



St. Patrick's Parish

REFLECTION 2022

Established in 1877, St. Patrick's Parish in Sidney, Nebraska, a parish of 450 families, is in the Diocese of Grand Island. The parish is located in a small agricultural community in the western Nebraska panhandle, located on the high plains short grass prairie, surrounded by bluffs as well as wheat fields and cornfields. Feedlots and cow/calf operations are also an important industry in the area.

Our mission statement is: St. Patrick's is a community empowered by the Spirit of God to love, serve, and welcome all to Christ. As a family of common faith, we encourage stewardship by living our baptismal call.

Although we are just beginning our organized walk as a Laudato Si parish, we were pleased to discover that we are already living in the spirit of "Care for our Common Home" in many ways. We discovered that many activities overlap into more than one Laudato Si goal. This time of reflection was a beneficial gift of time, enabling us to see where we are on the journey so that we can plan where to go from here.



Two and a half years ago, a small group of parishioners met at the parish center for "Lunch with the Pope", a book study time, and read Pope Francis' encyclical On Care for our Common Home. There was much enthusiasm among those who attended to begin to make changes in their lifestyles and brainstorming on how to invite the parish to participate. A few events were hosted such as working with Keep

Sidney Beautiful to pick up trash. Now that we have begun looking at the goals for Laudato Si, we see the following ways the parish already embraces this ideal:

The Response to the Cry of the Earth

- *Rummage House
- *Hands for Growing
- *Collecting razor blades for Terra Cycle
- *Parish Outreach Ministry
 - +Trash Pick Up with Keep Sidney Beautiful

The Response to the Cry of the Poor



*Rummage House

- *St. Patrick's Outreach Program
- *Pro-Life group
- *Parish Outreach Ministry
 - +Advent Angels
 - +Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy project
 - +May Day Bags for Homebound, Nursing Home, and Assisted Living
 - +Care packages for staff at Extended Care and Sloan Assisted Living
 - +Cancer Support Group
 - +Christmas Caroling to homebound, extended care, and Sloan Assisted Living
- *Food Pantry: Food Drives/Pack the Truck
- *CRS
 - +Rice Bowl meals
 - +Helping Hands
- *Healing Blankets Ministry
- *Dove's Tree
- *Advent Crib
- *DCCW
 - +Best Choice Food Label collection
- *Esk-omi Missions



The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

- *Rummage House
- *Recycling by Parish Staff
- *Changed bulbs in Church Sanctuary and Parish Hall hallways to LED

Ecological Economics

Ecological Education

- *CRS+Rice Bowl meals weekly: learning about different countries

- *Blessing of Pets
- *Children's Liturgy of the Word: talking about Creation



Ecological Spirituality



- *Healing Blankets Ministry
- * Music Ministry
- *Prayer Services in Prayer Gardens
- *Sharing Garden Produce
- *Communion to homebound, extended living, assisted living

Community Resilience and Empowerment

- *CRS
 - +Helping Hands
 - +Rice Bowl meals
- *Parish Outreach Ministry
 - +May Basket filling for baskets for homebound, Extended Care, and Sloan Assisted Living
 - *Trash Pick Up Day



Excited and feeling empowered by this period of reflection, we are now looking forward to working on our goals for the coming year.

