

THE GREEN AMBASSADOR



October 2023 | Office of Sustainability | green.nd.edu

Term of the Month

October's term of the month is *exhortation*. An "exhortation" is an address or communication emphatically urging someone to do something.

On St. Francis Day (October 4, 2023) Pope Francis will release his new environmental exhortation, *Laudate Deum*, a subsequent publication to his landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.

[Learn more about the Pope's environmental exhortation](#)

Celebrating Our Common Home



ST. FRANCIS WEEK 2023 | #FRANCISFEST

Our annual St. Francis Week celebration takes place **October 2nd through October 6th**, and departments from across the University and abroad have organized events to honor St. Francis and his commitment to ecology.

October 4: Global Day of Action

To celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, members and friends of the Notre Dame International community around the world will be responding to *Laudato Si's* call to care for our common home with local action.

The theme for this year's Global Day of Action focuses on reducing our waste. We are encouraging everyone to consider how we can reduce waste in our everyday life, whether that means reducing energy consumption, reusing and repurposing materials and relying less on single-use items, purchasing and consuming fewer materials, or donating unwanted goods and food.

Staff and students on the main campus and at our global locations are invited to get outside for an environmental service project, a litter pick, a group reflection, or prayer service to gather people in our local community together to act on and reflect on our role in caring for our earth.

If you decide to do a campus or community clean-up, we want to see your group and the trash you collect! Be sure to tag your group photos and weird finds @sustainableND and @NDinternational on Instagram with #FrancisFest.

October 4: Green Mass

Come celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi! A Green Mass will take place in honor of our common home. Fr. Robert Lisowski will preside over the mass, and Fr. Martin Lam Nguyen will provide the homily.

October 5: Caring for Our Common Home: Responding to Pope Francis' Environmental Exhortation

On Thursday, October 5th at 5:00 p.m., we will gather in Jordan Hall's Digital Visualization Theatre (DVT) for a panel discussion on climate change alongside the Pope's upcoming release of *Laudate Deum*.

Preceding the panel, the DVT will host a viewing of [Let There Be Light](#), a short planetarium program commissioned by the Vatican as part of their exhibition *Energy for the Common Good* at the 2017 International Expo *Future Energy*.

Following the panel, we will gather for dinner and conversation in the Jordan Hall of Science Reading Room. **Space is limited to 100 people, so don't wait to register for this event! [R.S.V.P. via this link.](#)**

October 6: Sign of the Times: Sustainability for the Future

South Bend Mayor James Mueller will be on campus at noon in the Center for Social Concern's Coffee House to discuss intersections of community, justice, and sustainability in the region. Be sure to bring your lunch!

[Visit our events page for more details](#)

Sustainability Spotlight: Environmental Exhortation Panelists



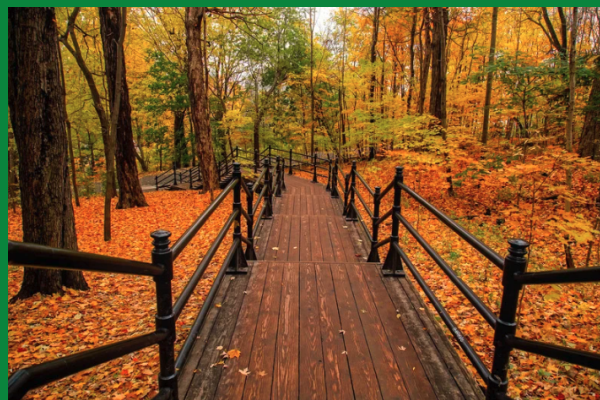
Sustainability stakeholders from across the Notre Dame community will gather on October 5th for an engaging

discussion about climate change alongside the Pope's upcoming release, *Laudate Deum*. The panel will be moderated by [Geory Kurtzhals](#), Senior Director of the Office of Sustainability, and will feature panelists that include: [Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C.](#), Vice President & Associate Provost and Associate Professor of Political Science; [Phil Sakimoto](#), Director of Sustainability Minor and Professor of the Practice, Department of Physics & Astronomy; Tyler Popa, 3rd-year M.Div. student, Campus Ministry; and [Lizzie Stifel](#), Student Government's Director of Sustainability.

These panelists represent the intersections of faith, passion, and expertise, and demonstrate that our role in caring for our common home requires everyone from all backgrounds to be engaged in the conversation.

[Learn more about the discussion & register for the event](#)

October Sustainability Tip



Autumn is an amazing time to get outside and explore nature. This transitional season of crisp air and changing leaves provides an excellent opportunity to explore our common home! Southwestern [Michigan](#) and Northern [Indiana](#) host a plethora of state parks to connect with creation.

If you're a student on campus, you can obtain park passes from McWell to visit the Fernwood Botanical Gardens and other St. Joseph County parks! Visit their office in Saint Liam Hall or [check out their website](#) for more information.

Not only does Michiana have beautiful parks to explore, but excellent u-pick opportunities during the harvest season. *Did you know?* [Michigan is second in agricultural diversity only to California](#), which means there's a lot of farms to explore and amazing foods to try. A few popular u-pick destinations in the region include [Lehman's Orchard](#), [Stover's Farm Market](#), and [Kercher's Orchard](#).

Looking Ahead: Spreading Local Roots and Growing Fresh Fruits

Coming this fall, Campus Dining is bringing a fresh new product to the dining halls, further supporting local farmers and sustainable agricultural practices. Grown just 21 miles north of Notre Dame in Galien, Michigan, this 60-acre farm is helping shape the future of farming, one tomato at a time.

Curious to learn more about this new partnership? Be sure to check out our November issue of the Green Ambassador to read the full story!



Do you know about a sustainability event coming up?
Add it our Google calendar.

Nominate someone to be highlighted in our next Sustainability Spotlight!



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