**Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart Reflection**

We, the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, founded to be merciful, joyous and poor, live out our legacy as followers of St. Francis each day in a spirit of peace.

Having been gifted with many acres of wooded land, abundant wildlife, and a gently flowing creek, we are continually aware of our responsibility to be loving stewards of this God-given treasure. Reforestation, gratefulness for natural resources and love for creation are all links to our stewardship efforts.

It is a delight to share our precious gift with others. We welcome all to ‘come apart and rest awhile’ with the Lord of creation. Walking to the butterfly garden, strolling through the Cosmic Walk, retreats, days of recollection or just time to be alone, to be silent and gaze with appreciation and gratefulness at all that surrounds, are gifts that we gladly offer.

Aware of the injustices perpetuated by our ignorance, apathy and selfishness, we stand steadfast with the little and poor who suffer first and foremost through our inactions. We embrace the goals of Laudato Si, knowing that although they are seen as separate, the goal of responding to cry of the poor is related to responding to the cry of the earth; that ecological economics, education and spiritualty have a direct bearing on sustainable lifestyles; that it is imperative for the entire community to be engaged and take appropriate action immediately.

Because of our love and appreciation for all of creation, we gladly affirm and proclaim our commitment to daily living out the principles contained in Laudato Si.