

LAUDATO SI'

ACTION PLATFORM

CHURCH OF
ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA,
NEW YORK



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WE REVERENCE GOD IN THE WONDER OF CREATION

We will become a Laudato Si' parish, embodying the goal articulated by Pope Francis to care for our common home. Our new paradigm of Church will call us to transform ourselves while reverencing God's creation. We will embrace what we can do as individuals and as a community to contribute to a sustainable future. We will accomplish this by:

- Adopting a parish-wide focus on the goals of the Laudato Si' parishes program, aligning our parish's operations with responses to the cry of the earth; the cry of the poor; ecological economics; adapting sustainable lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; and community engagement.
- Internally converting to usage of environmentally acceptable materials and instituting policies for energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, and the use of environmentally sound products and materials. We will also offer programs that draw from contemporary Church teachings, as well as scientifically sound resources, to educate our parishioners on environmental issues.
- Externally educating and advocating for climate and environmental issues. We will work with local community service organizations to offer our parishioners opportunities to commit to public space improvement.

Dear Parishioners,

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis encouraged us to be mindful of our responsibility to care for God's precious gift to us, our *common home*, planet Earth itself. He reminded us that, as was true from the time of Adam and Eve, we too have been entrusted with the stewardship of all God's creation. And now our common home is crying out for help. We teeter on the brink of global catastrophe because of our inaction to protect our environment. Natural resources are being plundered at a rate never before experienced. The air we breathe is itself choking for life. Our waterways are polluted, strangled in a tangle of plastic refuse. More and more species are becoming extinct. Dramatic changes in climate patterns are being fueled by human actions that persist with the conceit of ignorance and denial. To fail to act, whether in small or big ways, will only accelerate the human destruction of what God has created.

The Pope's words are not intended as a doomsday tale. Rather it is his call to action. With God's grace there is still time for us to unite in common purpose and act intentionally to protect our common home, to safeguard life itself. A global response that will undoubtedly result in the reversal of this downward cycle is only possible if we act at the local level - in our homes, our parish, our local communities, and as a nation. To take liberty with the words of Neil Armstrong, small steps can lead to giant strides.

This Action Platform, drafted by the parish's Ignatian Social Justice Ministry, outlines the practical things that we, as a parish and in our homes, can do to change the trajectory of our world. To do nothing would be to succumb to the numbness of being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem. To do even a little will assuredly lead us to significant ways of changing our lifestyles of overconsumption and waste. The future of our planet is within our hands by the simplest of tasks, like

turning off unnecessary lighting, using products manufactured from sustainable materials, and using recycling bins that are ubiquitous, but more often than not unused.

It is my ardent hope that we will heed the words of Pope Francis and act in a manner that manifests, in concrete ways, our care for our common home. The challenge for us is to live in a way that reflects our belief and acceptance of the words from the Book of Genesis at the end of each day of creation, *God saw that it was good*. May we be blessed with an abiding trust in God's words and protect for future generations all that God has created.

— **Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J., Pastor**

Dear brothers and sisters:

The annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 26, ended in Glasgow with unsatisfactory gains. Without losing hope, let us continue to walk with the vulnerable and work more vigorously, in advocacy with decision-makers for policy reform in favor of climate justice. Without waiting for political leaders to act, let us do what we must. As a responsible citizenry of this planet, let us together commit to do our part to care for our Common Home.

We all know that our planet is suffering an unprecedented social and ecological crisis, due in large part to human acts. We have upset the balance between God, creation and humanity and we are experiencing the consequences of this disruption. The cry of the poor and the earth speaks of ecological destruction and the loss of cultural richness caused by a mind-set of exploitation. Thus, issues such as climate change, irresponsible mining practices, consumer-driven overproduction, or the prioritization of economic parameters over human development are just manifestations of this disruption in which vulnerable communities—children, the elderly, indigenous peoples or migrants—are more exposed and suffer the consequences to a greater extent.

In this context, Pope Francis launched the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform in May 2021, and opened registration for it on Sunday 14 November. As many of you know, it is a work plan for the next seven years with seven objectives that call for an ecological conversion and set us in harmony with the spirit of the Ignatian Jubilee Year and the spirit of integral ecology. The plan seeks to contribute to the empowerment of families, communities, parishes, dioceses, networks, educational institutions and religious congregations in the commitment to attain total sustainability. The Platform represents an innovative collaboration between the Vatican (through the Dicastery

for the Promotion of Integral Human Development), an international coalition of Catholic organizations and “all people of good will” (LS #3).

Through this initiative, the aim is to organize a program of action that, listening to the cry of the earth, might respond to the cry of the poor and assure the rights of future generations. To this first objective, the Laudato Si’ Platform adds six others: advancement towards an ecological economy; the adoption of sustainable lifestyles; ecological education; deepening of a spirituality that nourishes the search for ecological balance; community commitment; and active citizenship for the preservation of the environment.

The General Congregations of the Society of Jesus commit us to this crucial dimension of the mission of reconciliation and justice, the urgency of which is becoming more pronounced each day. It is a mission that we cannot and do not want to face alone, but in collaboration with the most vulnerable and marginalized in society, who bear the greatest impact of this broken world. Accompanying young people in their efforts to change the current course of humanity, in collaboration with the institutions and organizations of the Church of which we are a part, along with all those who wish to join in these efforts. The Laudato Si’ Action Platform is part of the synodal process that the Catholic Church is undergoing, in which various individuals, institutions and networks of the Society of Jesus are already participating. It is a concrete way of deepening our commitment to the care of the common home that is integral to the Universal Apostolic Preferences, joining our efforts with those of people and institutions around the world, committed to walk together towards the formation of a global community, a human family determined to realize God’s plan in which equilibrium is achieved between human life and the environment that makes it possible.

I therefore extend an earnest invitation to all to join the process of the Laudato Si' Action Platform, to deepen our ecological conversion, to continue to integrate the objectives of Laudato Si' into our lives and apostolates, to take concrete and bold action to address the crisis affecting our common home as a dimension of our mission of reconciliation and justice that seeks to restore balance with the environment and to dismantle structures of injustice in order to re-establish our relationship with God. This is how we can make our contribution to a more fraternal, just, and sustainable world.

— **Father General, Arturo Sosa, S.J.**

In 2015, Pope Francis presented to the world the seminal encyclical on the environment entitled “*Laudato Si’, On Care for Our Common Home*.” *Laudato Si’* is a compelling document founded in theological convictions grounded in Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and previous papal documents on how addressing climate, environmental ecology and related poverty are moral imperatives in addition to scientific and societal ones.

One of the main themes Pope Francis calls for in *Laudato Si’* is an “integral ecology.” An integral ecology calls for “...an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature” (LS 139). An integral ecology means that in combating poverty, we are also protecting the environment and vice versa. A local example of integral ecology at work are the efforts of protecting the Hudson River. Another major theme of *Laudato Si’* is Pope Francis’ call to protect the environment for future generations. Realizing the profound impact of global environmental degradation, Pope Francis urges us to transform our lifestyles and choices so that in our daily lives we place the poor and suffering first while protecting the environment.

The Global Catholic Climate Movement, recently renamed the *Laudato Si’* Movement, has helped spearhead and further the encyclical’s themes and initiatives. Much work however is still needed! Following a 5th anniversary year celebrating *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis advanced the current *Laudato Si’* Action Platform. The Action Platform empowers the Church and all people of good will to respond to *Laudato Si’* by taking decisive action for healing our Earth and our relationship with God and our neighbor, particularly the more vulnerable.

As our participation in this international collaboration as a parish community, the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola has formulated a *Laudato Si’* Action Plan. We hope that all our parishioners will embrace the call of Pope Francis to work together toward an integral ecology that is reflected in our personal lives, the life of our parish and in our schools.

Faith and science are complementary, not in opposition to one another. We know from our Catholic faith that God created the world and that His creation is beautiful and something we are called to protect. We also know that science tells us that the Earth is facing ecological challenges never seen before.

The Earth's climate is changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization. This change is primarily the result of human activity. Since the late 19th century, humans have released an increasing amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels (such as coal, oil, and natural gas) and, to a lesser extent, deforestation, and land-use change. These activities have caused the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide to increase by about 40 percent since the 19th century. (2) Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases absorb and reflect-back to the Earth heat that would otherwise be lost to outer space. As a result, the last decade (2010-2019) was the hottest decade globally since reliable temperature records began recording 140 years ago. (3) The last seven years (2014-2020) are the seven hottest years on record. (4)

Human-caused climate change is damaging our communities—locally, nationally, and globally. Pope Francis states, “Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political, and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day” (LS 25).

Laudato Si' calls us as people of faith to embrace environmental science and the science of climate change to protect and preserve the environment for future generations because the Earth is God's wondrous creation and gift to humanity.

FOOTNOTES

2. Jay, Alexa, et al. “Overview.” Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in

the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, II, U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2018, p. 39.

3. Cole, Steve and Peter Jacobs, "NASA, NOAA Analyses Reveal 2019 Second Warmest Year on Record," National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2020, Accessible at <https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-noaa-analyses-reveal-2019-second-warmest-year-on-record>.

4. Greene, Tylar and Peter Jacobs, "2020 Tied for Warmest Year on Record, NASA Analysis Shows," National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2021, Accessible at: <https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/2020-tied-for-warmest-year-onrecord-nasa-analysis-shows>.

“Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.” (Laudato Si, paragraph 25)

As Laudato Si’ states, climate scientists are in global consensus that the Earth’s atmosphere has been heating up rapidly since the early 1800s, and rapidly in the last century. Carbon is the main building block of life on Earth, and it is constantly moving between land, water, beings, and the atmosphere.

This is called the “carbon cycle”. Since the Industrial Revolution our burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas in our homes, cars, power plants, and factories has released large amounts of carbon dioxide or CO₂ into the atmosphere. The amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere is already higher than it has been for more than 800,000 years. CO₂ traps heat in the atmosphere and the burning of fossil fuels by humans is now the main cause of climate change.

The build-up of CO₂ in the atmosphere has already led to 1.0°C (1.8°F) of global warming and shifts in global climatic patterns. With 2.0°C (3.6°F) of global warming, 99% of our coral reefs will disappear. Ice-free summers will become common in the Arctic, with “irreversible loss of many marine and coastal ecosystems.” Yet current climate reduction commitments will still result in a far more catastrophic 3.2°C (5.8°F) of global warming.

If we don’t act soon to further reduce our generation of CO₂ in the atmosphere, our prosperity, our society, and our very civilization are in danger. Climate change is arguably the most urgent and complicated problem that humanity has ever faced.

“Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth” (LS 92).

AN ACTION PLAN FOR EMBRACING THE VISION OF AN INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

1. **Response to the Cry of the Earth:** greater use of clean renewable energy and reduction of fossil fuels to achieve carbon neutrality efforts to protect and promote biodiversity guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.
2. **Response to the Cry of the Poor:** defense of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrant children at risk through slavery, etc.
3. **Ecological Economics:** sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.
4. **Adoption of Simple Lifestyle:** moderation in the use of resources and energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet, and reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.
5. **Ecological Education:** re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers, and leaders of education, etc.

6. Ecological Spirituality: recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy, and gratitude, promote creation centered liturgical celebrations, develop catechesis prayer, retreats, formation, etc.

7. Emphasis on Community Involvement and Participatory Action: care for creation at the local, regional, national, and international levels; promote advocacy and people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighborhood ecosystems, etc.

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes, and schools:

- | Seal or caulk around windows and door frames (easy)
- | Turn off light sources when not needed (easy)
- | Adjust temperatures to 70 degrees or lower in winter and 80 degrees or higher in summer (easy)
- | Open windows and use fans for cooling (easy)
- | Lower water consumption (easy)

- | Reduce indoor water consumption (easy)
 - | Look to EPA's Water Sense program for help (moderate)
 - | Repair leaks quickly (moderate)
 - | Retrofit kitchens and bathrooms by installing low-flow sinks and toilets (advanced)

- | Reduce outdoor water consumption (moderate to advanced)
 - | Connect to free resources and expertise like:
 - | EPA ENERGY STAR® program (easy)
 - | Establish energy baselines (moderate)

- | Facilities management to create an Energy Action Plan and set a goal for the Church and Parish House and school (easy to moderate)

- | Facilities management to implement an Energy Action Plan for the Church and Parish House and school: Inside lights on timers, outdoor lights on motion sensors; replace old appliances with Energy Star appliances; Insulate, seal cracks & leaks; replace storm windows; replace single paned windows with double paned windows (easy to advanced)

- | Install Recycle Containers for Paper, Glass, Plastic and Metal (easy to moderate)
- | Recycle Electronics (easy)
- | Parish to use recyclable materials, or invest in metal and

porcelain utensils, plates, and glassware for parish events (easy to moderate)

| Replace all lightbulbs with LED bulbs (moderate)

| Purchase power strips to turn off electronics when not in use (moderate)

| Purchase a programmable thermostat to reduce heat or cooling when not in use (moderate)

| Install shades or heat-shielding film on windows directly exposed to sun and pull drapes at night to keep in the heat (moderate to advanced)

| Install solar panels on property (moderate to advanced)

| Install timers or motion sensors on outdoor lighting (advanced)

| Utilize EPA's ENERGY STAR ratings when replacing or buying new appliances (advanced)

| Compost at home (easy to moderate)

| Begin a parish or school composting program (easy to moderate)

| Support products and businesses that sell ethical and sustainable merchandise (moderate)

| Join or support an Environmental Group-, such as the Sierra Club, Audubon Society

| Get involved in environmental projects (easy to advanced)

| Support candidates who support the environment and become involved with Catholic Climate Movement and Laudato Si' Movement to lobby elected representatives to respond to Climate Change efforts (moderate)

RESPONSE TO CRY OF THOSE WHO ARE POOR/VULNERABLE

This engagement means actively ensuring all communities; especially our cultural communities are consulted, listened to, and empowered to make decisions on environmental issues that affect them. Persons of all income levels including low-to-moderate income, the elderly, children, immigrants, people with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, racial and ethnic minorities, and indigenous people must be included in discussions and decisions related to their communities. There are people in New York who are suffering from the effects of structural racism and from political, social, and economic negligence, and who are disproportionately affected by climate change.

- The lack of environmental and racial justice is of great concern to our Church. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis points to the global dimensions of the issue of environmental and racial justice, and how these issues are interconnected. Excessive consumption, extraction of Earth's natural resources, and the culture of waste in affluent countries, has led to dire consequences for the most vulnerable countries. Many countries have experienced environmental consequences due to climate-change such as: rising temperatures, rising sea levels, intense flooding, severe drought, and dangerous fires. These consequences have resulted in water scarcity, devastated many farming communities, and people forced to flee their countries for better lives as climate refugees. Such climate refugees (ex. from Central America and Africa) can be found in our communities, and some of them encounter discrimination in this country.

- The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted additional injustices, as people of color were more likely to work in jobs that put them at risk along the food supply chain, in hard-hit meatpacking and food processing plants, and in grocery stores. People of

color also were more likely to lose their jobs and become food insecure due to their disproportionate representation in sectors of the economy that could not be shifted to working from home during the pandemic's shutdowns.

- As we work towards environmental justice, we must also work towards ensuring racial justice. We must be mindful of the Church's teachings that God created the Earth, and all people are made in God's image and likeness and therefore, deserve to be treated with dignity.

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes, and schools:

- | Create or expand parish and school libraries to feature a variety of voices and experiences on the impact of watershed pollution on low-income communities (easy)
- | Explore local ecological educational opportunities in your community to learn about environmental justice (easy)
- | Volunteer to do a parish clean-up (easy)
- | Assist vulnerable persons (easy to advanced)
- | Know your neighbors, develop relationships with one another (easy)
- | Run errands for those who need assistance in your neighborhood (easy)
- | Develop awareness of programs that can assist vulnerable persons (easy)
- | Support local charity programs to help and assist vulnerable persons, such as Catholic Charities NYC, Jesuit Refugee Services, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development (easy to advanced)
- | Contribute financial donations or volunteer at your parish food pantry: NY Common Pantry (easy to advanced)
- | Develop or expand parish emergency funds to help individuals with energy, water, and other bills (moderate to advanced)
- | Volunteer with a local clean the waterways project: The Riverkeeper: riverkeeper.org

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

The Archdiocese of New York is home to 2.81 million Catholics. Collectively, most of the parishes work directly or indirectly with non-profit and governmental organizations on housing, food, and green space issues. At St. Ignatius Loyola, we are committed to work on these issues.

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes, and schools:

- | Reduce food waste (easy)
- | Reduce meat-based meals (easy)
- | Consider alternative uses for your parish property (easy to moderate)
 - | Add to our parish garden (moderate)
- | Buy locally produced and prepared food (easy to advanced)
- | Buy fair trade and sustainably produced food (easy to advanced)
- | Participate in a CSA program or local farmers market (easy to advanced)
- | Model healthy and just purchasing practices in all activities for parishes and parish schools (easy to advanced)
- | Lobby to utilize public land to build community gardens (moderate to advanced)

ADOPTION OF A SIMPLE LIFESTYLE

We are called to adopt a prayerful and intentional approach to our purchases, and to be mindful of the toll our choices have on God's creation and the world we live in. *Laudato Si'* calls us to live more simply.

There are many ways to live more simply that foster care for creation. For example, living simply can include buying less goods, purchasing re-usable products to reduce single use plastics, using plant-based home cleaners, and consuming more in-season fruits and vegetables over meat-based meals. Another way to live simply is to use what Pope Francis calls the "circular economy of materials." The circular economy of materials includes the trading, exchanging, and donation of office, home, and personal items within our communities.

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes, and schools:

- | Cut down or eliminate single-use plastic (such as water bottles) (easy)
- | Buy less non-essentials (easy)
- | Cut down or eliminate foam-based food containers (easy)
- | Encourage recycling (easy to moderate)

Live Laudato Si' is a guide produced to encourage Catholics to consider the implications of their actions. Here are 10 ideas identified to live more simply from the *Laudato Si'* Movement: (easy to moderate)

- | Buy consciously: look for goods that have less packaging; support businesses that pay fair wages.
- | Eat intentionally: go meat-free, buy local and in-season fruits and vegetables, or try growing your own.
- | Waste less: avoid throwing away food whenever possible, bring your own bags
- | Share more: such as a yard or house equipment, share your

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time by finding ways to volunteer or support community groups.

- | Drive less: share a vehicle for grocery trips. Bike, walk, or use public transportation when possible.

- | Nurture your relationships.

- | Take quality time for yourself.

- | Examine your lifestyle for waste.

- | Take time to pray and give thanks.

- | Implement an ecological purchasing system (moderate)

 - | Purchase only products that are fair-trade or sustainably produced (easy-moderate)

 - | Purchase office supplies made from natural, recycled, or recyclable materials (moderate)

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecological education can be integrated into our catechetical programs and liturgical celebrations because our Catholic faith offers a rich array of teachings on the theology of creation, life and human dignity and our role in fostering the common good. We learn from the Book of Genesis that all of creation is good: “God looked at everything he had made and found it very good” (Gen 1:31). We also hear sung in the Psalms that “The Earth is the Lord’s” (Psalm 24). As stewards of God’s creation, we are called to care for creation in loving and sustainable ways. Earth is our shared home, and its goods belong to all people and for all to use.

The witness of the saints shows us holiness is tied to caring for God’s creation. St. Francis of Assisi, St. Hildegard of Bingen and St. Ignatius Loyola are known for their devotion to creation and seeing God’s sanctity in all of creation. Francis and Hildegard, as well as Ignatius, encouraged a contemplative and sacramental view of creation and lived lives imbued with the virtues of temperance and prudence. These virtues are needed today as we work for environmental efforts that preserve God’s creation.

Pope Francis has joined with other Christian leaders in designating September 1 to October 4 of each year as a Season of Creation. Parishes can celebrate the Season of Creation through preaching, offering prayer services, and other activities that focus on Catholic teaching on care for our common home.

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes, and schools:

- | Organize local environmental educational trips (easy)
- | Find a nature preserve in the area: Hallett Nature Sanctuary, Central Park, Fresh Creek Nature Preserve, Brooklyn and Freshwater Meadow, Randall’s Island (easy)
- | Find recycling, energy production, and water treatment facilities—many of these places offer and encourage tours and

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other programs for groups (easy)

| Create or expand parish and school libraries to feature a variety of books that provide guidance and resources for this work and embrace the vision of Laudato Si' (easy)

| Challenge children and youth to come up with local solutions to social and environmental problems and affirm the ideas they put forward (easy)

| Explore the connection between the environment and personal and communal health (moderate)

| Develop Laudato Si' inspired activities and theme days with practical follow-up actions (moderate)

| Examine how to support efforts toward systemic justice for those who are marginalized and offer practical steps toward living a lifestyle modified to care for creation (moderate)

| Incorporate justice and care for our common home into faith formation programs at all levels (moderate)

| Involve parish religious education, youth ministry and parish schools in living out Laudato Si' (moderate to advanced)

| Offer classes in ecology, environmental science, and agriculture at schools (moderate to advanced)

| Offer lectures with experts in the field of Climate Change with panel discussion at the church (moderate to advanced)

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

Pope Francis reminds us that spirituality rooted in creation is Christ centered, and this Christological approach compels us to be in relationship with others. This Christ-centered approach challenges us to change our personal behaviors and to seek to change society for the better. Guided by Catholic social teaching, we have historically engaged in collective and individual advocacy work across a range of issues for the common good. *Laudato Si'* has been “added to the body of the Church’s social teaching,” (LS 15).

We are called to be advocates for our common home, Earth. We are called to advocate for the people who are most directly affected by climate issues, namely the poor. Pope Francis wrote, “the gravest of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest,” (LS 48). Thus, we are called to be prophetic and persistent advocates at the local, state, and national levels of government.

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes, and schools:

| Homilies on the integration of Catholic social and moral teaching regarding care for creation (easy)

| Highlight Catholic teaching at appropriate times throughout the liturgical year in a variety of formats: bulletin announcements, parish social media pages, youth ministry, Religious Education classes, RCIA preparation, Adult Formation opportunities, and coffee and donuts after Mass (easy)

| Plan, celebrate and mark the Season of Creation held each September 1 to October 4 (easy)

| Participate in an annual Green Mass (easy)

| Utilize materials from USCCB on Caring for Creation (easy)

| Bring in expert speakers to lead/guide conversations at parish or parish school sponsored events (easy)

| Listen to a variety of voices including/especially from those

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in marginalized communities (easy)

| Utilize parishioners, members of Catholic organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), who feature Catholic values, to speak on ecological issues (easy)

| Ensure parish and school events and formation opportunities promote the Church's teaching on climate change, social, racial, environmental, and immigrant justice (easy)

| Empower parishioners to be active and engaged in the work of Laudato Si' (easy)

EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY ACTION

We are to engage in public advocacy work for decisive political action for the common good. As Catholics, we have models for dialogue and civil engagement in our political processes. In our public policy engagement, we must continue to be effective advocates and heed the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (LS 49)

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes, and schools:

- | Use parish and parish school communication channels to spread the message of Laudato Si’ (easy)

- | Distribute liturgical calendars with suggestions for environmentally beneficial practices and other ways to promote justice (easy)

- | Utilize Flocknote, parish Facebook pages, and other social media to put Laudato Si’ teaching/learning into action (easy to advanced)

- | Form parish social concerns teams that focus on integral ecology (easy to moderate)

- | Engage ministries and groups in collaborative efforts on integral ecology (easy to moderate)

- | Utilize resources from organizations such as Interfaith Partners for the Hudson River or the Interfaith Power & Light to train parish social concerns team, Laudato Si’ Movement, Catholic Climate Covenant (moderate)

- | Connect with other New York City parishes through their Care for Creation Committees (moderate)

- | Join or support an Environmental Group-, such as the Sierra Club, Audubon Society (easy)

- | Get involved in environmental projects (easy to advanced)

- | Support candidates who support the environment and become involved with Catholic Climate Movement and Laudato Si’ Movement to lobby elected representatives to respond urgently to Climate Change efforts (moderate)

CANTICLE OF THE SUN

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord! All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing. To You, alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all Your creatures, especially through my lord

Brother Sun, who brings the day; and You give light through him. And He is beautiful and radiant in all His splendor! Of You, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens You have made them bright, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through which You give Your creatures sustenance.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through **Brother Fire**, through whom You brighten the night. He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong. Be praised, my Lord, through our sister **Mother Earth**, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, through **those who forgive for love of You**; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace, for by You, Most High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whose embrace no living person can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Happy those she finds doing Your most holy will. The second death can do no harm to them. Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve Him with great humility.

— **St. Francis of Assisi**

A Prayer for Our Earth from Laudato Si'

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love, and peace.

— **Pope Francis**



St. Ignatius Loyola

NEW YORK

