

One reason I am glad to be Catholic is our Church's commitment to science. Throughout history, the Catholic Church has conducted and funded scientific research that led to many breakthroughs, such as Father George Lemaitre's Big Bang Theory. Pope Francis has also shown a devotion to the Earth and science through his advocacy about how climate change affects our world. Pope Francis's "Laudato Si'" asks us all to become stewards of our environment, a role to which I am being called.

I believe God has called me to a vocation of science. I feel very strongly about how our planet and God's creatures are affected by humanity's actions. For example, I just read about the Willow project, which involves drilling for oil in a large U.S. federal preserve, negatively affecting some of the indigenous tribes and Alaskan wildlife, including the polar bear, which has been marked as "vulnerable" due to habitat loss. I can't imagine a world without polar bears and want to make sure we do not harm the world we inherited from God.

At this time, I am involved in Mass as an altar server. I want to stay involved as an active Catholic, whether it is as an altar server during high school or as a Eucharistic Minister or Lector when I am older. I also believe that, as a scientist and a Catholic, I can contribute to our Church's efforts to help our world and save our endangered animals.

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