

**Announcement of the Construction of a Solar Array  
on Niagara University's Lewiston, N.Y., Campus**

**Dec. 9, 2022**

Good morning everyone, and thank you for being here.

I just want to begin my comments this morning by thanking a few really good partners. Tom Montante, the founder of the Montante Companies, and Dan Montante, are here with us. Steve Broderick, I want to mention specifically, the town supervisor of Lewiston, and his team, that were incredibly helpful to us. This project wouldn't have happened without those folks, their teams, and all of us working together, as well as our internal team at NU.

Pope Francis writes in his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, the Earth "groans in travail."

All of us have witnessed and been part of events in climate change that have really shaken, not only the Earth, but our very lives. And so, the encyclical, *Laudato Si*, which is translated as "Praise be to you, my Lord," is really written in the context and the spirituality of Catholicism but, more specifically, of St. Francis of Assisi, who believed and lived most deeply in the simplicity of life, in poverty of spirit, and in giving thanks for the blessing of the Earth and of creation.

And that the call really was that all of us must be good and faithful stewards of the creation and the Earth that we've been blessed with. And that's really at the heart of this encyclical. That as we think about the challenges of the world, whether it's hunger, poverty, violence, war, migration, refugees, we place the climate change and challenge that we face right in the midst of all of that and the ecological crisis that we face.

But we face it together as people of science, as people of faith, and as people who care deeply about the life that we share on this planet. And so, we join in the spirit of that encyclical, "Praise to you, my Lord" for the blessing of life, for the blessing of the Earth that we have, and what better place to do that than an institution of higher learning. With our faculty, with our staff, with our administrators, and for all the students and the young people who come to us.

So today's celebration of the solar array farm is one manifestation of our commitment to say praise to you, my Lord, for the gift of life and the blessing of the Earth that we share.

Thank you very much.