

Carmel Catholic High School Laudato Si Reflection
Mundelein, IL
June 2023

Our Mission

Centered in Jesus Christ, Carmel Catholic is a college preparatory high school, empowering students to be servant leaders filled with zeal for faith and scholarship. Rooted in the charisms of the Order of Carmelites and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Catholic community embraces a tradition of dignity, diversity, and justice.

Our Vision

Centered in Jesus Christ, Carmel Catholic is a global learning community where tradition and innovation converge, where the light of Christ and the spark of curiosity ignite, where inquiry and investigation meet the peace of contemplation.

Carmel Catholic is a college preparatory high school,

Carmel Catholic is home to our mission-driven leadership called to teach foundational truths, explore the newest horizons of learning, and prepare our students to understand and contribute to our rapidly advancing society.

Empowering students to be servant leaders

filled with zeal for faith and scholarship.

Carmel Catholic is a vibrant mosaic of stewards bringing their individual experience and developing their God-given gifts to share with their peers as agile agents impacting our world for the greater good.

Rooted in the charisms of the Order of Carmelites and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Catholic community

Carmel Catholic is a haven for kindness, where virtue is our aspiration, purpose our quest, and opportunity abundant for all who seek to commit to our mission.

embraces a tradition of dignity, diversity, and justice.

Carmel Catholic is a destination campus – a safe, supportive environment where we balance the pursuit of academic, athletic, and artistic endeavors with Christian citizenship, cultivating a shared commitment to excellence.

Laudato Si Reflection

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Carmel faculty and staff participated in monthly formation sessions focused on the teachings of Laudato Si. What follows below are some of the reflections based on those sessions.

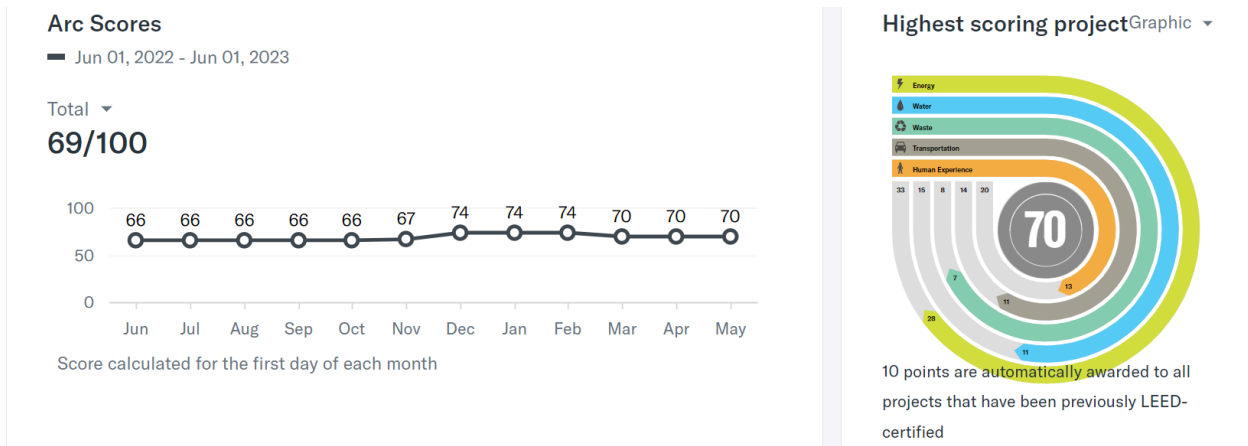
- Sustainability is part of our spiritual life.
- God gave us a home and we must take care of it.
- I enjoyed learning more about the Pope's message.
- As a community and a country, we already do much to help with assisting with efforts to lower the global temperature.
- I knew Carmel was doing a lot with our Green Mission, but hearing from members of the Green Team over the year has been really cool and informative!
- God can be found everywhere in our lives and we are responsible for not only caring for one another, but all that is around us.
- Understanding the impact we all have on one another and that we are all part of the same whole can guide our behavior with each other and the earth. That Carmel community aims to put Jesus at the center of our individual and collective decisions. We hope to teach this to our students by the time they graduate from CCHS.
- We must leave the planet in a better shape than we found it. We must not see the planet as a place to just use, but we must use in harmony with others with consideration for the future. Treat people how we would like to be treated.
- Leading by example and setting example for the students... such as picking up trash in the hallways while other students are watching. "
- Shared humanity - we all require the same things to survive (mentally, emotionally, physically).
- The root of the word "Eucharist" is Greek for grateful or thanks-giving. A Eucharist approach helps us in our interaction with creation and with other people because our starting point is a spirit of thanks-giving. Additionally, since the Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ, this helps us see the sacredness of all human life and creation since God "infuses" himself into matter in this Sacrament. We can infuse this truth into our teaching at Carmel Catholic through modeling gratefulness, reverence at Mass, and cultivating a spirit of thanks-giving in the prayer in the beginning of our classes.
- We transform our behavior to mirror that of God's intent for us to share the earth, our faith in the Eucharist, and empower those who may not share all of the components of our faith to still play an important and vital role in our community by embracing our diversity and inclusion. We are called to be stewards of the earth by the church and it is our immediate responsibility to help create this understanding with others.

Author's Reflection

This year our school community did a lot. We:

- Created a new cafeteria and classroom waste system that includes food waste composting
- We eliminated once use utensils and have reusable utensil kits for students
- We held an e-waste collection to divert and reuse electronics
- We had a viewing of "The Letter"
- We had 2 campus wide clean-up sessions
- Students participated in ecological restoration projects such as native plant seed saving, buckthorn removal, planting native gardens and growing vegetables organically.
- Students fed the hungry in our area with our produce.
- Students conducted outreach to the Lake County community regarding the environment
- We worked on energy conservation initiatives such as using LED lights, and unplugging appliances.
- Created a youtube channel with environmental videos
- Posted all our work on social media

We use ARC for our energy data, and we have worked hard to improve our scores. This shows we are on the right track.



Having said that, we have challenges. Such as:

- Adults and leaders in the community that believe this is a "waste of time"
- Students that actively chose not to participate
- Need for additional education and training
- Investments in fossil fuels
- Lack of investment in clean energy
- Creating strong ties to Catholic Social teaching

These challenges will be areas of opportunity for our Laudato Si plan. We have made so much progress and change takes time. Yet, there is an important time frame on this change due to the nature of the ecological crisis that faces us.