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**Silver Lake College of the Holy Family
Manitowoc, WI**

1. “Canticle Year,” encompassing the 2013 – 2014 academic year, involves education and activities in and outside of classroom to promote the care of creation by monthly focus upon one aspect of the *Canticle of the Creatures*.

2. *The Canticle Year*

3. *The Canticle Year* is a campus-wide involvement experience. Built upon the foundational value of community, the interactions in and out of the classroom will focus on deepening the Franciscan understanding of and promoting the care for creation using St. Francis of Assisi’s *The Canticle of the Creatures*. The faculty has been asked to incorporate Reverence for Creation related content in their course syllabi for the academic year. Student Life will incorporate Reverence for Creation in their activities.

August Convocation (faculty and staff)

1. President’s address: emphasis on the value of community linked with caring for each other.
2. Explanation of the movement from FAN Workshop, Deepening Franciscan Identity: Teaching Care for Creation, to where we are today will move the day into the Reverence for Creation value.
3. Prayer: experiencing visually the *Canticle of the Creatures*: PowerPoint of pictures to correlate to the poem which is song in Umbrian
4. Presentation on the spirituality of the *Canticle of the Creatures* by a theology faculty member
5. Explanation of the Canticle Year project: monthly handouts, request for inclusion of care for creation education in syllabi, and brainstorming monthly ideas in small groups
6. Commissioning Service: within the prayer service is the distribution of a tangible symbol for the year, a variety of large nuts. These are often put in offices as a reminder of the year’s Franciscan value.

Handouts:

1. Study guide divided in half horizontally; the *Canticle of the Creatures* on one side and the other side blank for taking notes. Franciscan pencil drawings on both side of paper.
2. Bookmark containing the *Canticle of the Creatures* (made in-house)
3. A business size card will be distributed monthly highlighting the emphasized symbol for that month.

4. Activities corresponding to each emphasized symbol (water, sun, etc.) will take place
5. Large posters announcing the Canticle Year and monthly topic will be posted on campus.

Monthly themes

- August: reverence for each other -Praise and Thanksgiving to God
- September: Sister Water
- October: Brother Fire
- November – Sister Death
- December – Sister Moon
- January - Sister Stars
- February – Brother Sun
- March – Brothers Wind and Air
- April - Mother Earth
- May – All Creation

August Convocation Discussion Questions

Question starters to discuss in general for Reverence for Creation and for each of the monthly themes:

1. What are we doing now?
2. What are the objectives in doing these things?
How do these activities demonstrate reverence for Creation?
3. What are we doing that could be done better, fuller, or more thorough?
4. What are we not doing for reverence for creation?
What practices, policies, and/or procedures might people question in regard to SLC reverence for creation value?
5. Are there activities for which assistance by more people is needed?

List monthly activities: Suggestions elicited at the August convocation

Activities

1. President will send a message to all students welcoming them to *The Canticle Year*
2. In keeping with our 2013-2014 value Care for Creation, distribution of information (including schedules) for the beginning of the new academic year will be done via e-mail, with no paper copies being sent.
3. White butcher paper will be placed on a wall in the cafeteria to allow for interactive activities to be posted, information given, and theme announced.

4. Contest for monthly theme: who can take the best picture expressing the theme? These will be posted on the college Facebook page.
5. Have a point person to receive communication of planned projects, spontaneous projects, faculty generated projects (Ex. in January one of the staff will present “Tour of the Night Sky” using her iPad app.
6. Design celebrations some of the aspects of creation: ex. water, sun.
7. Mass celebrations – use the monthly theme

4. Strategy for assessing the students’ progress in learning the Franciscan theme: **Integrated into Liberal Arts Program assessment**