**Diocese of San Jose**

**Action Plan, 2022-2023 Report**

**July 2023**

Volunteer members of the Stewards of our Common Home Committee in the Office for Life, Justice, and Peace in the Department of Evangelization were the drivers of the actions this year.

We included only the projects and connections we thought we, ourselves, could accomplish.

These actions for 2022/2023 focused on raising awareness through programs, publicity, and networking.

**PROGRAMS**

In the *Season of Creation,* we sponsored two presentations, both on Zoom. The first was a speaker on diet and climate, “The Earth on Your Plate” by Mohan Gurunathan. The second was an introduction to the ***Laudato Si Action Platform*** and its seven goals. For each goal we presented specific local actions that would be possible to others to do such as buying fair trade items, reading, being outdoors, praying outdoors, assisting local groups in outreach, attending city council meetings, supporting city sustainability plans, eating less meat, eliminating unused lawn, and so on.

We made one presentation on the Laudato Si Action Platform to an adult class in our Institute for Leadership in Ministry.

In Lent we hosted a meatless lunch for the staff in the chancery and introduced ourselves and the goals of the platform.

We prepared sample Intercessions for Sunday Masses during the Season of Creation, World Day of the Poor in November, and for the weekends close to May 24, the anniversary of Laudato Si.

One of our members, together with Maryknoll Affiliates produced family and individual worksheets for each of the seven goals in the Laudato Si Action Platform and we were able to share these at a parish Earth Day event.

**PUBLICITY**

The diocesan Department of Evangelization and the Office of Communications collaborated with us to announce our programs and others activities that we promoted throughout the year. This included a page on the diocesan website, sending announcements via an in-house vehicle called The Vine to all diocesan staff including parishes and schools, and posting on social media.

Over the year we promoted our speakers during the Season of Creation, a county wide creek-clean-up day, the Blessing of Animals in about half our parishes, and the bi-annual national meeting, Laudato Si and the US Church, sponsored by Creighton University and the Catholic Climate Covenant.

We asked the Bishop to write a letter to the diocese announcing the enrollment. This was published in November, near the anniversary of the launching of the platform by the Vatican. In the letter the Bishop strongly encouraged parishioners to participate in any way they could. Based on this endorsement, we nominated the Bishop for Climate Champion of the year in the City of San Jose. He received this recognition at the City Hall in April. This was noted on the diocesan and city social media.

**NETWORKING**

Our diocesan networking was most successful with our contacts with parishes. Some of us strengthened our ties with our own parishes and three made initial steps to enroll in the Laudato Si Action Platform. Others became aware that their projects supported the goals of the platform. We were able to share resources and recommend speakers.

We have also connected with two elementary schools and three high schools. The California Catholic Conference sent curriculum for grades 4, 7, and 11 to the Diocese and asked that it be shared with principals and teachers. The Office of Life Justice and Peace also forwarded the curriculum from the Catholic Climate Covenant to the School Department. <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/curriculum-laudato-si-laudato-si-can-change-world>

We have established connections with several additional diocesan groups supporting the Laudato Si Goals. These included introducing ourselves to the other committee members in the Life, Justice and Peace Office, and the chancery staff at our Lenten Lunch. We introduced the Facilities director to a local non-profit that may be able to collaborate with funding for some projects. We were not able to meet with Superintendent for Schools and the directors of Faith Formation and Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Clergy On-Going Formation and the Finance Office.

We continued to build a network of connections with local, state, and national groups both within and without of the Catholic community. Locally we connected with the City of San Jose Climate Smart Program and will continue to look to them as a resource for speakers and activities. We began a conversation with a local non-profit, Acterra, with the goal to provide programs and information to underserved seniors in our parishes.

We connected with three Catholic groups in our diocese: BACAR, Bay Area conference of Affiliates and Religious which provides program on climate change, El Ritiro, a Jesuit Retreat Center, and the Sustainability Program of Santa Clara University. Conversations on the possibilities of joint programs have begun.

In our state we are in touch with the California Catholic Conference, the Care for Creation Office of the Diocese of San Diego, and an email distribution messaging group for Catholics interested in Laudato Si.

One of our members is on the staff of Maryknoll Young Adult Empowerment program and another is a member of Maryknoll Affiliates.

We also connect with Catholic Climate Covenant and their Godplanet.us website, the Laudato Si Action Platform, the Laudato Si Movement, and Season of Creation and the USCCB.

**EVALUATION**

Our Zoom presentations did not bring in many new viewers. We will be using this vehicle less in the future.

We will continue to work with the Department of Evangelization and Office of Communications for publicity. We will look for ways to evaluate the reception of our bulletin announcements and sample intercessions. We put work into these but have only anecdotal awareness as to how they are received and used.

We will write the next Action Plan based on the seven goals. We will include programs, publicity, and networking we initiate as well as other programs and actions we know about in the diocese. We hope to be included in the curriculum of the Institute for Leadership in Ministry.

We will continue to build relationships with groups within the diocese and in the community. We will continue to work with the diocesan Pastoral Plan and the Eucharistic Revival discipleship process as well as in a synodal way with the committees of our Office of Life Justice and Peace. And we will continue to expand our support for parishes and identify school programs we can support.