

Grounded in the Gospel of Creation

Laudato Si' Action Platform Reflection
On Care for Our Common Home
2023

Saint Anne Catholic Community



120 North Ela Street
Barrington, Illinois
USA
Fr. Bernie Pietrzak, *Pastor*

This document emanates
from discussions and discernment
around the Vatican's
Laudato Si' Action Platform
by members of the Saint Anne
Creation Care Steering Committee.

Eryka Accordino*
Breda Barry
Cindy Cramer
Mary Ellen Johnston
Hilary Kaboski
Adrienne Kalmes
Dawn Kapka
Marcia Lesniak
Becky Menich
Fr. Bernie Pietrzak
Fr. Jim Strzok, S.J.*
Lisa Torrence*
Tom Westerkamp
Tanya Zaks

*Former Committee Members

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Grounded in the "Gospel of Creation"

Guiding the preparation of this reflection is the idea expressed in Chapter 2 of the Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Pope Francis grounds the care for our common home within the story of creation: A story that fills the imagination of young children. A story that opens the recounting of our salvation history at the Easter Vigil. A story that places before us the goodness of all creation and the fundamental relationships that are ours:

- with God as our loving Creator,
- with each other as having the same Creator, and
- with creation as a gift given to us by our Creator.

These three relationships root the work of the Saint Anne Catholic Community in caring for our common home. As creatures of a loving God, we have an incredible responsibility for the care of creation, the most vulnerable, and for future generations who will inherit the creation we hand on to them.

The artist's drawings on the cover of this Reflection Document have been rendered in a large *creation mural* that now graces our parish courtyard. A bare concrete wall has been transformed to serve as a source of inspiration to all. It is a reminder to treat creation as a gift, to recognize that we all come from the same loving Creator, and to reverence the Creator and the mighty works of a loving God.

Jesus is a role model for us in the stance we take before the Creator, with each other and with all of creation. Pope Francis closes this chapter encouraging us to gaze on Jesus who shows us how to relate to the Creator in praise; to each other with tenderness, compassion, and concern; and to all of creation in wonder and awe as well as in aspects of co-creating.



Through the life of Jesus, we continue to see the story of the fullness of creation unfold until that day when all live in perfect harmony.

Grounded in the Gospel of Creation, the Saint Anne Catholic Community is fully committed to learn about integral ecology, to understand our role in caring for all of creation; to work collaboratively

as we put the *Laudato Si' Action Platform* to work in our midst; and to provide opportunities for an encounter with Christ in all that we do. This—our first reflection—sets the stage!

Parish Mission

Led by the Spirit, the Saint Anne Catholic community strives to live the example of Jesus who said, *I came so that you might have life and live it more abundantly.* —John 10:10

Integral to the mission of the Saint Anne Catholic Community are our core values:

- As a united community of believers we gather in worship, prayer, celebration, and fellowship to deepen our relationship with God and one another. *Whenever two or more are gathered in my name, I am with you.* —Matthew 18:20
- As a Christian community we invite and welcome all and are enriched by their presence. *Love one another as I have loved you.* —John 13:34
- As people of faith we value and encourage lifelong faith formation as essential to spiritual growth. *Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* —2 Peter 3:18
- As a community of disciples we promise to share ourselves and our resources in God's service. *As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with...kindness and humility.* —Colossians 3:12
- As a community committed to justice, we reach out with compassion to those in need. *We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.* —Ephesians 2:10

These values are shared individually and communally by the parish leadership team and integrated across ministries. The parish logo depicts how this vision of parish life works. An open cross, whose center represents God—always the source and the destination—forms quadrants which provide organizational structure for the ministerial life of Saint Anne:



WORSHIP,
FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION,
COMMUNITY LIFE, and
HUMAN CONCERNS.

Weaving the quadrants together are rings. These rings are passageways that allow integration and collaboration in every aspect of life: the practice of our faith at all ages; the evangelization of the Gospel; the events and sacramental moments that mark each stage of life; and the issues that perplex and challenge us as people of God. With a post Vatican II spirit, the Saint Anne Parish Council of Ministries, the Pastor, the Parish Staff, and the four Parish Commissions work together to assure that the strategic goals set for our parish are aligned with our parish mission.

Ministries & Functions

WORSHIP COMMISSION

- Sacraments
- Greeters & Ushers
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Lectors
- Altar Servers
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Mass Coordinators
- Music Ministry
- Environment & Art Committee
- Weddings
- Funerals

FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION COMMISSION

Faith Formation

- Children's Faith Formation & Sacrament Preparation
- Middle School Journey
- Adult Faith Formation
- Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
- Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

- Confirmation Preparation
- Kairos Retreat
- Spiritus Retreat
- Summer Service Mission Trip

Saint Anne Parish School

- Pre-Kindergarten – 8th Grade
- Catholic Faith-based Education
- Athletics
- Parents' Home & School Association

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION

- Saint Anne Guys' Group (STAGG)
- Saint Anne Women's Club
- Seniors Group
- Young Marrieds Group
- Fundraising & Social Events

HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION

Care Ministries

- Ministry of Care
- Bereavement Ministry
- Grief Support Group
- Spiritual Direction

Creation Care

- *Laudato Si'* Action Platform Initiatives
- Grateful Gardens
- Encyclical Working Groups

HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION (Cont'd.)

Faithjustice

- Education & Awareness on Social Justice Issues
- Fair Trade Sales
- Lenten Almsgiving
- Fall Crop Walk
- Advocacy

Hope Ministries

- House of Hope Resale Shop
- Project Hope
- Service Opportunities

Sharing Board

- Food & Coat Drive
- Sharing Parish Support (St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds of Jesus)
- Christmas Sharing Tree

SAINT ANNE ADVISORY GROUPS

- Parish Council of Ministries
- Parish Finance Council
- School Advisory Board

SAINT ANNE STAFF

Parish Staff

- Pastor & Admin. Associate to Pastor
- Associate Pastors
- Permanent Deacons
- Business Operations – Director
Office Manager & Maintenance Staff
- Communications – Director
Bulletin Editor
- Faith Formation – Director
Administrative Assistant & Implementation
Coordinator
- Hope Ministries – Director
- Human Concerns – Director
- Liturgy & Music – Director
Associate Director
- Youth & Young Adult Ministry – Director
Assistant Director

School Staff

- Principal & Assistant Principal
- School Communications
- Admissions Coordinator
- Faculty

History & Geography



Barrington, a suburb thirty-two miles northwest of Chicago, is home to the Saint Anne Catholic Community, one of the largest geographic parishes (ninety square miles) in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The roots of its Creation Care Committee are deep and have been germinating for a long while, nurtured in large measure by the community's connection to and care for the land and the people who worked the land.

The original settlers of the Barrington area were the Indigenous peoples of the Potawatomi tribe, which later divided into the Potawatomi, Chippewa, and Ottawa tribes. Following the September 23, 1833, treaty that ended the Black Hawk War and ceded five million acres to the United States, settlers from New York began arriving in the area. It was a day's journey from Fort Dearborn (Chicago's original name).

The Catholic faith community dates to the 1860's with missionary priests celebrating Mass in private homes. The original Saint Anne Church was dedicated in 1884 with a pastor in residence by 1905. In 1927, Saint Anne Parish School was built, making it one of the first parochial schools in Lake County.

Much of the history of Barrington since its settlement parallels the development of railroad lines from the port facilities in Chicago. Today Barrington is crisscrossed by two state highways and two major rail lines. Though considered a *transportation hub*, the village of Barrington is surrounded by rolling acres of countryside that include forest preserves, wetlands, parks, a riverfront, and horse and biking trails. It is truly a *suburban countryside* environment. Saint Anne's 3,500 parish households experience both the beauty of natural habitats and the busyness of suburban life as they move about their days.



The Saint Anne Parish Campus is situated in the historic area of downtown Barrington, the largest historic district in the state of Illinois. A commitment to a Post Vatican II vision of Church, to lifelong faith formation, vibrant worship, servant discipleship, strengthening our spiritual growth and a just and generous outreach to the poor and broken – are all areas in which we focus our energies. We are a parish that has been blessed with a history and tradition of outstanding parishioner commitment, investment, and involvement within the parish itself and within the larger Barrington community.

A Sense of Place

A. The Natural Environment

Maintaining a healthy and biologically diverse ecosystem is considered critical to the area's vitality. It provides benefits by absorbing and filtering stormwater, providing wildlife habitats, filtering air pollutants, storing carbon, and providing aesthetic and recreational value.



Blue heron habitat at Baker's Lake

Open space is a cherished characteristic of the Barrington area. Open spaces form an interconnected natural system woven throughout the Village and adjacent areas with highest priorities being placed on natural resource features rather than merely on recreational potentials. For that reason, wetlands, watercourses, wooded areas, and wildlife habitats are given primary consideration. For planning purposes, the potential open space system of the entire Barrington area is divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary environmental corridors. The primary environmental corridor is that which is related to the Fox River, such as Spring Creek and Flint Creek. Subsequent corridors would follow the smaller tributaries of such creeks. Areas of priority include:

1. **Baker's Lake** - This lake is home to innumerable native plant and animal species. In particular, it is the home of the great blue heron. A primary objective for this lake is to complete a link in the open space system around the eastern and southern boundaries of Barrington.
2. **Cuba Marsh** - It is located along Cuba Road northeast of the Village, partly in unincorporated Lake County and partly in the Village of Deer Park. Together with Baker's Lake, it is the most important ecological micro-system within the influence of the Village, north of the county line.

3. **The Flint Creek Corridor** - This corridor provides similar, though less extensive opportunities to create an open space around the western side of the Village. The Village takes steps to protect the watercourse and its shorelines as it passes along the western Village boundaries from Hawthorne Lake.
4. **Wetlands** - Wetlands and Floodplains, not falling within the above corridors, are also worthy of preservation. These wetlands are preserved as part of a public open space acquisition program.

Saint Anne is fortunate to have an informed and pro-active citizenry which takes seriously its role in protecting the natural environment. Committed parishioners have been and are presently a part of this work. They bring their faith to their roles in governance and oversight either as paid professionals or volunteers. Through formal and informal communication our parish community is kept aware of the following local environmental sustainability objectives within the Barrington Area:

- Require new development and redevelopment is environmentally conscious
- Encourage use of renewable energy sources in development and redevelopment projects
- Consider innovative stormwater management and water sustainability solutions
- Support diversified and native tree plantings
- Prioritize water supply and enhancement of water quality
- Coordinate efforts and resources of locally focused organizations
- Enhance educational campaigns on sustainability

B. The Natural Environment and the Saint Anne Catholic Community Campus

Since we are a “downtown” parish, we are landlocked, surrounded by neighborhoods on two sides and by Village of Barrington commercial district on the other two sides of our campus.

With the formation of a Creation Care Steering Committee, we are increasingly mindful of using an integral approach with guidance from the *Laudato Si’ Action Platform (LSAP)* in how we treat the limited green space adjacent to our parish buildings. Part of the work of our Creation Care Steering Committee is to consider how the parish community takes greater responsibility for caring for that space in light of the *Laudato Si’ Goals* and the *Laudato Si’ Action Plan*. The planting of a vegetable garden, native grasses, ground covers, pollinators, and bushes, and enhancements to our irrigation systems are creation care initiatives we are addressing. We are also working to resolve the flow of storm water from our buildings, given increasingly virulent storms. We are also mindful of our role in how we encourage and educate our students and parish households about the natural environments around their homes and in their neighborhoods.

C. The Social Environment

Like any community, we recognize there are households that face challenges due to job loss,

family illness, divorce, and a myriad of other reasons that lead to economic disruption and social separation. Here are signs that point to the challenges we face:

1. Free and Reduced Lunch Programs

Despite the affluence of the Barrington area, the Consolidated School District in which Saint Anne is located reports that 12.1% of its students are eligible for free lunches. Another 6.4% were eligible for reduced lunches. That is 1,284 students from a student population of 7,775 or 18.5%.

2. Lack of Affordable Housing

Teachers, police, fire fighters, social workers, retirees, single-parents, and other people with limited incomes often face the need to relocate outside of the area or school district. Limited affordable housing is available:

➤ **Income Based Apartments**

Barrington features 102 income-based apartments. Tenants of income-based apartments typically pay no more than 30% of their income towards rent and utilities.

➤ **Low-Rent Apartments**

There are two hundred rent subsidized apartments that do not provide direct rental assistance but remain affordable to low-income households in Barrington.

➤ **Housing Choice Vouchers**

On average, Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers pay Barrington landlords \$1,000 per month towards rent. The average voucher holder contributes \$300 towards rent in Barrington. The maximum amount a voucher would pay on behalf of a low-income tenant in Barrington, Illinois for a two-bedroom apartment is between \$1,296 and \$1,584.

At the present time there are no apartments available for rent and only two condominiums with a \$2,750 monthly rent with the requirement of first and last month's rent upfront. In the month of March 2023, the average sold price for a single-family home in all areas of Barrington was \$760,939.

3. Mental and Behavioral Health Services

Since the start of COVID, there has been an increased need for both mental and behavioral health services at a time when there has been a substantial deterioration in the capacity of mental health providers, most notably in our immediate geographical area and in the provision of teen services.

D. The Social Environment and the Saint Anne Catholic Community

Saint Anne is recognized across the Archdiocese as a parish that "lives" the values of Catholic Social Teaching, including the Care for our Common Home.

1. Locally

The parish has a long history of supporting individuals and families in the surrounding area who find themselves needing help to make their way back to self-sufficiency. Our local efforts are known as the Saint Anne Hope Ministries.

- **Project Hope** provides outreach to those in the Barrington area needing short-term financial assistance for housing, transportation, utilities, or medical support. Project Hope also operates a food pantry called Hope Chest on the Saint Anne campus and a mobile food pantry that serves the food needs of families within the Consolidated School District.
- **Grants of Hope** is Hope Ministries' local grant program that allows Hope Ministries to extend its mission to other non-profit organizations in the area whose mission is also to support those in need. Organizations interested in receiving a grant submit a proposal which is in turn reviewed by a committee each year. Amounts vary from year to year based on the available funds that have been generated by our House of Hope Resale Shop.
- The **House of Hope Resale Shop** is a large resale shop. Operated by volunteers and stocked entirely with donated merchandise, purchases directly support and fund the work of Project Hope and Grants of Hope.



Hope Ministries also supports our senior parishioners, providing opportunities for prayer, education, and socialization. There is special attention given to caretakers, shut-ins, and people struggling with other forms of isolation. The Saint Anne Catholic



Community places immense value in comforting those who have lost loved ones through its Bereavement Ministry. Ministers meet with families to plan funeral liturgies and offer space for hospitality after funerals and memorial services.

Also at the local level is the work of our Saint Anne Parish School and Faith Formation ministry and programs, who bring to our young people the message of our solidarity with people who are poor or marginalized in any way.

They do this with curricula, assemblies, and collections to meet basic needs of others.

2. Regionally

More than fifty years ago, Saint Anne parishioners were the catalysts for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Sharing Program, which established *sharing relationships* between parishes throughout Chicago and its suburbs. The ministry continues to build bridges between communities separated by race, ethnicity, culture, and economic disparity. This mission is accomplished through the sharing of faith with joint liturgical experiences, events that promote friendship and understanding, and the sharing of time and treasure (monies, food, and clothing)

- **Sharing Parish, St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds**, is a vibrant faith community which has in recent years welcomed a large Hispanic population and is working to meld diverse cultural traditions. Saint Anne, through the Sharing Board, has supported Saint Mary Frances attempts to strengthen its school's program by establishing scholarships for families in need. Opportunities for social, cultural, and liturgical exchange are as important as sharing of resources. Members of each parish are always welcome guests at the liturgies in the other parish. In addition, the children of both parish schools participate in cooperative programs, building a foundation of cross-cultural friendship and understanding.



- **Sharing Partner, St. Moses the Black Food Pantry**, is a food pantry serving six hundred households each week in the Park Manor neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. Twice yearly Saint Anne holds major food drives to fill the shelves at St. Moses. We are joined in this effort by the Chicago Food Depository and other groups and agencies to keep the shelves filled week in and week out.

Saint Anne Creation Care Champions are currently building relationships with parishioners from St.

Moses the Black and St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds in the formation of their Creation Care Committees.

3. Nationally and Globally

The Saint Anne Catholic Community's social justice advocacy began in the mid-1980s as a vehicle to educate and engage parishioners and all parish ministries on our collective responsibility to work for justice. The name Faithjustice was chosen to convey the inherent connection between our faith and the work of justice. The work of Faithjustice aligns with the teachings of *Laudato Si'*.

- **National and international outreach** fell to this newest outreach ministry, which was charged with raising its funds through the parish Lenten Almsgiving. Each year's objective is to identify projects focused on sustainability and development. Over the years, efforts have included Operation Rice Bowl, a project of Catholic Relief Services; a five-year project to provide bed nets, build cisterns, and construct and refurbish grammar schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo; a two-year effort to start a maternal health clinic in Uganda; support for the Northern Illinois Food Bank; support for an orphanage in Guatemala (which led to many family-to-orphan education sponsorships); and more recently work with Catholic Extension in Puerto Rico, Cuba, the migrant communities in Yakima, WA, Kalamazoo, MI, and in both Penitas and El Paso, TX, and with Indigenous peoples in Montana.



- **Educating and advocating around justice issues** is also part of the Faithjustice mission. Areas of involvement include hunger, poverty, immigration, racial justice, criminal justice and the death penalty, fair trade, housing, and interfaith relations. Activities have found Saint Anne parishioners calling on and advocating with members of Congress, locally, in Springfield, IL, and nationally, in Washington D.C., This effort involved advocating for Catholic positions, writing letters and getting signatures on petitions, hosting voter registration, conducting fair trade sales four times each year, attending lectures and programs on many justice topics, and participating in an interreligious group called FaithBridge.

The *Laudato Si'* Journey Begins for the Saint Anne Catholic Community

The impact of Pope Francis' second encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, was not initially felt at parish level immediately following its publication. It was not until 2017 that the Saint Anne Faithjustice Ministry began to explore issues of environmental/social justice focusing, at the time, on water rights in the Great Lakes region.

A. The Convergence of *Laudato Si'* with the COVID Pandemic and Racial Violence

When the lockdown response to COVID was mandated in March 2020 this ministry shifted to

online meetings. People were eager for meaningful conversation, and there was more time to consider our parish mission in light of the growing ecological (environmental and social) crisis. We began talking about issues that had been exacerbated with the pandemic: lack of access to medical care and protection; job loss; high exposure to the virus by first responders and other essential workers; COVID protocol in prisons and nursing facilities; and the economic hardships on the most vulnerable. At the same time, we could not deny that the lockdown provided for a respite of sorts...time to take walk, garden, smell fresh air, or listen to the birds. Numerous parishioners reported finding more time to re-connect with nature.

With the racial unrest following the murder of George Floyd, Saint Anne Faithjustice facilitated two eight-week programs on racial justice in early 2021. Discussions surfaced in these sessions around the inherent link between racial justice and environmental justice--between the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth. The will to delve into the Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, emerged from these conversations. Two people volunteered to plan an on-line study group on the Encyclical. One of them had completed the Animator Program offered by the *Laudato Si'* Movement. The pastor approved the idea and we proceeded.

B. Archdiocese of Chicago

During this same time, the Archdiocese of Chicago had been chosen as one of nine dioceses worldwide to launch the developing Vatican *Laudato Si'* Action Platform (LSAP) that was due to release later in 2021. The selection of Chicago gave impetus to the development of a Saint Anne Creation Care Steering Committee with our pastor's approval. He encouraged champions to put together a steering committee with broad representation from across the parish. The Creation Care Steering Committee was to structurally reflect the *integral ecology* called for in the teachings of *Laudato Si'*.

Our Saint Anne Champions also began to engage with the *Laudato Si'* Encyclical Working Group at the Archdiocese of Chicago to vivify the teachings of *Laudato Si'* across the Archdiocese. This work included development of materials and initiatives, supported by Cardinal Cupich, in facilitating the launch of the Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform.

C. The *Laudato Si'* Action Platform

The LSAP framework was created by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development to promulgate the teachings of *Laudato Si'* and to equip sectors of society to achieve real and sustainable solutions to both the environmental and social aspects of the ecological crisis. Though not limited to Catholics, LSAP was developed for the following:

- **Families** –Every household, no matter its size, shape, or age
- **Churches** –Parishes, dioceses, and archdioceses around the globe as well as non-Catholic and non-Christian congregations

- **Educational Institutions** –Primary and Secondary Schools, universities, and other centers of learning
- **Healthcare Institutions** –Hospitals, clinics, and other centers providing healthcare and well-being
- **Economic Sectors** –Workers and businesses, farms, and co-operatives
- **Organizations & Groups** –Lay movements, NGOs, foundations, communities, and communication centers
- **Religious Orders** –orders, provinces, and communities

LSAP offers tools, a framework, and resources for the journey towards total sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology. LSAP supports participants in creating and enhancing strategies and *action plans* that respond to complex ecological problems—both social and environmental. LSAP has seven goals that are inherently connected and provide guidance on urgent and immediate actions:

1. Response to the Cry of the Earth
2. Response to the Cry of the Poor
3. Ecological Economics
4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles
5. Ecological Education
6. Ecological Spirituality
7. Community Resilience and Empowerment

D. Saint Anne Enrollment, Reflection, and Action Plan

The Saint Anne registration on the Vatican’s *Laudato Si’ Action Platform* came shortly after its launch, but in a desire to consult with a broad range of our community, the Saint Anne Creation Care Steering Committee has taken time to complete the self-assessment and this LSAP Reflection. Upon approval and submission of this Reflection document, we will begin work on our first *Laudato Si’ Action Plan* with the objective of launching it during the 2023 Season of Creation.

Implementing the *Laudato Si’ Action Platform* at Saint Anne

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.

Past and Ongoing Activity

- ComEd credits are used in purchasing electricity for campus buildings.
- Nicor and ComEd energy audits performed.
- Water fixture aerators replaced with low-flow heads in all parish buildings.
- Major purchases considered in light of sustainability and efficiency.

- LED lighting installed in church and gathering space areas.
- The Parish School lighting replacement with LED fixtures started.
- Low-flow plumbing used in new installations.
- Consultations with local conservation groups about the best trees to plant in parkways.
- A native garden planted to promote soil conservation, manage water issues, and beautify an unsightly area of parish grounds.
- Development and installation of a large outdoor mural that provides beauty, inspiration, and educational Laudato Si/Creation Care teaching moments.
- A vegetable garden planted to supply parish food pantry with fresh produce during the summer months.
- Opening of fountain area garden to the community at large for reflection and quiet.
- Irrigation drip lines installed in two garden areas.
- Native perennials planted along the north side of chapel with a three-year goal of beautifying the space and reducing the need to water and weed.
- Discussions started with energy consultant about maximizing efficiency and establishing base lines.

Suggested LSAP Actions

1. Assemble and chart twenty-four months of billing from all utilities for Creation Care to establish baselines, develop running totals, and identify our present consumption patterns.
2. Present findings to the Pastor and Parish Council of Ministries.
3. Identify two more areas for installation of drip lines and install.
4. Mulch more garden areas.
5. Plant two parkway trees on the south end and three on the eastern side of the Parish Center; raise funds for five new trees.
6. Participate in a workday with Citizens for Conservation, a joint venture with Holy Family.
7. Pursue fund raising/grants to develop gardens on the south side of the Parish Center.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth.

Past and Ongoing Activity

- Homilies and liturgies support a consistent ethic of life for all of Creation.
- Participation in life-promoting activities including initiatives that expresses dignity, justice, and love.
- Bereavement, respite, and loss-support ministries.
- Pastoral counseling.
- Ongoing support of needs in our immediate community through our Project Hope Ministry: supported by donated goods to the House of Hope Resale Shop,

managed by volunteer workers with a percentage of profits distributed in turn through an Advisory Board.

- Ongoing support of the needs in the Archdiocese of Chicago through Parish Sharing, which establishes relationships between parishes with means and those with limited resources; efforts to expand the relationships beyond financial and charitable, e.g., the present work with Sharing Parish and Sharing Partner in supporting the development of Creation Care Committees.
- Lenten Almsgiving and immersion trips directed at mission parishes and dioceses across the United States and globally through Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl; through direct connections with Caritas, e.g., the building of elementary schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo, latrine houses in India, and the provision of fishing boats to villages destroyed by the tsunami; and, currently, through Catholic Extension's Mission Diocese Program.
- Youth Summer Trips to vulnerable areas where young parishioners encounter and work on projects with and for people in need.
- School, Faith Formation, and parish-wide collections of material items, e.g., eyeglasses, cell phones, shoes, school supplies, socks, and other goods for donation to projects and programs that assist people in need.
- Through an ecumenical Stephen Ministry program, one-on-one accompaniment with people experiencing crises.

Suggested LSAP Actions

1. In homilies, adult faith formation opportunities, and parish communications, greater emphasis on the intrinsic connection between the protection of creation and the protection of the poor, including the unborn, children, the sick, the elderly, migrants, the lonely, prisoners, homeless, immigrants, and those who have no one to care for them.
2. Exploration of the sponsorship of a family seeking asylum. Assist with job connections, immediate housing needs, food, and educational needs.
3. Offering of more youth-focused opportunities to encounter those in need, e.g. packing food for distribution to crisis areas, volunteering in soup kitchens or at our Barrington Community Meal.
4. Greater attention to the needs in the wider Barrington area and in the food, medical, and employment "deserts" of the Archdiocese where our Sharing Parishes are located: encourage advocacy work for systemic changes that meet the needs identified by the parishioners in those communities.
5. Treat water as a gift from God in parish operations and activities.
6. Elevate Indigenous people's stewardship of our common home in our local community and Lenten Almsgiving 2024.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere – our common home.

Past and Ongoing Activity

- Efforts made to purchase necessary goods, including services, from local sources and from and through the parishioner community.
- The Parish Council, whose membership reflects the culture of the Community, is kept informed of major ecological decisions.
- Executive summaries of Creation Care activities are included in the annual report.
- Saint Anne Faithjustice Ministry holds Fair Trade Sales four times each year highlighting the dignity of work, fair compensation, and access to markets.
- Creation Care conducted an electronic recycling event accompanied by an educational component that promoted the idea of “circular economics” i.e. the use and reuse of resources, elimination of waste and consideration of environment and social capital.



1 of 14 pallets of recycled electronics

Suggested LSAP Actions

1. Develop and implement an environmental metric based on Goal 3 of the LSAP.
2. Consideration of lowering thermostats in winter and raising in summer to lower heating and cooling expenses.
3. Calculation of the parish’s base carbon footprint and 24 month running totals for energy consumption
4. Continue use of *wellbeing* as criteria in determining initiatives to support others through almsgiving and other charitable actions.
5. Advocate for a letter to send to the AOC to bring awareness to the need for fair and equitable wages.
6. Advocate for the creation of jobs in underserved communities within the Archdiocese of Chicago, especially for young people.
7. Create sustainable hospitality guidelines, including fair and sustainable purchasing.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

Past and Ongoing Activity

- Working with our parish Communications, Creation Care created awareness of sustainability practices by publishing weekly specific actions people can replicate at home to support sustainable stewardship in caring for our common home.

- Creation Care, in conjunction with Human Concerns, annually invite Catholic experts in areas addressed by the LSAP Goals and Action to motivate parishioners regarding ecological/spiritual conversion and simplification of our lifestyles.
- St. Anne Creation Care members, Parish Staff, and other lay ministers lead and/or participate in the *Laudato Si' Action Platform* Parish Champion Roundtables, Workshops, and other Conferences, during which they meet with members of neighboring parishes and dioceses to discuss sustainability practices outlined in LSAP.
- Working with our parish school, faith formation and liturgical ministries, St. Anne Creation Care Steering Committee develops materials and uses AOC materials that connect stewardship and sustainability with the various liturgical seasons, theology, tradition, and spirituality for parish households, e.g. Advent and Lenten calendars, Advent wreath and Jesse Tree rituals for home use, and Season of Creation activities.
- Initiation of two Giving Garden weekends each August to invite parishioners to share the bounty of their home gardens with those in our parish who are unable to raise gardens or access fresh produce. The overflow is given to our Saint Anne Project Hope Food Pantry.
- Our Parish School initiated **Mindful Waste** in the parish school cafeteria with students sorting their lunch leftovers for use in the Food Pantry efforts as part of their *Laudato Si* Action Plan.

Suggested LSAP Actions

1. Continue installing efficient lighting in Saint Anne School.
2. Create and implement a parish policy on the minimal use of heat and air conditioning making changes known and showing savings from said adjustments.
3. Promote water conservation and suggest a parish policy on water use, e.g., allowing lawns to go dormant during dry spells, applying more mulch, and installing additional drip lines in garden areas, and installing rain barrels.
4. Install bicycle racks for use by students from adjacent neighborhoods and parishioners.
5. Encourage alternatives to driving or riding in a car, such as walking, cycling, or using electric scooters to get to Mass and Church events.
6. Install an electric car charger.
7. Hold seminars on food waste and composting.
8. Create sustainable hospitality guidelines, e.g., zero waste and no single-use plastics.
9. Reduce food waste by devising plans to donate leftovers from parish/school events.
10. Eliminate the use of plastic water bottles whenever possible. Offer a pitcher of water and glass.
11. Limit meat-based options at parish events; promote the tradition of avoiding meat on Friday and promote at least one additional meatless day per week.
12. Post information on the website connecting vegetarian lifestyle to Catholic Social Teaching, to the environmental degradation of raising meat, and to ancient Catholic values.

13. Produce a list of local food producers and suppliers, then educate and encourage parishioners to purchase food from them.
14. Host workshop(s) on sustainable gardening practices; host periodic workdays to assist with parish projects.
15. Provide recycle bins in Parish buildings.
16. Begin school lunchroom composting with the use of the installed Subpod Composting System in the garden

Goal 5: Ecological Education promotes re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.

Past and Ongoing Activity

- Development and implementation of a six-week study group of Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common*.
- Ongoing sharing of the teachings and applications of *Laudato Si'* the weekly Clarion and on the parish website.
- During the Season of Creation members of the Saint Anne Creation Care Steering Committee presented "Creation, Our Common Home, and *Laudato Si'*" assemblies for all Saint Anne School students (PK – eighth) and for all Faith Formation students and their families.
- Pastor's letter sent to the Saint Anne Community formally announcing the formation of a Creation Care Steering Committee and supporting the enrollment of Saint Anne on the Vatican's *Laudato Si' Action Platform*.
- Three-part homily delivered by Pastor and Co-Chairs of the Creation Care Committee on the weekend of the official launch of the Vatican's *Laudato Si' Action Platform*.
- The Creation Care Pledge Campaign afforded parishioners and students an opportunity to sign pledge cards, committing to pray for creation, live more simply, advocate to protect our common home, and share time and talents. These pledges were carried to the

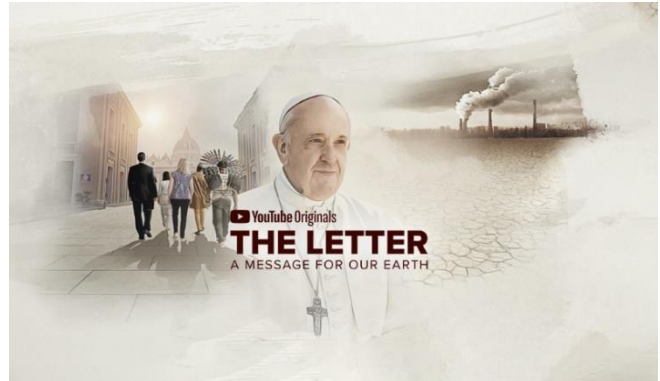
altar as part of the Offertory Procession.



- Development of a large outdoor mural depicting the Genesis creation story, creation care, and our Saint Anne Community engagement with the Vatican's *Laudato Si' Action Platform*.
- Student participation and education in the painting of the large creation mural.

- Presentations by noted speakers to the adult community on the science and the spirituality of integral ecology and the teachings of *Laudato Si'*, followed by engaging, well-received discussion among participants.

- The rejuvenation of an old perennial garden into a vegetable garden was done in conjunction with Saint Anne School and Eagle Scout candidates from a local Boy Scout Troop. The garden now serves as a learning lab, supporting both the science and religion curricula, and provides fresh produce to our Saint Anne Project Hope Food Pantry.
- In conjunction with the Archdiocese of Chicago, Saint Anne hosted a screening of the documentary film, *The Letter: A Message for Our Earth*, which depicts people from around the world journeying to Rome to discuss with Pope Francis their lived experiences of social and environmental change. The film depicts how they form a community and find hope for their continued journeys as they return home. This film moved three parishioners to get involved with Creation Care.



Suggested LSAP Actions

Parents of Young Children

1. Consider developing a “family ministry” to accompany parents of young children, This could be an off shoot of our baptismal catechesis, which would include a *Laudato Si'* education plan.
2. Offer to parents of young children, materials, walks, field trips or parenting classes which include ways to encourage their curiosity to observe and explore nature; allowing little ones to express themselves through drawing, painting, music, and dance. Help them understand the characteristics of the places in which they live, which might also include a weekday trip to Saint Anne where they can walk around our spaces and grow comfortable with church as a “home.”

Primary School

1. Promote multi-disciplinary learning about integral ecology and the LSAP Goals fostering personal connection between nature and faith.
2. Implement cooperative programs between schools, including distance learning, sharing projects, and using resources offered by communication technologies.
3. Explore the “Grow in Love” program or other initiatives which adopt an integral approach to active participation in protecting our common home, facilitating linkage between “home-school-parish.”

Secondary School/Faith Formation/Youth Ministry

1. Promote multi-disciplinary learning about integral ecology and the LSAP Goals fostering personal connection between nature and faith.

2. Encourage sustainability projects such as art classes using elements of nature, and leadership initiatives where older students work with younger students in learning labs, and food programs.
3. Host a screening of “The Letter” for high schoolers and begin a discussion about how our young people see the current environmental and social crises and what actions they see themselves taking.
4. Promote multi-disciplinary learning about integral ecology and the LSAP Goals fostering personal connection between nature and faith.
5. Add an element of Laudato Si/Creation to parish Kairos Retreats.

Adult Faith Formation

1. Organize “workdays” with Citizens for Conservation—a joint effort with Holy Family Parish—to spend time with experts on our local environment and their attempt to restore damaged ecosystems in our immediate area.
2. Creation Care to consider developing a “Parishioner Scientist” program, modeled after the Citizen Science programs forming in communities across the country. Such efforts would encourage parish families to become observers/monitors of what is happening in their own backyards and the surrounding areas.
3. Regularly offer adult learning series/forums on the *Laudato Si’ Action Platform* and creation care.
4. Invite parishioners to AOC events related to creation care and LSAP.
5. Work with Sharing Parish and Sharing Partners on various LSAP Goal Action initiatives.
6. Conduct Laudato Si workshops with teachers and catechists, including AOC Pathways on Creation/Laudato Si’ offered for 2023-2024.
7. Creation Walk – begin with a creation care “tour” at the mural then explore a nearby forest preserve with an element of spirituality.
8. Highlight stories of parishioners doing work combining the LSAP Goals.
9. Hold an AOC “Experiential” presentation for Saint Anne staff and ministry leadership to learn about the integral ecology of *Laudato Si’/LSAP* and how and why it can be used across parish life.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality recovers a religious vision of God’s creation and encourages greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy, and gratitude.

Past and Ongoing Activity

- Annual Season of Creation themes woven into the art and environment of the Saint Anne Gathering Space with an associated action on the part of the community, e.g. large potted burning bushes were covered by parishioners with ribbons each bearing a prayer intention for creation over



- the course of September (bushes were later planted in the native plant garden).
- Celebration and Procession from Mass to the gardens where Bishop Grob dedicated and blessed the gardens and creation mural. The entire neighborhood around our church was invited to participate in the event and join their Catholic neighbors for hospitality afterwards.
 - Regular intercessions at Mass, in music selections, homilies, and through Parish Staff's Daily Reflections express and connect Christ, imbued in all Creation.
 - On Earth Day and during Laudato Si' Week this year, members of the Creation Care Steering Committee reflected on the major themes of Laudato Si' expressed through the daily readings in the Daily Reflection video recordings.
 - Key elements of Laudato Si' are integrated into daily prayer and various aspects of the curriculum in Saint Anne School. Saint Anne School is recognized as a *Laudato Si'* School.
 - Various table graces were created for use on Thanksgiving with the objective of encouraging the practice of this prayer form every day.
 - Foster an ecological/spiritual conversion of the heart across the parish community.

Suggested LSAP Actions

1. Exploration of additional outdoor spiritual activities to build on the spiritual inspiration of our outdoor mural, and fountain reflection garden.
2. Expand involvement in ecumenical and interfaith activities focused on the themes and goals of LSAP.
3. Create a virtual space for photos of parishioners' favorite places to pray. Use video boards and bulletins for creation/nature-focused prayers, eco saints and LSAP Goal initiatives.
4. Encourage parishioners to explore Bellarmine and other local retreat centers for reflection opportunities focused on the Gospel of Creation and spiritual themes that use nature as a mediator in our relationship with God and our neighbors.
5. Look for prayer, other sacramental moments, and walks that might be enhanced by moving outdoors, e.g. a periodic outdoor Guided Rosary on Caring for Creation.
6. Presentation to students in our Parish School and to Faith Formation students and families centered on the "eco-saints" of the past and those holy people who are acting saintly and heroically in present times.
7. Host a season of creation celebration with Holy Family Church.
8. Pursue ongoing related LSAP speakers and films.
9. Incorporate Laudato Si' into homilies and liturgical moments, as appropriate.

Goal 7: Community Engagement and Participatory Action envisions the development of cultures and policies that protect our common home and all who share it.

Past and Ongoing Activity

- Invitation of new Creation Care Steering Committee members with broad representation

across parish leadership.

- Implementation of Creation Care Working Groups, which may become permanent, such as the Grateful Gardeners, others of which may be task-based, e.g. an Energy Benchmarking Committee
- Implemented periodic report from Creation Care to the Parish Council of Ministries.
- Participation in the Parish Human Concerns Commission.
- Strengthened relationships with Sharing Parish, St. Mary Francis of the Five Wounds, and Sharing Partner, St. Moses the Black, through support of their development of Creation Care Committees.
- Developing relationships with ecumenical and interfaith groups within the Barrington Area, e.g., Stephen Ministry and FaithBridge.
- Developing relationships with public sector and local not-for-profit agencies engaged in environmental and social justice issues.
- Regularly published articles on Laudato Si themes and activities.

Suggested LSAP Actions

1. Creation of an operating budget to cover administrative expenses
2. Identification of a volunteer grant writer
3. Members of our Creation Care and Faithjustice ministries will continue to monitor legislation and participate in lobbying and advocacy efforts, following the recommendations of the Archdiocese of Chicago, United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, Catholic Conference of Illinois, and Catholic Relief Services. We will provide input when called upon and organize support campaigns for important pieces of legislation. We will also keep an eye on all local legislation and programs, guided by Catholic Social Teaching and Values.
4. Creation Care will raise awareness about environmental/social issues impacting people in the local community, Archdiocese, and state of Illinois.
5. Collaborating with Faithjustice partners, continue to advocate and bring social issues to the table that are connected with the Goals of the LSAP.
6. Regularly visit and explore the local ecosystem. Recognize the spiritual development offered by these occasions by mentioning them in parish communications.
7. Develop a community coalition/resource to prepare for and respond to emergent social issues, e.g., waves of formal migration and asylum seekers, increase in hunger/homelessness, ethnic violence, spread of disease.