

Mercy Monarch Milkweed Project



Butterflies make the world a more beautiful place!

You are invited to **SAVE THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY**

Become part of the Mercy community Monarch Milkweed Project by creating a milkweed garden site on the Monarch's migratory path through this commitment:



- ❖ **LEARN MORE** on why Mercy is called to respond to the Monarch's care.
- ❖ **CREATE** a Mercy Monarch Habitat on your campus or in your yard that includes both native nectar and milkweed plants. **SAY NO** to any pesticide use!
- ❖ **REGISTER** your Monarch Habitat site with Mercy Ecology, Inc. and receive a sign for your garden to identify it as part of the Mercy Monarch Habitat Network.
- ❖ **DOCUMENT** and share in pictures and story the development and ongoing care of your Mercy Monarch Habitat.
- ❖ **BE AWED** by your Mercy Monarch Habitat and delight in these beautiful creatures!

Inaugural Participating Ministries:

Mercy Farm in Benson, VT; Mercy by the Sea Retreat and Conference Center in Madison, CT; St. Joseph's University in Hartford, CT; and Carlow University in Pittsburgh.

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Why Mercy?

In today's world, we cannot understand hunger, violence and poverty apart from the degradation affecting our environment.

In 2016, Pope Francis introduced an *eighth work of mercy*, "Care for our common home."

Mercy Calls You

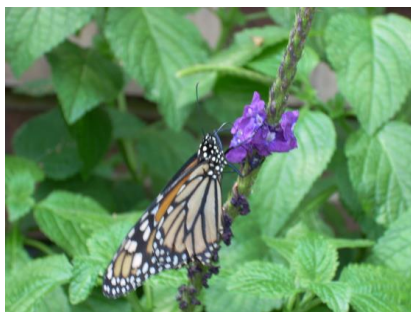
This is your call to exercise Mercy, to take to heart another's suffering. After all, Mercy offers other concrete responses, such as, housing the homeless or feeding the hungry. **Mercifulness embraces all of life**. This includes Monarch butterflies.

Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* widens the boundaries of 'all' to include Earth and all life in 'our common home.' To act as Mercy, we must embrace our interconnectedness with all of life and creation.

The Sisters of Mercy have made a commitment to "reverence Earth and work more effectively toward the sustainability of life"
(2005 *Critical Concerns*).

Bearing the name of Mercy calls us to merciful action in response to the cry of our distressed planet Earth.

Our Earth and all of nature cry out to us!



Track monarchs

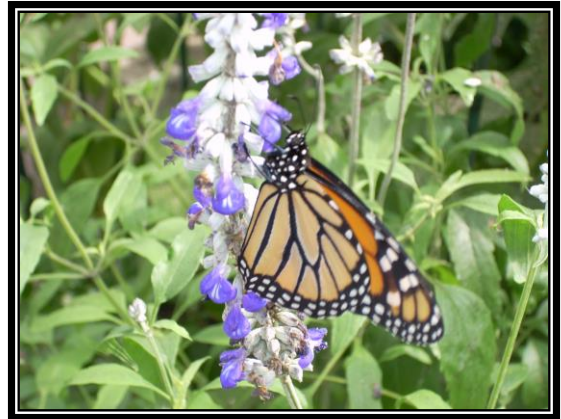
The *Monarch Watch Tagging* program was initiated in 1992 to help understand the monarch's fall migration. Learn more: www.monarchwatch.org/tagging

Mercy schools, spirituality centers, convents, any ministry space, or every yard can become a haven for monarchs -- even in urban areas.

MERCY MONARCH FACT SHEET

Did You Know?

Butterflies, including Monarchs, help flowers pollinate, provide food for animals, are responsible to bring us one out of every three bites of food, sustain our ecosystems and produce natural resources by helping plants reproduce, while warning us—by their presence or absence—about the health of our environment and ecosystem.



Monarchs are at risk

The monarch population has declined by approximately 90 percent since the 1990s – an alarming signal! Why? Each fall, millions of monarch butterflies migrate to Mexico and California and return in the spring. This 2-way migration is at risk.

Why is this happening?



There are a number of reasons, including the following:

1.) Harmful land management and habitat changes are contributing to the loss of the milkweed plant needed for monarch caterpillars to grow and develop. 2.) Insecticides and herbicides used to control insects and weeds are damaging to Monarchs. 3.) Illegal logging in Mexican overwintering sites is shrinking the Monarchs' habitat. 4.) Climate change is reducing the growth of milkweed habitat. 5.) Rising temperatures and severe drought limit where Monarch butterflies can feed and reproduce.

How You Can Help

- ❖ **Plant nectar plants.** Monarchs feed on nectar from a wide range of blooming native plants, including milkweed. Flowers will collect nectar and provide necessary fuel for the Monarch's migration.
- ❖ **Plant flowers.** Migrating Monarchs will feast on the blooming flowers in your garden to provide the necessary fuel for them to reach their destination and save the species.
- ❖ **Plant milkweed.** The Monarch's life cycle, just like caterpillars, are dependent upon milkweed leaves.

For more information or to join the *Mercy Monarch Network*: email Anne Curtis, RSM: acurtis@sistersofmercy.org The Mercy Milkweed Project is sponsored by Mercy Ecology, Inc. To learn more, visit: www.mercyecology.org