environmental concerns of the locality.