

His Eminence  
Cardinal Turkson  
Prefetto, Dicastero per lo Sviluppo Umano Integrale  
Palazzo San Calisto  
00120 Città del Vaticano

Your Eminence:

At this time, Villanova University is extremely happy to communicate to you our public commitment to participate in Pope Francis' *7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology* and understands that the Vatican *Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development* will officially enroll our university in the *Journey* on October 4, 2021, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

We understand that as a *Laudato Si' University*, we will continue to chart our own course through the *Journey*, with the assistance of the *Laudato Si' Action Platform*. We began this journey in 2017 by forming a Sustainability Leadership Council which elaborated our university sustainability plan under the guidelines found in *Laudato Si'* and working towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over this next year we will continue to work with faculty, students, administrators, staff, and neighbors to further develop our university *Laudato Si' Action Plan* that will integrally and boldly advance each of the 7 *Laudato Si' Goals*:

- Respond to the Cry of the Earth
- Respond to the Cry of the Poor
- Foster Ecological Economics
- Adopt a Sustainable Lifestyle
- Offer Ecological Education
- Develop Ecological Spirituality
- Support Local Communities

We further understand that our university will annually report to the *Dicastery* on its progress and participate in communication with other universities on the *Journey* around the world. In Year 7, we will celebrate our accomplishments and those of our fellow universities and enjoy Pope Francis' formal recognition of our work as a *Laudato Si' University*.

We appreciate this opportunity to advance Pope Francis' powerful *Laudato Si'* message and are pleased to make this commitment.



Rev. PETER DONOHUE O.S.A.

October 4, 2021