

Laudato Si' Project

Newsletter

Restoring Our Natural Connection



***Mission:* To restore humanity's connection to the natural world through education, stewardship and recreation**

Spring 2017



Laudato Si' Project Student Stewardship Award

Jacob Baisden is a Marquette University High School student with a passion for the environment. He has been very active with Laudato Si' Project since its beginning in 2016. He is hoping to pursue a career in conservation or environmental science. Jacob has logged over 25 hours of stewardship work for Laudato Si' Project.

Laudato Si' Project has really allowed me to be a good steward to the land. It has given me knowledge and ideas for what I want to do for a career and how to inspire others. It has shown me that being a good steward should not be done alone but in a group where we are stronger.

-Jacob Baisden



Jacob Baisden with award plaque and maple syrup

Laudato Si' Project

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Earth Day 2017



NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER

Laudato Si' Project's Executive Director, Joe Meyer, had the ability go on Relevant Radio on Friday, April 21st to speak about our call to *Care for Our Common Home*. Morning Air co-host Glen Levrens asked questions regarding what we can all do to be better stewards of creation. A main topic discussed was the 2016 institution of *Care for Our Common Home* as a spiritual and corporal work of mercy.

LSP also had its picture published in the National Catholic Reporter. It highlights our stewardship work with Cristo Rey High School as part of the worldwide Mercy2Earth activities that took place around Earth Day. The article speaks of events ranging from stewardship work days, like ours, to prayer services or nature walks. Over 800 actions took place in 31 countries around the world and were registered on the Global Catholic Climate Movement website. More about our partnership with Cristo Rey on page 4.



Living *Laudato Si'* Highlights



New Partnership with Tablesetters

Tablesetters is an experiential school program that teaches the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. It gets its name from the idea that *all should have a place at God's table*. LSP has partnered with Tablesetters and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to support participating schools in educational programming of the seventh principle, "Care for God's Creation."

The seven principles of Catholic social teaching are:

- Dignity of the Human Person.
- Call to Family, Community and Participation.
- Rights and Responsibilities.
- Preferential Option for and with People who are Poor.
- Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers.
- Solidarity.
- Care for God's Creation.



Laudato Si' Project presents

Common Home Explorer Program

We are excited to announce our new school program called the *Common Home Explorer Program*. This will be offered to our partner grade schools as a way to enhance their school science and religion curriculum, as well as, offer outdoor experiential programming and stewardship opportunities. These programs will be offered to all schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

We have also partnered with Marquette University High School to run special 5th-7th grade programming at various school in Southeast WI. This will also allow middle school students the ability to join mentor MUHS students during some of our stewardship work days. The schools involved in this program include: St. John Vianney, St. Dominic, St. Mary Visitation, St. Jude the Apostle and Christ King.

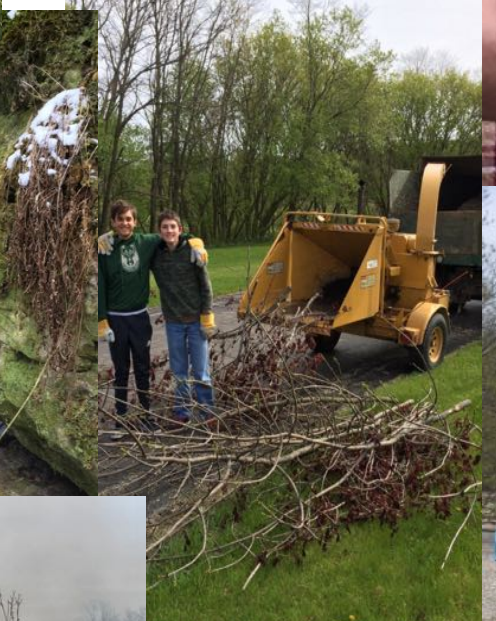
Continued Partnership with Cristo Rey High School



For the second time in the last 12 months, Cristo Rey High School brought out students, faculty and family members, all excited to take part in stewardship to the Schoenstatt Retreat Center. The main objective was to remove buckthorn, an invasive tree species, to allow regeneration of the oak and hickory trees in the woodland. This also allows more sunlight to hit the open woodland ground, benefiting native wildflower and grass species.

We removed a vast amount of buckthorn and stacked it throughout the woodland. These giant brush piles are havens for wildlife ranging from rodents to birds. A 1/3 mile nature trail is also being created through this beautiful 13 acre woodland as part of an Eagle Scout Project this summer. This will give an opportunity to those on retreat to walk, reflect and pray while in a beautiful woodland. Students from Cristo Rey also learned about geology and ecology of Southeast WI and connected it to our call as stewards of *Our Common Home*. We look forward to their continued partnership with us.





Milwaukee Environmental Connection



MEC will soon launch Milwaukee's first digital environmental community. Called the Milwaukee Environmental Connection (MEC-Connect), this resource for the Greater Milwaukee area will feature local environmental news, articles, stories, events, volunteer opportunities and more. Laudato Si' Project is a proud founding partner organization and looks forward to continuing collaboration with local organizations to bring about positive change in Southeast WI.

Check www.meconnect.us later this summer for updates.

By The Numbers: Spring Care for Our Common Home

Education

Laudato Si' Project has conducted **11 hours** of presentations, interpretive hikes and educational tours.

Stewardship

Laudato Si' Project has contributed **186 volunteer hours** in stewardship projects to better the ecological value of our world's outdoor places.

Recreation

Laudato Si' Project has sponsored **5 hours** of recreational outings to visit, explore and learn about our natural world.

Laudato Si' Project is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization that depends on membership and donations to continue its vital mission. Thank You!