

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release:
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NEW CARMELITE CURRICULUM FOCUSED ON POPE'S ENCYCLICAL TO BE ADOPTED WORLDWIDE

Laudato Si'-based curriculum was developed and piloted at Salpointe Catholic

February 7, 2017 (Tucson, Ariz.) – Today members of the Carmelite Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) visited Salpointe Catholic High School to celebrate the blessing of newly developed curriculum based on Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, in partnership with Salpointe faculty.

"Using Pope Francis' Encyclical document, the goal of the new curriculum is to create a healthy path to human fulfillment by provoking and cultivating in ourselves, and especially in our youth, a way of living in greater harmony with one another and the Earth," said Kevin Russell, Environmental Biology faculty member at Salpointe and project leader of the new curriculum.

In the spring of 2016, Mr. Russell worked with representatives of the Carmelite NGO and faculty members of academic departments across Salpointe to integrate elements of *Laudato Si'* into all areas of lesson plans, including service learning.

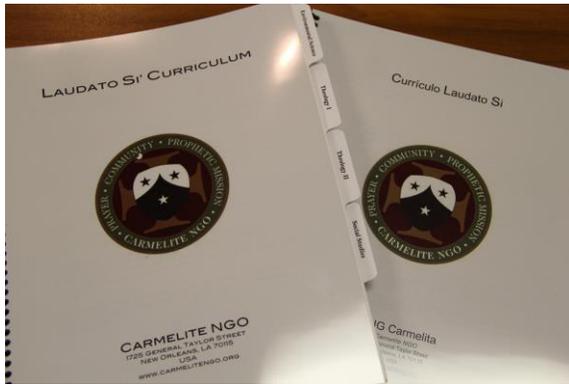
"Salpointe is proud to have initiated and completed the development of an interdisciplinary secondary school curriculum that honors the essence of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*," said Kay Sullivan, Salpointe president.

The curriculum was recently approved by Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans and by Fr. Raul Maraví, O.Carm., General Councillor of the Carmelite Order representing the Americas and President of the International Commission of Carmelite Schools and Youth.

"The curriculum offers a progressive and experiential learning design, so that the students, guided by the environmental sciences, the Word of God and the richness of the Carmelite spirituality, will be able to integrate into their lives a comprehensive ecological awareness of responsible care of the earth, unique home for everyone," said Maravi.



Pictured from L to R: John Howell, Salpointe President Kay Sullivan, Fr. Eduardo Scarel, O.Carm., Salpointe Principal Sr. Helen Timothy, Kate McGarey-Vasey, Kevin Russell, Sr. Blaise Fernando, O.Carm. and Sr. Jane Remson, O.Carm. Salpointe representatives involved in the project but not pictured: Betty Dadante, Elena Malovich, Jason Cox and Marisol Valencia



The lesson plan-based curriculum, which focuses on respecting the Earth, will be presented during the International Congress for Schools in Rome in November 2017, thereby serving as a model to be adopted by 40 Carmelite schools worldwide. The curriculum is available directly from the Carmelite NGO and is currently available in both English and Spanish.

"[The Curriculum Program] is an excellent tool for teachers to incorporate *Laudato Si'* into their daily

lesson plans for all subjects," said Sister Jane Remson, O.Carm., who initiated and oversaw the project as the main representative of the Carmelite NGO.

On Monday, February 6, Salpointe students attended a presentation by Fr. Eduardo Scarel, O.Carm., called "the Pope's climatologist" because of his assistance in writing *Laudato Si'*. Fr. Eduardo, a world-renowned atmospheric scientist and expert in the field of climate change, traveled to Tucson to speak at an international climate conference this week. He arrived earlier in the week to spend time with Salpointe students and to participate in the celebration of the blessing of the new curriculum.



About Salpointe Catholic High School:

Salpointe's holistic, college-preparatory curriculum offers not only a premier STEM program, but also award-winning fine and performing arts, Humanities, theology, competitive athletics and wide-ranging co-curricular activities. Founded in 1950, Salpointe is a Catholic, Carmelite, college-preparatory high school enrolling 1,120 students and is accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association.

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English Curriculum available online at: <http://carmelitengo.org/PDF%20Encyclical%20Plans.zip>

Spanish Curriculum available online at: <http://carmelitengo.org/Spanish%20PDF%20Encyclical%20Plans.zip>