Laudato Si’ Action Plan Reflection

by Sharon Horvath and Andy Pike

*Laudato Si’: Praise be to you, O Lord*. Our awareness of our own family’s impact on the environment has grown over the years and led to many actions, such as recycling, tracking our energy use, increased insulation, composting, using more energy efficient appliances and lights, installing solar panels, eating less meat, and driving a hybrid gas/electric car. The release of *Laudato Si’* in 2015 brought our creation care efforts to a new level, especially in our Creation Care Ministry work with our local parish and archdiocese. The recognition that caring for the environment also requires us to care for the poor and vulnerable opened our eyes to a broader perspective on creation care. Truly, everything we do has an impact on others. The Laudato Si’ Action Platform offers a framework to integrate ecology and Catholic social teachings into all aspects of our lives and to do so in community with others. We are not alone.

As Pope Francis says in *Laudato Si’*, “God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward.” (LS, 245)

This we believe …

God manifests God’s self in creation

We are co-creators with God of the world as it should be

We have a purpose in life and are an integral part of God’s plan

We are called to leave the world around us a little better than it was

People are more important than things

The values we strive to live by …

Love for family, friends, and community

Perseverance

Active Hope

Generosity

Intellectual Curiosity

Listening to other viewpoints

Modest Lifestyle

Appreciation of Simple Pleasures

Truth

Words to live by …

Start where you are

Use what you have

Do what you can

Never give up