

SM SUSTAINABILITY COVENANT - SAMPLE

(Work of the Ecological Commission, adopted by the General Council 2020.09.29)

Preamble:

This Covenant sets down for the Society of Mary practical steps towards the creation of a life sustaining world. Care of our common home is an intrinsic part of living the gospel today. We take inspiration and direction from Laudato Si and GC2017. Marists do the work of “Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, who now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world”. [L.Si 241]

Principles:

1. We will live the Spirit of the Society authentically by attending to our way of life and how it impacts on our personal life, our community life, and our planet home.
2. We will integrate this care into our living of our vowed life as Marists.
3. We will reflect carefully on the new perspectives and urgent appeals before us in Laudato Si and GC 2017, recognizing our responsibility to care for the Earth and the poor of Earth in the way we live.
4. We will acknowledge the urgency of the climate crisis and act with the required integrity.
5. We will confirm creation-centered elements of our faith and spirituality, acknowledging the whole of creation as a gift and promise and under the care of Mary mother of the New Creation. We will pray and act as co-creators and guardians of this world redeemed in the Incarnation, Death and Resurrection of Christ.
6. We confirm and welcome the new corporal and spiritual work of mercy, “care of our common home” (Pope Francis 2016)

Procedures:

- A. Each community will draw up a guide of practical suggestions which will utilize life sustaining practices with a focus on energy use, travel, food, waste and water use, and other practical issues according to the local situation, and available resources.
- B. A “sustainability animator”, someone who leads by encouragement and example, can be nominated in each community.
- C. Spending time in nature, in the form of reflection, gardening and its associated activities, is encouraged as a life-giving, homemaking spiritual practice.
- D. We will encourage employees and colleagues, in our various Marist projects, to take action in their lives to complement our own sustainability commitments.
- E. As communities and as a Province we will discuss ways of measuring our carbon footprints and look towards reducing them over time.
- F. The community sustainability covenant will be reviewed annually, at the special community meeting held to review and plan their religious and apostolic life. [C.176]
- G. Review: see F.