

# Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home



# **LAUDATO SI'** **AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH** A Conference Series on Our Common Home

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

JUNE 2019

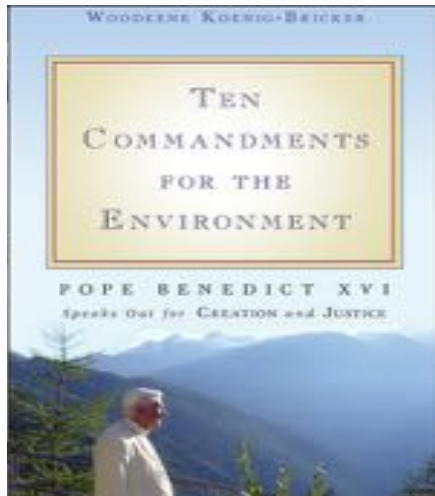
PATRICIA SIEMEN, O.P., J.D.

# Listening to Earth...



“We cannot simply do what we want with this Earth of ours, with what has been entrusted to us. We must respect the interior laws of creation, of this Earth, to learn these laws and obey them if we want to survive. This obedience to the voice of the Earth is more important for our future happiness...than the desires of the moment.

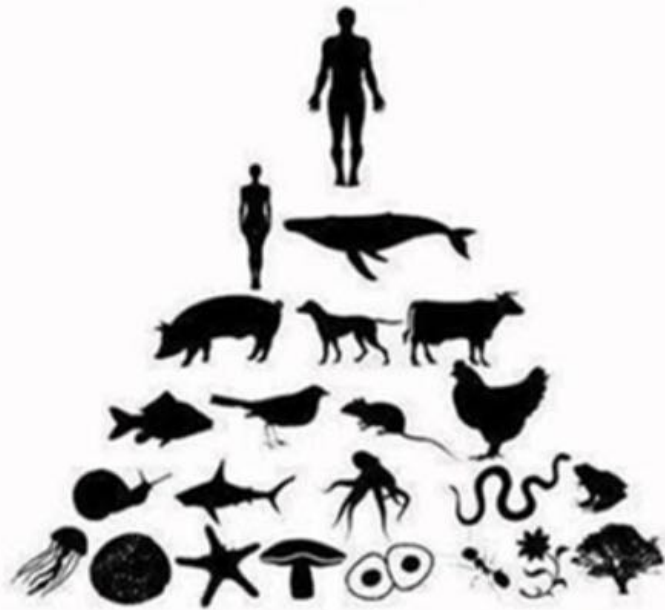
Our Earth is talking to us and we must listen to it and decipher its message if we want to survive.” Pope Benedict XV, July, 2007



# Earth on Fire



# Changing our Lens



Michigan Milk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN MILK PROCESSOR ASSOCIATION

# MESSENGER

VOL. 46 | FALL 2016 | 1 OCTOBER 2016

2016 MHPA  
Outstanding  
Young Dairy  
Cooperators

Darrin *and* Barbara  
**Siemen**



# The importance of location

**“Where you stand determines what you will see;  
whom you stand with will determine what you hear;  
and what you see and hear will determine what you say and how you act.”**

Robert McAfee Brown, *Theology in a New Key*

# Immokalee NFP Housing

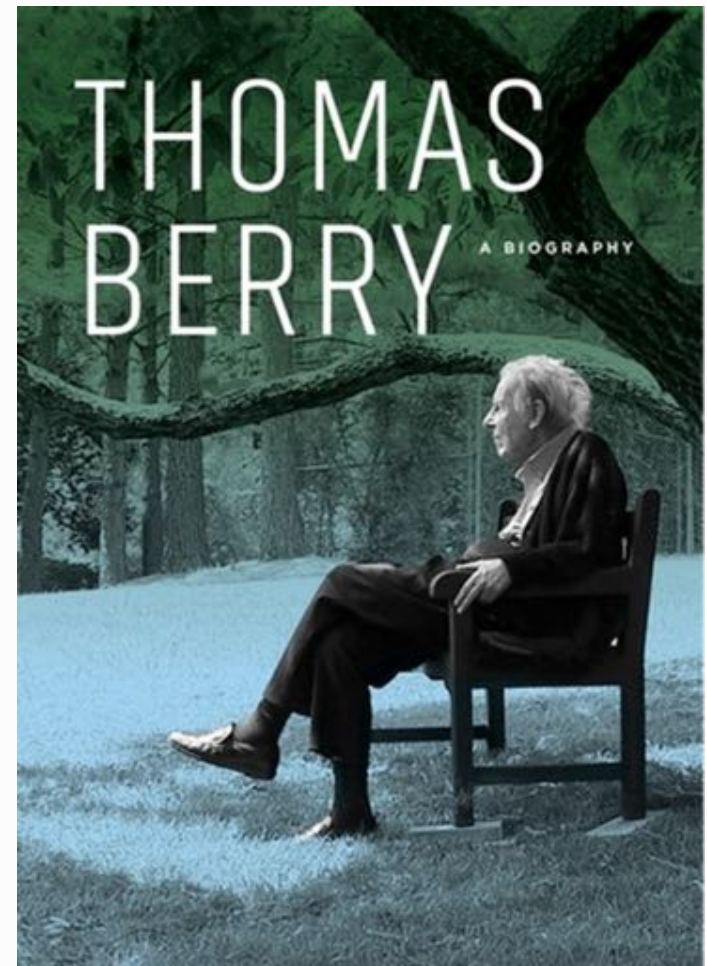


# Endangered Florida Scrub Jay

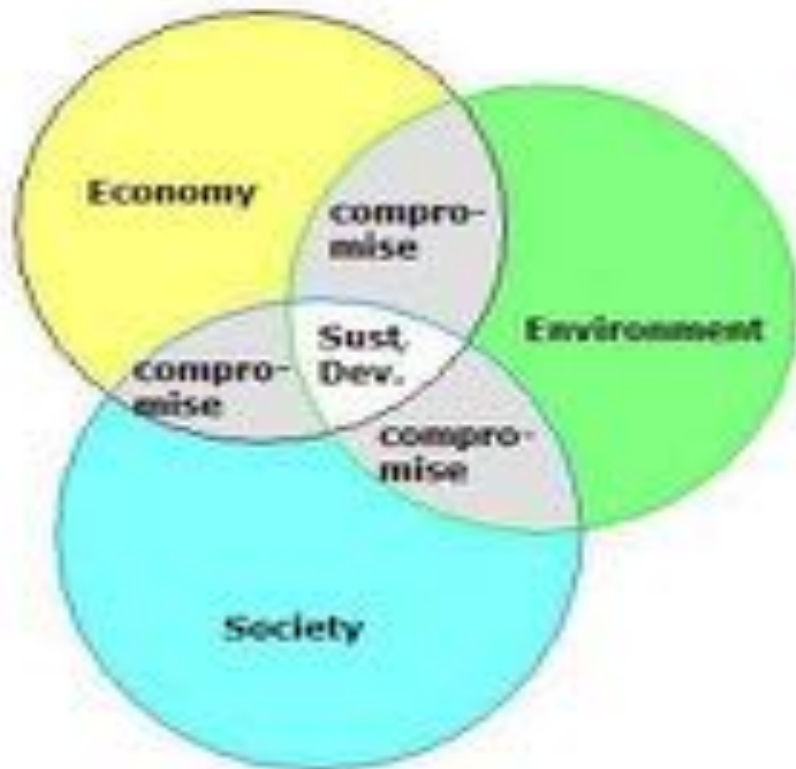




# Thomas Berry - mentor



# Models of Sustainable Communities



**Weak Sustainability**



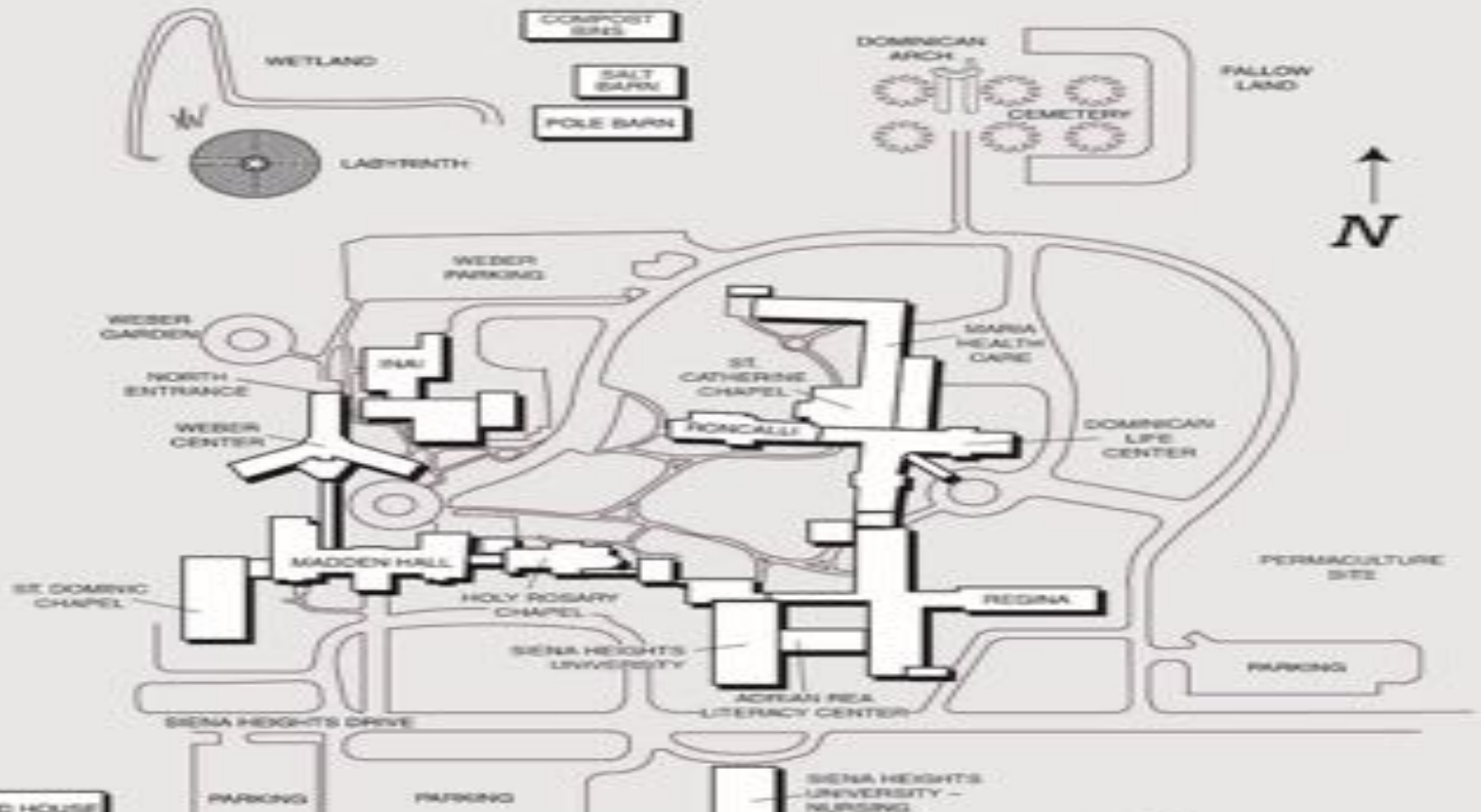
**Strong Sustainability**

# *Laudato Sí* – new legal framework needed



“The establishment of a legal framework which can set clear boundaries and ensure the protection of ecosystems has become indispensable; otherwise, the new power structures based on the techno-economic paradigm may overwhelm not only our politics but also freedom and justice.” 53

# ADS Campus Map



# Enactment on Ecological Sustainability



“Recognizing the violence against Earth community that places our common home in dire jeopardy and intensifies the suffering of people on the margins, future generations and all creation, **we will sacrifice to mitigate significantly our impact on climate change and ecological degradation.**” ADS 2016 General Chapter



**ADS commitment to radical  
ecological sustainability**



# Energy Use and Efficiency

## Partnership with Consumers Energy

- Rebate Program
  - ❖ Occupancy Sensors
  - ❖ LED replacement
  - ❖ Chiller upgrade
  - ❖ Windows Replaced
  - ❖ Peak Response Program
  - ❖ What can we do without





# Energy Use



**Participation in Consumers Energy**

**GREEN GENERATION PLAN**

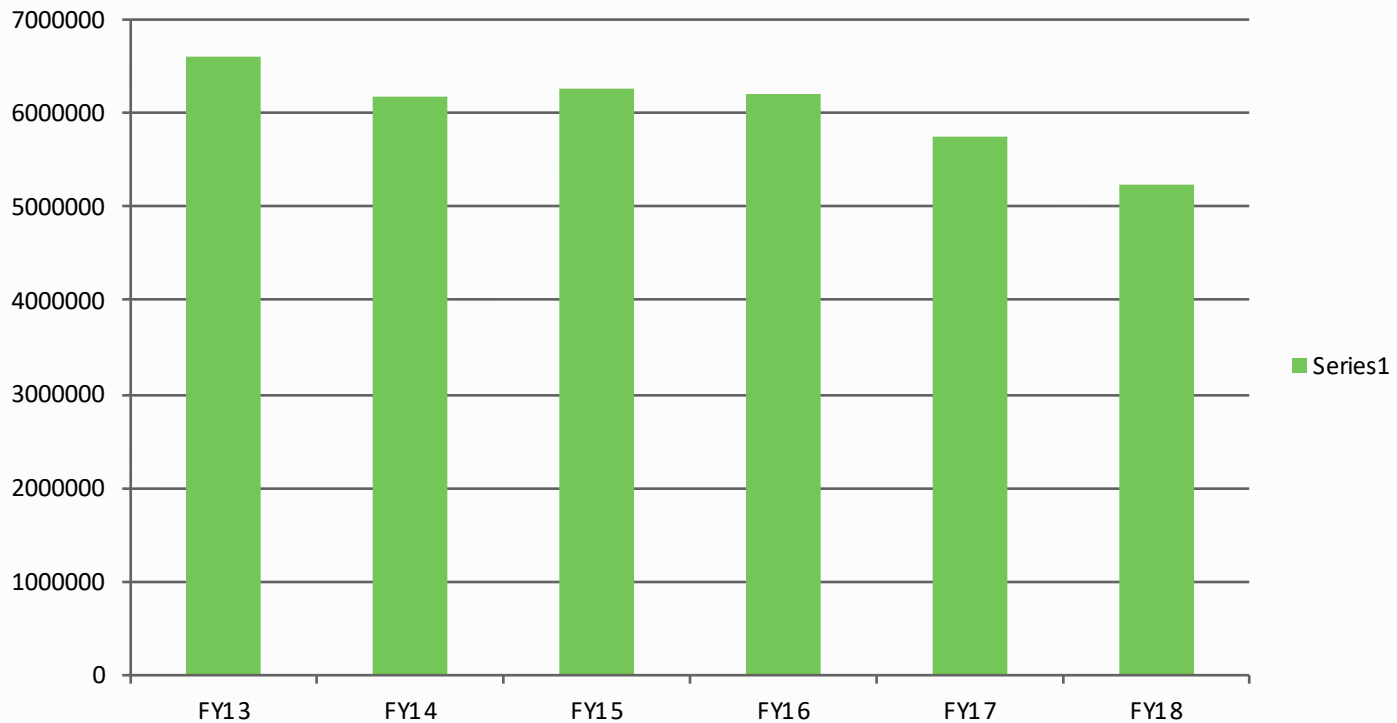
**100% of our campus**

**Additional cost of \$0.0085/kwh**



# ENERGY USE

Annual Usage of kwh





# Land/Earth Relationships

- **Build Soil Health**
- **Attend to Water Story**
- **Focus on Perennials**
- **Increase Biodiversity**
- **Produce Food**
- **Create Contemplative Space**
- **Invite Collaboration with Earth and Others**
- **Educate for the Common Good**



# Water Story—berms & swales, rain barrels, rain garden





# Slow- Spread-Sink Berms and Swales





# Catch and Store

## Rain Garden



## Rain Barrels





# Food

- ❖ **Increase purchase of local/regional and sustainably grown foods.**
- ❖ **Grow our own foods.**
- ❖ **Choose a more plant rich diet**



# Kitchen Garden Harvest







# Raised beds – for 81+ average age

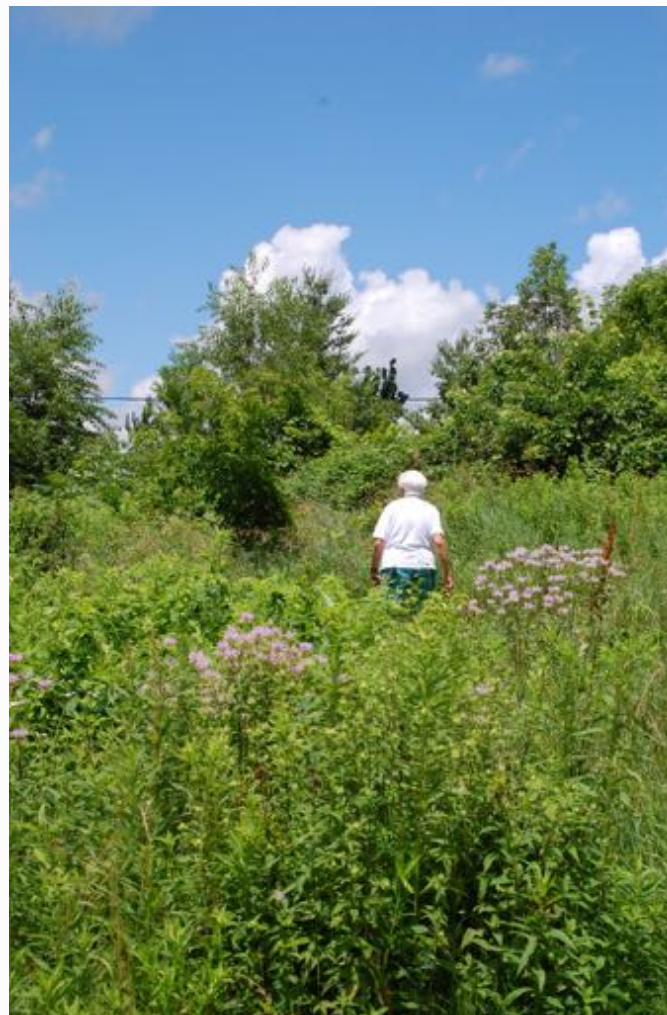


# Land/Earth Relationships

## Build Soil Health



- **Focus on Perennials**
- **Cease use of chemical fertilizer and herbicides**
- **Reduce area of mowing and mow at 3" height**





# Land/Earth Relationships

## Increase Biodiversity

- Plant pollinator gardens
- Consider habitat for native bees
- Provide undisturbed areas for wildlife presence



# Biodiversity flourishing





# CAMPUS WASTE STREAMS

- Mixed Stream Recycling
- Pre-Consumer Food Waste
- Confidential Paper
- Cardboard
- Copier Toners
- Scrap Metals
- Furniture Donations
- Disposable Batteries
- Hazardous Household Waste
- Electronics
- Lights
- Regulated Medical Waste
- Pharmaceutical Waste

**REMAINDER =  
LANDFILL MATERIAL**

**Produce No  
Waste**

**REDUCE**

**REUSE**

**REPURPOSE**

**RECYCLE**

**RETHINK**





# Composting Food Wastes

# COMPOST

*These items accepted:*



**Tea and  
tea bags**



**Coffee, filters,  
bamboo stirrers**  
*(also compostable  
single-serving pods)*



**Compostable  
plates, bowls,  
cups, napkins**



**Egg shells**  
*(crushed)*



**House plant  
clippings**



**Unseasoned  
raw fruit and  
vegetables**  
*(small pieces are best)*



# Produce No Waste

## Vermiculture - Compost





# Vermicomposting - Black Gold



# Elimination of Single Use Plastic

- ❖ Bottle Fill Stations
- ❖ Eliminate plastic waste liners in office trash baskets
- ❖ Make available mugs/drinking glasses at coffee stations



# A Call to Respond

Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet. Carl Sagan



## Variation On A Theme By Rilke

(The Book of Hours, Book I, Poem 1, Stanza 1)

A certain day became a presence to me;  
there it was, confronting me – a sky, air, light:  
a being. And before it started to descend  
from the height of noon, it leaned over  
and struck my shoulder as if with  
the flat of a sword, granting me  
honor and a task. The day's blow  
rang out, metallic -- or it was I, a bell awakened,  
and what I heard was my whole self  
saying and singing what it knew: I can.

~ Denise Levertov ~