

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM REFLECTION

Evangelize Encounters with Christ in All Creation

February 20, 2024



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GUIDING PRINCIPLES: EVANGELIZE ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST IN ALL CREATION

The teachings of *Laudato Si'* and the structure of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform (LSAP) are foundational to the work of the LSAP Commission of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The preparation of this first Reflection is guided by the beliefs that we are called by baptism to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people and to society itself.

“The fruits of evangelization are changed lives and a changed world—holiness and justice, spirituality and peace. The validity of our having accepted the Gospel does not only come from what we feel or what we know; it comes also from the way we serve others, especially the poorest, the most marginal, the most hurting, the most defenseless, and the least loved.”¹

To change lives and change the world requires a commitment to make right our relationships with God, with our neighbors and with the very earth that has been entrusted to our stewardship. The nexus between evangelization and care for our common home is clear: both offer the Local Church a way to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Both honor God’s love for the world and His desire for its salvation. Our archdiocesan mission underscores this commitment:

The Archdiocese of Chicago is the Catholic presence in Cook and Lake Counties of the State of Illinois where we carry out the Great Commission to go and make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching to observe all that Jesus has commanded us.

Today, the world faces numerous challenges: war, poverty, violence, injustice, greed, consumerism, pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss and pandemics. These crises are interconnected and have spiritual, moral and ecological dimensions. Pope Francis calls for an integrated approach to combating this “complex crisis that is both social and environmental.”² His call is to all people. The Archdiocese of Chicago has taken a first step in joining other Christian churches by signing a declaration, **Chicagoland Christians United for the Care of Creation.**

Evangelizing and caring for creation are ways to address these challenges and their root causes and offer hope and healing to the world. They are ways to live out our baptismal promises, show God’s love to others and invite others to join us in this journey of faith and service.

Grounded in these beliefs, the Archdiocese of Chicago is fully committed to further the work of integral ecology to understand our role in caring for all of creation; to work in solidarity and synodality as we put the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform to work in our midst; and to provide opportunities for encounters with Christ in all that we do. This — our first reflection — sets the stage.

HISTORY

Our Roots

The development and growth of the Archdiocese of Chicago is closely tied to the growth of the City of Chicago, which today remains the third largest city in the United States. Its proximity to the Great Lakes, specifically Lake Michigan, and central location within the continental United States contributed to its status as a manufacturing hub, allowing materials to come in and goods to flow out. Several significant periods of growth and development mark the presence of the Catholic Church in this area, supporting and nurturing the faith and spiritual needs of the faithful.

Historic (1650-1843): The French Jesuit missionary Jacques Marquette explored the area that is now Chicago in the mid-17th century. In 1795, the Potawatomi tribe signed the Treaty of Greenville, ceding land at the mouth of the Chicago River to the United States. Fort Dearborn was erected in 1804, and Catholic pioneers began arriving in large numbers.

Foundational (1843-1879): Exponential growth in the early nineteenth century led to the establishment of a canonical see in 1843, which originally comprised the entire state of Illinois. The first bishop, William Quarter, laid the groundwork for vibrant church life by building parishes, a seminary and schools. He also petitioned for the establishment of the bishop as a corporate sole, which has enabled the smooth transitions between successive archbishops and ensured that the spiritual and administrative authority remains constant. A difficult period for the new diocese followed the death of Bishop Quarter. He was followed by Bishops James Van De Velde and Anthony O'Regan, both of whom had shorter periods of leadership. Bishop James Duggan and Bishop Thomas Foley followed. Bishops Foley had to deal with the catastrophic losses of property resulting from the Great Chicago Fire, and the establishment of a second diocese within Illinois. A highlight for the Local Church during this period was the dedication of a new cathedral in 1875.

Ethnic Expansion (1879-1915): In 1880 the diocese was elevated to an archdiocese and continued to grow rapidly in response to the explosive industrial and economic development of the city and the arrival of Catholic immigrants, who labored in its factories and mills and on its docks. Bishops Patrick Feehan and James Quigley capably managed this growth, both of whom used a "policy of ethnic accommodation"³ as way to address the spiritual and corporal needs of the various Catholic groups and allowed the establishment of numerous churches, parish schools and social welfare institutions.

Prominence and Impact (1915-1965): During this period, the archdiocese began to have a greater impact on the City of Chicago. Archbishop George Mundelein was named the first cardinal of Chicago, and the International Eucharistic Congress in 1926 brought thousands to Soldier Field, highlighting both the Local Church and the city to visitors. Quigley and St. Mary of the Lake seminaries were built under his watch.

The double challenge of suburban growth after World War II and the migration of African Americans from the segregated South presented many challenges to Archbishop Samuel Stritch. The Archdiocese found itself having to address instances of blatant racism both inside and outside the Church. White flight from the city fueled the growth of suburbia and, at the same time, new churches and Catholic schools were needed. Archbishop Albert Meyer, Stritch's successor, took action with regard to the racial tensions and directed all-white Catholic schools to accept African American students. He also brought newer technologies and greater efficiencies to the administrative offices of the diocese. Cardinal Meyer was highly regarded for his leadership of the American bishops at the Second Vatican Council.

Vatican II Era (1965-1997): Change came with the Second Vatican Council. In the tumult of these years, the Archdiocese of Chicago was led by men with very different styles: Cardinal John Cody and Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. Cardinal Cody reorganized the Archdiocese of Chicago, raised money for the modernization of parishes and schools and undertook much-needed renovations of Holy Name Cathedral.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin became the seventh Archbishop of Chicago. He set a tone of collegiality, broadening the leadership of the archdiocese by appointing auxiliary bishops from amongst those serving the ethnic communities and women to high-level administrative positions. Marking the later years of his tenure were the shifting demographics of the city and the development of the suburban lifestyle.

Tumult and Orthodoxy (1997-2017): Less than a year after naming him archbishop in Portland, Pope John Paul II named Cardinal Francis George to succeed Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, who died in November 1996. Cardinal George was the first Chicago native assigned to the post. Known for his stellar intellect, Cardinal George focused attention on the formation of priests. At the height of the abuse crisis, he led a group of U.S. bishops to persuade Vatican officials to more quickly remove priests found guilty of sexual abuse — a policy at the core of reforms meant to restore trust in church leaders. Cardinal George prioritized upholding doctrine and preserving tradition.

In 2014, Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Blase J. Cupich as the ninth Archbishop of Chicago. He was elevated to Cardinal in 2016. Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Cupich to the Dicastery for Bishops (2016) and the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (2022). Cardinal Cupich also serves on the USCCB Committee on Migration and Refugee Services and Subcommittee for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. He is a consultant to the USCCB Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee and Co-Chair of the National Dialogue Initiative with Muslims. He is an Executive Member of The Catholic Mutual Relief Society and Chancellor of the Catholic Church Extension Society, as well as Chancellor of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois.

Renewal (2017-Present)

STRUCTURAL CHANGE

Many archdiocesan parishes have been spending most of their resources simply maintaining their buildings, unable to afford the ministry staff needed for the mission of making and forming disciples.

Our goal is a Local Church fully alive with parish communities brimming with the joy of serving Christ. To achieve this goal, we have developed a carefully guided process of grouping, uniting and even closing some parishes, so that resources can be refocused to create stronger, more vibrant parishes in the future.

To do so, we evaluate business structures (how we operate), buildings, staffing and financial requirements of existing parishes, in order to build a firm foundation for the work of evangelization in our new missionary age — all to bring more people to Jesus Christ as His disciples, strengthened and formed through the vibrant, sacramental life of His Church.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Our parish formation programs and activities were created for a different age, not built to respond creatively to the needs of current generations. It is a time for parish renewal and transformation.

The work of parish renewal is carried out by missionary disciples who are on fire with the Holy Spirit, collaborating with the pastor in inviting others to a life of faith, in building the parish community and in serving others in need. Parish renewal depends on parishioners taking up the call to co-responsibility alongside the pastor and staff.

Every parishioner who is willing to listen to others, who is open about their faith story, who intentionally invites others to grow in their faith, who prays for and with others, and who is welcoming to all helps to foster a Culture of Evangelization, which is essential to renewal. We evangelize by being authentic followers of Jesus who are willing to share our lived experience of how Jesus transformed our life because we want to help someone know of God's love and have their own encounter with Jesus.

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Renewal efforts have underscored the need to meet people where they are and accompany them to grow in their discipleship.

Many people today are in a stage of exploring the meaning of life while others need a fresh encounter with Christ before they can grow in their faith. Still others are ready to go on a mission to invite people onto the "discipleship pathway." The pathway image is circular, which represents a continuous deepening of our own discipleship and mission throughout life.

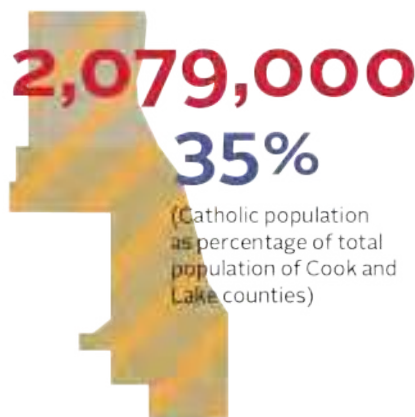
As parishes renew themselves to create the culture of evangelization and missionary discipleship needed to support everyone at each stage of the discipleship pathway, there are fundamental elements that must be in place: prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit, leading as a team, sharing the vision, hospitality and accompaniment. These are intentionally shown at the core of parish renewal.



TODAY, as of January 2024

The Archdiocese of Chicago serves around two million Catholics in Cook and Lake counties in Northeastern Illinois, a geographic area of 1,411 square miles. The archdiocese is divided into six vicariates and 35 deaneries. This local church is pastored by Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, assisted by six episcopal vicars, each responsible for a vicariate (region).

CATHOLIC POPULATION



PARISHES

216 Parishes
(As of 1/2024)

SCHEDULED MASSES (As of 10/2023)
1,178 weekend Masses scheduled in parishes and missions
English: **780**
Spanish: **266**
Polish: **88**
Other Languages: **48**

19,710
Baptisms

15,660
Confirmations

11,040
Funerals

16,600
First Communion

3,400
Weddings

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

159 elementary schools
Enrollment: **44,460**

29 secondary schools
Enrollment: **19,253**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (2022/23)

Enrollment in elementary school programs: **44,000**

Enrollment in secondary school programs: **4,700**

SEMINARY SYSTEM

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY COLLEGE SEMINARY
Enrollment: **6**

MUNDELEIN SEMINARY
Enrollment: **124**
Enrolled for Chicago: **25**

CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

6 Catholic colleges and universities
Enrollment: **47,000**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Archdiocese of Chicago

375,000 people helped through more than **40 programs** annually

CATHOLIC HOSPITALS

16 Catholic hospitals
2.3 million people assisted annually

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

47 Catholic cemeteries
15,320 annual interments

DIOCESAN PRIESTS, DEACONS, WOMEN AND MEN RELIGIOUS, AND LAY PERSONNEL IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

672 Diocesan Priests (including active and retired)

379 Religious Priests

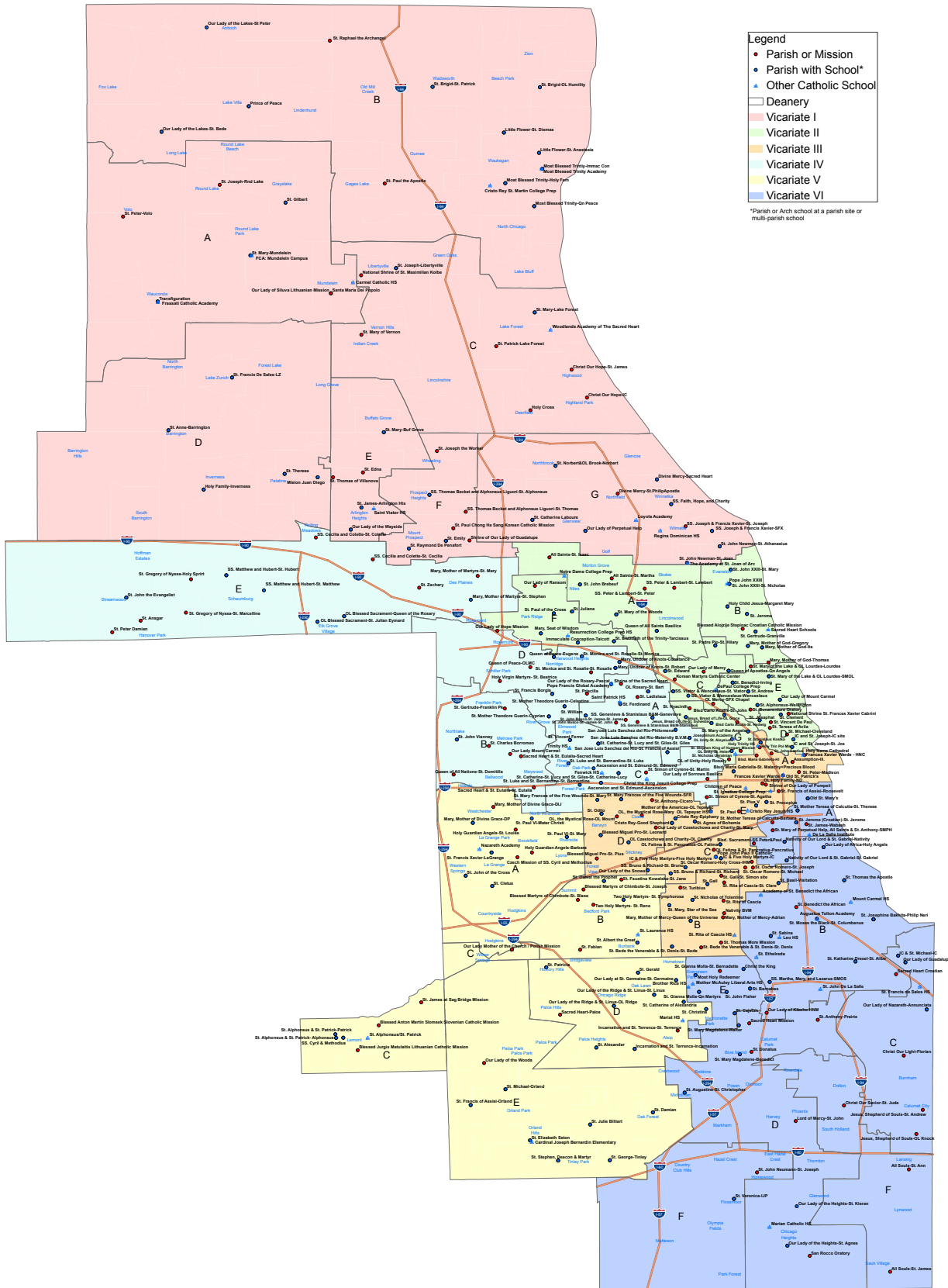
152 Religious Brothers

1,066 Women Religious

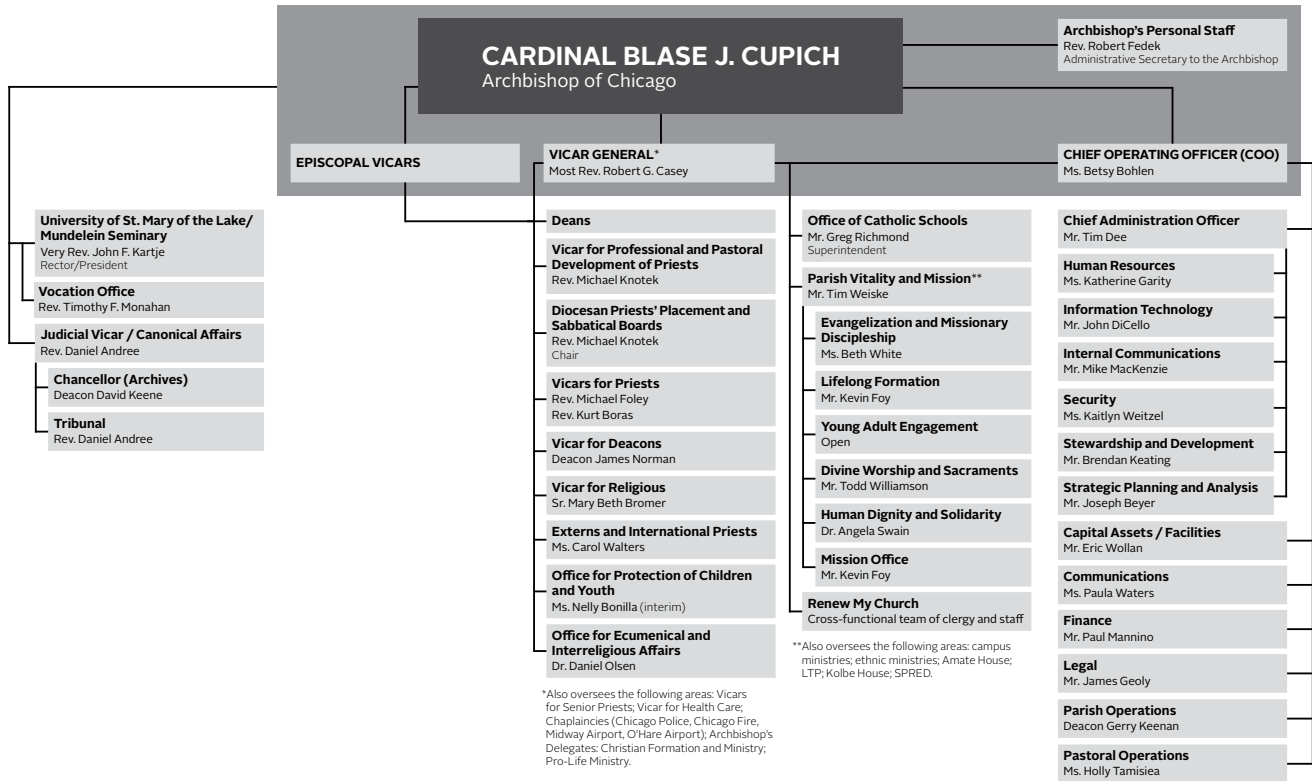
668 Deacons (including active, active outside the diocese, retired and other)

43 Certified Pastoral Associates





ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Jan. 2024

MINISTRIES AND OFFICES

A

- Amate House
- Annual Catholic Appeal
- Archdiocesan Council Catholic Women (ACCW)
- Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC)
- Archdiocesan Women's Committee (AWC)
- Archives and Records
- Asian Catholic Initiative
- Assistance Ministry
- August Tolton

B

- Bank and Investments
- Bereavement Ministry
- Black Catholic Initiative

C

- Campus Ministry
- Canonical Affairs
- Care for Creation Ministry
- Catechesis and Youth Ministry
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Catholic Cemeteries
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Office of the Deaf
- Catholic Relief Services
- Catholic Schools
- Católico
- Chicago Airports Catholic Chaplaincy
- Chicago Catholic
- Chicago Catholic Cursillo
- Child Abuse Investigations and Review
- Communications and Public Relations

D

- Diaconate
- Divine Worship
- Domestic Violence Outreach

E

- Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
- Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
- Externs and International Priests

F

- Family Ministries
- Financial Services

G

- Global Mission Office

H

- Hispanic Communications
- Human Dignity and Solidarity
- Human Resources
- Human Services

I

- Immigration Ministry
- Information Technology
- Insurance and Risk Management

J

- Saint James Chapel & Weddings
- Joseph and Mary Retreat House

K

- Kateri Center — American Indian Ministry
- Kolbe House Jail Ministry

L

- Lay Ecclesial Movements
- Legal Services
- Lifelong Formation
- Liturgy Training Publications

M

- Marriage
- University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein Seminary)
- Media Relations
- Metropolitan Tribunal
- Ministerial Resources for Parishes
- Misericordia Home
- Missionary Childhood Association

P

- Parish Operations
- Parish Vitality and Mission
- Persons with Disabilities
- Planning and Construction
- Policies and Procedures, Archdiocesan
- Polonia
- Prayer & Penance Program
- Priests Health and Retirement
- Procurement Services
- Protect and Heal
- Protection of Children and Youth

R

- Radio and Television
- Real Estate
- Religious (Consecrated Life)
- Renew My Church
- Respect Life and Chastity Education

S

- Safe Environment
- Special Religious Development
- Spiritual Healing Ministry
- Stewardship and Development
- Strategic Planning & Implementation

T

- To Teach Who Christ Is

V

- Veterans Ministry
- Vicar General
- Vicariate I Ministry Commission
- Vicars for Priests
- Violence Prevention
- Vocations

Y

- Young Adult Engagement
- Youth Ministry

THE LAUDATO SI' JOURNEY WITHIN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

ENCYCLICAL WORKING GROUP

In his Encyclical, *Laudato Si': on Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis speaks forcefully about our need to embrace a post-modern era in which we recognize that everything is connected, an integral ecology in which Christ is imbued in all of creation. Care for God's creation has long been recognized as a tenet of Catholic Social Teaching that has been explored in many previous papal and conciliar documents. *Laudato Si'* teaches us to put God at the center of creation rather than ourselves, and to recognize that, though we play a unique role in creation, we are a part of it, called to care and protect and preserve that which is a gift from the Creator.

"We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."⁴

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, the Archbishop of Chicago, stated that *Laudato Si'* represents "a watershed moment for the church, for humanity and for the planet which Pope Francis calls our common home. It is time for the church to be bold – to speak about major issues – and to achieve a new level of relevance in people's lives. We may not know all that science has to learn about climate change, but we do know enough to realize it is time to act."⁵

The message is clear: as people of faith, we have a moral responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation. In response to this decisive call to action, the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity assembled the Encyclical Working Group (EWG), a committee of archdiocesan staff, religious, academics from Catholic Theological Union, DePaul University, and Loyola University, and community leaders. The EWG was tasked with strategizing how to spread the message of *Laudato Si'* broadly throughout archdiocesan parishes. The EWG identified four major goal areas for its work:

- **PRAYER:** to inspire the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago to pray on behalf of our common home by providing resources and experiences of personal and communal prayer.
- **ADVOCACY:** to promote legislation and institutional policies that better protect and care for our common home.
- **EDUCATION:** to educate and inspire pastors, social ministers, school leaders and the lay faithful about the science, theological foundations, ethical considerations and faith formation grounded in *Laudato Si'*.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** to animate and support parishes to embrace an integral ecology that cares for our common home and works in solidarity to promote healthy environmental, economic and social systems for all of creation.

On May 25, 2021, Pope Francis announced the coming of the Laudato Si' Action Platform, “a concrete initiative—a seven-year journey—that will enable communities around the world to become totally sustainable in the spirit of integral ecology.”⁶

On November 14, 2021, the Archdiocese of Chicago was enrolled on the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

An early need addressed by the Encyclical Working Group was the development of visual materials for use in parishes to convey the ideas of integral ecology (LSAP Themes), the structure for achieving desired outcomes (LSAP Goals), and the people who would address the suggested actions and develop actions of their own (LSAP Creation Care Committees).

LSAP Themes WHAT?



LSAP Goals HOW?



Parish WHO?



Since that time...

- The Episcopal Council of the Archdiocese approved the implementation of LSAP throughout the Local Church including:
 - The naming of two Episcopal Vicars as advocates for the work of LSAP.
 - Beginning a process of discernment for how archdiocesan officers and directors might integrate the LSAP goals and actions in their operations and functions.
 - Support for the engagement of archdiocesan stewardship and development to secure the financial resources required for LSAP’s long-term sustainability.
- **LSAP Parish Initiatives:** Solidarity with LSAP/Creation Care “Champions” and parish leadership in the implementation of LSAP, with regular engagement, guidance, formation, speakers and monthly LSAP Champion Roundtable gatherings (more than 40 parishes in the Archdiocese are learning, engaged with, or have enrolled in LSAP).
 - LSAP Experiential Presentation developed for parishes, providing a Christ-centered, firsthand learning experience for Creation Care “Champions,” staff, and leadership.
 - Parish Essentials PowerPoint created to offer an overview of LSAP.
 - Laudato Si’ Advent and Lent materials created.
 - An LSAP/Creation Care Champion Workshop developed for presentations to multi-parish groups.
- **LSAP Advocacy:** Advocacy, meeting and lobbying with legislators, education, sharing of benchmarking tools and resources to support sustainability, the common good, and address the LSAP Goals with current initiatives on renewable energy, safe drinking water, budgeting and other issues impacting people and the environment.

- **Laudato Si' Gardens:** Collaboration with parishes and communities to create vegetable and native gardens that educate, feed the hungry, protect native species and pollinators, while creating spiritual contemplative spaces.
- **LSAP Theology, Liturgy, and Eucharist:** Discernment and development of formation materials and events to support the teachings of Laudato Si' (ex. Season of Creation Guide, Annual Laudato Si' Mass).
- **Regular Engagement with AOC Communications:** Developed rapport with multiple areas of Communications for production of LSAP materials, videos, timelines, website updates, distribution and promotion of LSAP events.

Events

LSAP Synodal Journey: Evangelize Encounters with Christ in All Creation

Parish LSAP/Creation Care Champion Roundtable: Monthly engagement on the parish implementation of LSAP

Season of Creation: Wide variety of celebrations and events September 1 through October 4.

Solemn Vespers for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and Lecture: An annual ecumenical service with the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago.

LSAP-related Speaker Series: Presentations by speakers on Integral Ecology and LSAP topics.

“The Letter” Film Week Event: 20+ locations including parishes, retreat centers, charitable organizations, youth groups and a university hosted a showing of the film (in English and Spanish) using the AOC materials produced and shared in “The Letter” Host Toolkit.

Annual Laudato Si' Week and Mass: Commemorating the anniversary of Laudato Si' each year.

Pathways: Care for Creation workshop path for Catholic school teacher professional development 2023-2024.

Young Adult Creation Retreat: Filled with faith formation, Mass, speakers, call to action.

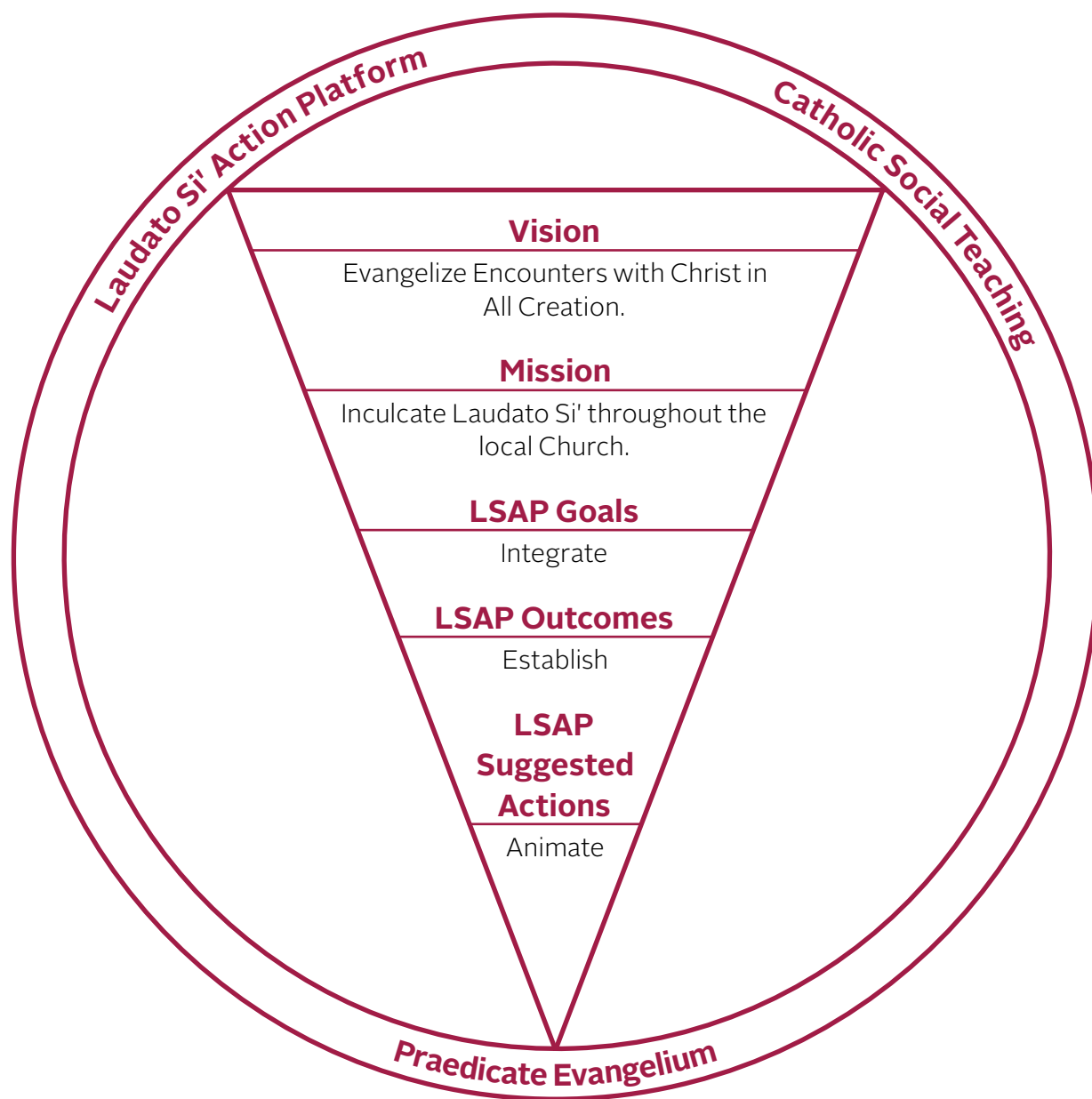
Catholic Youth Climate Summit: Third annual Catholic Youth Climate Summit, February 2024.

Appendix, Archdiocese of Chicago LSAP Journey

Additional events, initiatives, announcements and videos etc. are presented beginning on page 20 in the Appendix, Archdiocese of Chicago LSAP Journey.

LSAP COMMISSION

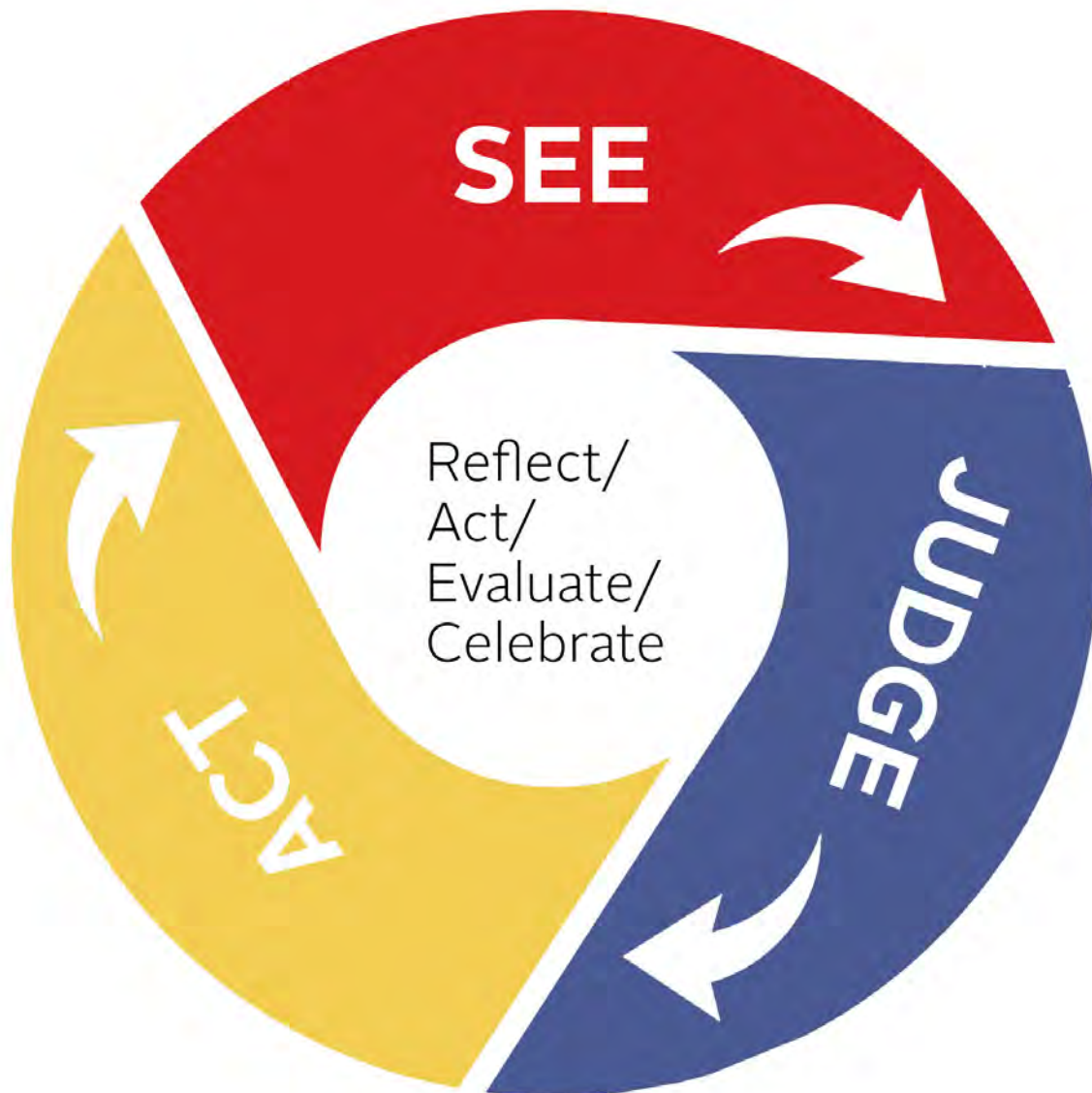
An LSAP Commission was established in October 2023. Its task is to inculcate the teachings of Laudato Si' and implement LSAP within the various functions and ministries of the Archdiocese, enabling them to better serve and facilitate the implementation of LSAP in parishes. The framework for the LSAP Commission comes out of Laudato Si' Action Platform, Catholic Social Teaching and Praedicate Evangelium, as illustrated here.



LSAP PROCESS

The LSAP Process incorporates the principles of

- Synodality
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity



The role of the Archdiocese is to accompany and serve the parishes in their engagement in the Laudato Si' Action Platform. Culturally, the Archdiocese embraces a synodal journey that builds solidarity and subsidiarity in which all are welcome into the journey. This way of being church opens all of us, as the body of Christ, into a spiritual ecological conversion.

CITATIONS

Endnotes

¹United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, [usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/evangelization/go-and-make-disciples/what_is_evangelization_go_and_make_disciples](https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/evangelization/go-and-make-disciples/what_is_evangelization_go_and_make_disciples), par. 18

²Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, no. 139.

³encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/1088.html

⁴Op. Cit., *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, no. 49

⁵Michelle Martin, "Local Catholics applaud climate encyclical", *Chicago Catholic*, June 29, 2015

⁶*L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly Edition in English, 28 May 2021

Visit us at [archchicago.org/creation](https://www.archchicago.org/creation).

APPENDIX A: 2020–2024

The Archdiocese of Chicago LSAP Journey

A sampling of events, speakers, initiatives, announcements and videos are included.

Note: For annual events, different content is available for items not shared here.

Visit [archchicago.org/creation](https://www.archchicago.org/creation) for more information and to see archived materials.



Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP)

Synodal Journey: Evangelize Encounters with Christ in All Creation

You are invited to discern and dialogue in our Church's calling to care for our common home.

Join us on this journey.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 | 1 – 4:30 P.M.

Holy Cross Catholic Church, 724 Elder Lane, Deerfield, IL 60015

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 | 1 – 4:30 P.M.

St. Mary of the Woods Faith Community
6955 North Hiawatha Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 | 12:30 – 4 P.M.

St. Luke and St. Bernardine Parish
7246 West Harrison Street, Forest Park, IL 60130

SUNDAY, MAY 5 | 12:30 – 4 P.M.

Incarnation St. Terrence Parish
5757 West 127th Street, Crestwood, IL 60418

SATURDAY, MAY 11 | 12:30 – 4 P.M.

St. Moses the Black Parish, 450 East 78th street, Chicago, IL 60619

SATURDAY, MAY 18 | 12:30 – 4 P.M.

LSAP Synodal Journey Synthesis, Assumption Catholic Church
323 West Illinois Street, Chicago, IL 60654

SATURDAY, MAY 18 | 7 P.M.

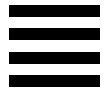
Ecumenical prayer service for the installation of the Care of Creation Declaration and reception, Bishop Robert Casey, Vicar General, will serve as the homilist.

Holy Name Cathedral, 735 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60654

SUNDAY, MAY 19 | 12 P.M.

Annual Laudato Si' Mass, Celebrant Bishop Jeffrey Grob
The Church of St. Mary, 201 East Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL, 60045





PARISH VITALITY AND MISSION

Human Dignity and Solidarity

About Us

Legislative Action

Faithful Citizenship

Our Faith In Action

Get Involved

Racial Justice

Amate House

Care for Creation
Ministry

Catholic Campaign
for Human
Development

Catholic Relief
Services

Domestic Violence
Outreach

Immigration Ministry

Kolbe House Jail
Ministry

Respect Life and
Chastity Education

Contact Us

Care for Creation Ministry

Laudato Si' Action Platform Synodal Journey



Evangelize Encounters with Christ in All Creation

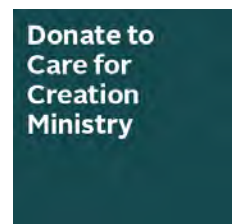
Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. — Luke 24:13-14

[Click here to register](#)

WHY consider this Journey?

Through baptism, loving God, our neighbors and all of creation is foundational to our Christian faith. Grounded in Catholic Tradition, we are called to spread the *Joy of the Gospel* and act for the common good. In our time, the Holy Father's encyclical letter, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, invites us to evangelize the Gospel and manifest the common good with the use of the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP). To inculcate the LSAP within the Local Church, parishes are coming together on a synodal journey to build the roadmap for this sacred call to action.

...it is important to remember that the encyclical is not a rhetorical or abstract dissertation. Or meant to be food only for thought. The pope is asking each of us, you and me, to take actions now — to build a worldwide culture of stewardship. — Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago



While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" — Luke 24:15-17

WHAT will we encounter along the way?

- Deep listening and dialogue with our fellow sojourners.
- Convergence and divergence in our discernment about how the teachings of *Laudato Si'* are received by our parish and the Local Church.
- Contemplative prayer and music.
- Adoration of the Eucharist.
- Hospitality.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" — Luke 24:30-32

HOW will we be guided?

The Archdiocese of Chicago's LSAP Synodal Journey is being facilitated by LSAP/Care for Creation Coordinators and parish LSAP/Creation Care Champions.

Pope Francis calls the Church to rediscover its deeply synodal nature. Synodality enables the entire People of God to:

- Walk together, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, listening to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.
- Participate in the mission of the Church in the communion that Christ establishes between us.
- Put into practice the truth of the Church, that we are a pilgrim and missionary people of God.

The entire people of God shares a common dignity and vocation through baptism. All of us are called in virtue of our baptism to be active participants in the life of the Church. In parishes — pastors, parish staff, parish councils, school boards, finance committees, lay ministry leaders, youth — we are all invited to listen to one another in order to hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who comes to guide our human efforts, breathing life and vitality into the Church and leading us into deeper communion with Christ, our neighbor, and all God's creation.

WHO will be our companions?

The Holy Spirit, along with fellow parishioners, pastors and staff. Each parish will invite three people to participate in the LSAP Synodal Journey.

And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon!" They began to relate their experiences on the road, and how He was recognized by them at the breaking of the bread. — Luke 24:33-35

WHEN will you set out on the journey?

LSAP Synodal Journeys begin during the Easter Season on the dates indicated below.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 | 1 – 4:30 P.M.

Holy Cross Catholic Church
724 Elder Lane, Deerfield, IL 60015

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 | 1 – 4:30 P.M.

St. Mary of the Woods Faith Community
6955 North Hiawatha Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 | 12:30 – 4 P.M.

St. Luke and St. Bernardine Parish
7246 West Harrison Street, Forest Park, IL 60130

SUNDAY, MAY 5 | 12:30 – 4 P.M.

Incarnation St. Terrence Parish
5757 West 127th Street, Crestwood, IL 60418

SATURDAY, MAY 11 | 12:30 – 4 P.M.

St. Moses the Black Parish
450 East 78th street, Chicago, IL 60619

SATURDAY, MAY 18 | 12:30 – 4 P.M.

LSAP Synodal Journey Synthesis
Assumption Catholic Church
323 West Illinois Street, Chicago, IL 60654

SATURDAY, MAY 18 | 7 P.M.

Ecumenical prayer service for the installation of the Care of Creation declaration and reception.
Bishop Robert G. Casey, Vicar General, will serve as the



homilist.
Holy Name Cathedral
735 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60654

SUNDAY, MAY 19 | 12 P.M.

Annual Laudato Si' Mass
Celebrant: Bishop Jeffrey S. Grob
The Church of St. Mary
201 East Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL, 60045

[Click here to register](#)

Photo credit: *Road to Emmaus*, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002 *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

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3525 South Lake Park
Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653

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3rd Annual Catholic Youth Climate Summit 2024

Sunday, February 25, 2024 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
St. Ignatius College Prep
1076 Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60608

Are You Ready to Move the Conversation Forward?

Celebrate the beginning of the Summit at Mass with His Eminence Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, concelebrated with Fr. Pat Fairbanks, SJ and Fr. Mark Luedtke, SJ. Families are welcome to join and support their teens, ages 14 – 18, for Mass.

Connect and Grow with other teens to meet the challenges of the climate crisis within a faith community, grow as a leader and advocate for our common home.

Impact your school, Church and community by developing an action plan to address climate change in a day of discernment, fellowship, prayer, and empowerment.

Lunch will be provided during the Summit.

9 a.m. Registration sign-in (Pre-Registration required at forms.office.com/r/fZyjcAMBt2)

10 a.m. Mass at the Church of the Holy Family (adjacent to St. Ignatius College Prep)

“We need a conversation that includes everyone...”

– **Pope Francis** (Laudato Si’ 14)

PRE-REGISTER HERE!





Sticker designed by a student for the 2024 Catholic Youth Climate Summit.



Team Members

President: Cardinal Blase J. Cupich

Concelebrant: Fr. Mark Luedtke, SJ

Master of Ceremonies: Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, SJ

Deacon: Br. John Eustice, CSV

Servers: Elias Franco-Bravo, Lexi Rosado, Mackenzie Adams, Angelo Accardi, Julia Bukowski, Giancarla Garduño and Christopher Morris

Lectors: Adrian Rosado, Alan Treto

Cantors: Audrey Deck, Jordan Marshall

Accompanist: John Kyler

Leadership Team: Courtney Fitzgerald, Emilie Moorman, Olivia Mowrer, Audrey Deck, Julia Bukowski, Sam Hargadon, Annaliese Dorchinecz, Greer Waller, Kendall Schwab, Jordan Marshall, Alan Treto, Joselyn Guzzo, Oscar Perez

**This worship aid is printed in black ink.
If you wish to turn it back in, the paper
will be shredded and turned into compost.**

CATHOLIC YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

Sunday, February 25, 2024 | 9:45 a.m.
Second Sunday of Lent
Church of the Holy Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

Procession of Elements

Fire, Rock, Water, Soil, Plants

GATHERING RITE

All are Welcome

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine, and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen. © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

CONCLUDING RITE

Commissioning of the Youth

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:

Text: Peter Scholtes. © 1966, F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991.

The Summons

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen?
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell. © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Responsorial Psalm

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God,
Born of the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
Begotten, not made; consubstantial with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us, men, and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
And by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the virgin Mary, and
became man.

For our sake he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day,
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
And His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified.
Who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Universal Prayer

Please respond: "God of all creation, hear our prayer."

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord,
And where there is doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

**Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.**

Make me a channel of your peace:
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
It is in giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Text: Prayer of St. Francis; adapt. by Sebastian Temple. © 1967, OCP. Dedicated to Mrs. Frances Tracy.

COMMUNION RITE

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi; miserere nobis (x2)
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi; dona nobis pacem.

We Are Many Parts

We are many parts, we are all one body,
And the gifts we have we are given to share.
May the Spirit of love make us one indeed:
One, the love that we share, one, our hope in despair, one, the cross
that we bear.

God of all, we look to you,
We would be your servants true,
Let us be your love to all the world.

So my pain is pain for you,
In your joy, is my joy too;
All is brought together in the Lord.

All your seekers, great and small,
Seek the greatest gift of all;
If you love, then you will know the Lord.

Text: 1 Corinthians 12, 13; Marty Haugen. © 1980, 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.



Catholic Ecological Integrity: Sacramental, Evangelical, Eucharistic

Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF, Ph.D.

The Erica & Harry John Family Professor of Catholic Theological Ethics
Catholic Theological Union – Chicago, IL

SACRAMENTAL

Beginning the new year, we pause to reflect on the nexus between two significant teachings from our Holy Father Francis — his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (November 24, 2013) and his Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si' — On Care for Our Common Home* (May 24, 2015). In both documents, he exposes the Catholic tenets of “Sacrament” and life in a “sacramental universe.” Just as a classic work of art bears the mark of the artist, so too, the entire cosmos is revelatory of God. All of God’s creation — including but also beyond humankind — opens material reality as a kind of conduit of Divine Grace, a source of deep joy of Christians in Christ Jesus (Rom. 1:19-20). I suggest that it is through the taste of God’s grandeur in creation that we begin to appreciate the “Real Presence” of Christ in the Eucharist, “the source and summit of the Christian life” (*Lumen Gentium*, § 11), and that joy motivates us to live and share the “Good News.”

Indeed, as St. Bonaventure held, the entire world was transformed at the moment of the Incarnation. When the Divine became part of the material world: “All things are said to be transformed in the transfiguration of Christ. For as a human being, Christ has something in common with all creatures. With the stone he shares existence; with plants he shares life; with animals he shares sensation; and with the angels he shares intelligence. Therefore, all things are said to be transformed in Christ since — in his human nature — he embraces something of every creature.”¹

EVANGELICAL

The early Christological creation hymn in Col. 1:15-20, states that Christ is God's preeminent and supreme agent in creation. This hymn reflects Gen. 1 and Prov. 8, and it challenges us to see Christ's joy in creating and longing to become human and to express tangibly God's unconditional love for all humans and other-kinds in creation. ² Australian theologian Denis Edwards explains:

“Here the cosmic Christ is celebrated as both the source of creation and its goal: all things have been created in Christ and all things are reconciled in him. The words ‘all things’ are repeated like a refrain. All things are created in Christ, who is the image (icon) of the invisible God. As in the wisdom literature Sophia is with God in creation and continually sustains all things, so in Colossians the risen Christ is the one in whom all things are created and in whom all things hold together. The Colossians hymn goes further, asserting that in Christ and Christ's cross, God has reconciled all things to God's self. Everything in creation is created in Christ, sustained in him, and reconciled in him.” ³

In *Colossians*, Christ's death and resurrection are understood as the beginning of the transformation of the whole of creation. This is possible because of “the primacy of Christ” — the belief or faith claim that insists on the absolute priority of God's will and grace and the secondary role of human sin.

In the *Prologue of the Gospel of John*, 1:1-14, St. Bonaventure saw not only the central belief of Christianity, but also the unity of the doctrines of creation and redemption. Notably, St. John uses the Greek *sarx*, (“flesh”) to indicate that in the Incarnation, Christ became one with us and the material universe that God created and sustains in love. Here we also see the similarity in language to the text of *Genesis 1*, affirming God's eternal love and life-affirming presence.

In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis builds on the profound reality and power born forth by God's manifestations of love and earthly presence. Citing St. John XXIII, Pope Francis challenges the People of God to both reject prophets of doom and distinguish between the substance of the faith and the form in which it is spread (EG §§ 84,41). The whole People of God is formed through pastoral sensitivity and meditation on Christians becoming a people (EG §§ 268-74). To that end, Pope Francis challenges the People of God to overcome our divisions concerning *how* to pursue the common good and peace in society, by following four axioms (EG §§ 217-237): Time (walking together in hope) is greater than space; Unity (solidarity) prevails over conflict; Realities (especially the principle of incarnation) are more important than ideas; and The Whole (community) is greater than the parts.

Gospel proclamation is not solely anthropocentric; indeed, it requires bringing “Good News” to all of creation (Is. 49:13; Mk. 16:15; Rom. 8:19; and EG §4, 181, 215, 257, 274)! Citing St. Paul VI, *Populorum Progresio*, §14, Francis asserts that the Gospel requires care for all people and the whole person. The universal destination of the goods of the earth is egregiously violated when the very capacity for people burdened by poverty to have access

to those goods that constitute the very necessities of life is nonexistent. Frequently, it is those same economic systems that disenfranchise people who are poor that also wreak utter ruin of the earth's clean air and potable water, fertile soil, robbing plants and animals of their restorative vitality (EG § 215). It is primarily the poorest of the poor whose very life is grievously threatened by unfettered global warming and our current climate emergency.

EUCCHARISTIC

As Catholics participate in a eucharistic revival amid a climate emergency, the Sacraments elicit our awareness of our dependence on “our Sister, Mother Earth” and awe at God’s offer of unfailing love of us and all creatures. Pope Francis recalls how: “The universe unfolds in God who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things” (LS §233). The awe of Eucharistic devotion needs to move us to participate in Jesus’ self-sacrificing love (*Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy*, §19 and LS §236).

The Eucharist is God’s act of “cosmic love” that joins heaven and earth. It embraces all of creation (LS §236). That interchange requires our movement from contemplation to action in our role as caretakers of God’s creation (Gen. 1:26-28). Yet, the raw material of the Earth is also an occasion for sin when we reduce Earth’s elements to profit-making commodities, depleting them, denying them to people who are poor, engaging in conflicts or creating unjust systems. Creation has been compromised, impaired by human selfishness and killing. Evidence of our personal Eucharistic revival needs to shine forth in the ways we make Christ’s presence concrete in care for our Sister, Mother Earth, and all sisters and brothers — human and other kinds.

¹ Bonaventure, Sermo I, Dom II, in Quad. IX, 215–19, in Zachary Hayes, “Christ, Word of God and Exemplar of Humanity,” *The Cord* 46 (1996): 13.

² Robert J. Karris, “Colossians 1:15-20—Jesus Christ as Cosmic Lord and Peacemaker,” in *Franciscan Theology of the Environment*, in Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF (Quincy, IL: Franciscan Press, 2002), 86.

³ Denis Edwards, *Ecology at the Heart of Faith* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006), 56.



Palazzo San Calisto, 22 December 2023

Dear Cardinal Cupich and your co-workers in ministry:

The peace of Christ!

With very great joy and gratitude, we receive the good news that the Archdiocese of Chicago is committed to using 100% renewable energy starting in January 2024! This action is an excellent response to Pope Francis's calls in *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum* for the global community to drastically reduce our carbon emissions. Putting your Catholic faith into practice in this way is a prophetic sign that will no doubt encourage many other dioceses in the United States and beyond to consider similar commitments.

We also acknowledge and thank you and many who are working for the care of creation in the Archdiocese for participating in the Laudato Si' Action Platform and working towards the Laudato Si' Goals. May such efforts to live out our ecological conversion inspire others, all of whom LSAP is very ready to welcome on the platform.

The Archdiocese of Chicago is helping the whole Church to face the global climate crisis. In addition, we gratefully recognize your many courageous and resolute efforts to uplift the dignity of the human person and care for the least and marginalized, including the vulnerable migrants arriving in Chicago. May you continue to couple integral human development with care for our common home, and may God abundantly bless the efforts of everyone in Chicago working hard to bring the Gospel to society!

Sending heartfelt and prayerful greetings for a blessed Christmas and a more peaceful New Year!

Card. Michael Czerny S.J.
Prefect
Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

John Mundell
Director
Laudato Si' Action Platform

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



EARTH DAY MASS

In honor of Earth Day, let us celebrate together the gift of creation!

Please join us for Mass:

Thursday, April 18, 11:30 am CDT
Archbishop Quigley Center

Fr. John Kartje, president

The Mass will be livestreamed from **St. James Chapel**. Link in this email.

"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." (*Laudato Si*, #14)

Coordinated by the Pastoral Center "Green Team"



Graphic: Catholic Climate Covenant



ADVENT 2023 LIVING LAUDATO SI'

Join Laudato Si' efforts to care for our common home during Advent. Each day addresses one of the seven goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform, denoted by the color above the action. Visit archchicago.org/creation for more.

Respond to the Cry of the Earth



Respond to the Cry of the Poor



Foster Ecological Economics



Adopt a Sustainable Lifestyle



Promote Ecological Education



Practice Ecological Spirituality



Community Resilience & Empowerment



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>DEC. 3</p> <p>Learn about Catholic involvement at the recent COP28, the U.N. Climate Change Conference. Pray for those charged with advocating for the common good.</p>	<p>DEC. 4</p> <p>Donate food and/or time to help those in need, the elderly or immigrants. Pray about your access to healthy food; be thankful and generous.</p>	<p>DEC. 5</p> <p>Shop locally and support businesses in the community. Tell owners how much you appreciate their efforts and encourage others to do likewise.</p>	<p>DEC. 6</p> <p>Instead of a new outfit for Christmas, upcycle what you have in a new way. Think about how/who makes your clothes. Ask yourself, do I really need something new?</p>	<p>DEC. 7</p> <p>Read or re-read Pope Francis' Encyclical, Laudato Si' and the new exhortation Laudate Deum. Share and discuss with someone you love.</p>	<p>DEC. 8</p> <p>Today is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Say the Rosary today with intentions for all of life. Pray to Mary for her unconditional "YES."</p>	<p>DEC. 9</p> <p>Give time to a local group to clean and preserve public land. Involve young people in the activity and explain the idea of common good.</p>
<p>DEC. 10</p> <p>Initiate "Meatless Mondays" at home. At the table, discuss the reduction of harmful gases in the air and how this act can help protect our common home.</p>	<p>DEC. 11</p> <p>Initiate "Meatless Mondays" at home. At the table, discuss the reduction of harmful gases, and how this can help protect our air.</p>	<p>DEC. 12</p> <p>Reduce your paper usage this Advent. Wrap gifts creatively using natural materials. Choose to send e-cards/egifts to reduce single use packaging.</p>	<p>DEC. 13</p> <p>Help institutions commit to divesting from fossil fuels. Read about fuel exit strategies and just transitions to renewables.</p>	<p>DEC. 14</p> <p>Celebrate the Eucharist often during Advent to prepare your hearts for Jesus, God's gift to humanity. Invite someone to join you in prayer for all Creation.</p>	<p>DEC. 15</p> <p>Participate in walking and praying at the annual Posada in Chicago today. Be in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers who, as the Holy Family, sought a place to stay.</p>	<p>DEC. 16</p> <p>Explore this site to learn more about Laudato Si' around the Archdiocese of Chicago at archchicago.org/creation.</p>
<p>DEC. 17</p> <p>Advocate for a "circular economy." Ask manufacturers to consider the "end-life" of products to reduce landfills.</p>	<p>DEC. 18</p> <p>Pray for those affected by biodiversity loss. Not just the species, but those dependent on them for maintaining a healthy balance.</p>	<p>DEC. 19</p> <p>Consider if you would treat Jesus the same way you treat the earth and its most vulnerable. Commit to simple acts of love as St. Therese of Lisieux's "The Little Way".</p>	<p>DEC. 20</p> <p>Write letters to Congress, stating your position on the issues that address care for creation. Consider how your silence contributes to the status quo.</p>	<p>DEC. 21</p> <p>Know the rules for your waste hauler. Make sure everyone in your household understands what is recyclable. Work with your neighbors to be diligent!</p>	<p>DEC. 22</p> <p>Practice sustainable fashion. Let your creative spirits be free and end your enslavement to trends on social media.</p>	<p>DEC. 23</p> <p>Consider if you would treat Jesus the same way you treat the earth and its most vulnerable. Commit to simple acts of love as St. Therese of Lisieux's "The Little Way".</p>
<p>DEC. 24</p> <p>Consider alternatives to fuel-intensive business trips or vacations. Use modes of transportation with lower emissions.</p>	<p>DEC. 25</p> <p>Turn climate anxiety into climate action. Talk about climate change and solution-based actions. Join a Parish creation care group.</p>	<p>DEC. 26</p> <p>Walk whenever you can. Use stairs instead of elevators. Park centrally and walk to stops as you run errands. Take a bike or train to go a distance.</p>	<p>DEC. 27</p> <p>Plan to host a viewing of The Letter, a documentary film about Laudato Si'. Visit the archdiocese website for more information.</p>	<p>DEC. 28</p> <p>Think about the journeys of the Holy Family to Bethlehem and later to Egypt. Take a walk and pray for all the reasons compelling people to leave their homes.</p>	<p>DEC. 29</p> <p>Create a 24 month running total for utility expenses. Track incremental improvements as you turn off lights, lower the temp, etc.</p>	<p>DEC. 30</p> <p>Consider making a year-end donation to groups that deliver on their mission to the poor. Take a look at all the various Catholic institutions committed to helping the vulnerable.</p>



On behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, you are cordially invited to the

Ninth Annual

Solemn Vespers for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Thursday, August 31, 2023 | 7 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
1775 Grove Street, Glenview, Illinois 60025

All are invited as the Catholic and Greek Orthodox communities of greater Chicagoland join together for an ecumenical service to give thanks for God's gift of creation and to recognize the conservation efforts of His disciples.

Bishop Casey, Archdiocese of Chicago, will preside at this service and is honored to be joined by Fr. Sotirios Malamis, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago.

The event will be live-streamed as well at: vimeo.com/event/3581003.

The Vespers will be followed by a reception and a lecture by Sarah Elizabeth Ippel

A Chicago Model for Cultivating a Sustainable and Just Future

As a national leader in innovative education and sustainability who has dedicated two decades of her life to cultivating the future of learning and thriving communities, Sarah Elizabeth will share an inspiring and actionable vision for integrating health and wellness, environmental justice, multigenerational learning, and economic vitality to drive generational impact. She'll share more about her work with developing a Chicago-based model, Cultivate Collective, which serves as a national demonstration site and replicable prototype for equitable and sustainable communities, and her founding of the Academy for Global Citizenship, a public school and environmental education framework that has been scaled to impact five million children.



Solemn Vespers for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Homily of His Excellency, Most Reverend Robert Casey
September 1, 2023

How grateful I am to join with Fr. Sotirios Malamis of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and all of you who join us from the Catholic and Greek Orthodox communities of greater Chicagoland.

How grateful I am to have Sarah Elizabeth Ippel with us. She will speak to us later this evening on “A Chicago Model for Cultivating a Sustainable and Just Future.”

And, how grateful I am for the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis as they challenge us to greater care for the gift of creation.

All of us gathered... those present here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help and those who join us through the livestream... come together as witnesses of a shared call.

God has called us to greater harmony and greater unity. And, in a particular way, God brings us together today to celebrate the gift of creation and to recognize the importance of our becoming one in the care for creation.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis have spoken and written extensively that the care for creation does not belong to some. Care for creation is a responsibility belonging to all of us. It is a responsibility that must be carried out in this present moment and then handed on to the next generation.

However, as we take upon ourselves the responsibility of caring for creation, we cannot ignore the challenge before us. We live in a time of great division and polarization. Through many generations we have honed our skills to separate and partition ourselves off from one another.

We have taken to heart the belief that if *you* are different from *me*, we therefore cannot associate with one another. Even though we have been given life by the same God and placed upon this planet as the co-heirs of creation, all too easily we surrender ourselves to the ways of selfishness and self-centeredness.

In his 2020 book called *Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, wrote, “Selfishness is the most destructive force in all the cosmos... Selfishness destroys families. Selfishness destroys communities. Selfishness has destroyed societies, nations, and global communities, and it will destroy the human race by laying waste to our planet. If we let it.”

From the first fruits of selfishness and self-centeredness, told in the story of Adam and Eve, to the present day, we recognize the destruction that comes when we choose the path of division, isolation, and exclusion. In this present moment, our society, and our Churches more specifically, find

themselves challenged to follow a different way... to seek out a path of unity, dialogue, and inclusion that can bring healing and hope to a weary world.

In this year of 2023, we find ourselves quite far from the Garden of Eden. Since the dawn of creation, our world has seen the rise and fall of various civilizations. We have witnessed great development, new industries, and innovative technologies.

Some of this progress can be seen as a benefit, a gift from a God who continues to inspire the minds of men and women with new discoveries of the wonder of creation.

However, some of our advances have not moved us forward in the right direction and have instead set us back.

As cities and towns have risen around us, we have ended up covering the earth in concrete, deforesting and developing once pristine wilderness that may never be seen again.

We have drained our lakes and oceans and diverted rivers and streams, giving witness to how our thoughtlessness can disrupt the natural flow of life. We have drunk up the world around us without thought for the thirst of tomorrow, forgetting how the actions of one person today can impact the future of so many.

The theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation is "Let Justice and Peace Flow."

This theme is inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24)

Reflecting on this theme in his September message, Pope Francis places all of humanity in a common stream with a hope that "all flow together into the vast ocean of God's loving mercy." Humanity can become a healing river, or as Pope Francis states, "a source of life for its surroundings... a source of life for our common home and all its inhabitants."

The pope goes on to say, "In the same way that a river gives life to all kinds of animal and plant life, [we] must give life by sowing justice and peace in every place it reaches."

Considering this image of the flowing river and never-failing stream, my thoughts take me back to 1989, when singer and songwriter Carly Simon found herself on the Top 10 music charts with her hit song, *Let the Rivers Run*.

In this song, she sings of a city. And the city she sings of is not simply alive for a day... it is a city alive with hope for its future. "Let the river run," she sings. "Let all the dreamers wake the nation. Come, the New Jerusalem!"

Amid all that we have built up and developed, and aware of the impact of our actions upon Creation and our human family, Carly Simon's song resounds with an urge for us to get up and get moving. We cannot sit still. The call for justice and peace summons us out of our sleep. Climate change awakens us to action. Let the river run. We cannot be stagnant.

Ms. Simon sings out, "We're coming to the edge... Running on the water... Coming through the fog... Your sons and daughters. Let the river run... Let all the dreamers wake the nation. Come, the New Jerusalem!"

We find ourselves at a moment of awakening. We are being asked to greet the day before us with renewed vision, with improved listening, and with greater feeling.

Can we look upon creation with honesty and humility, allowing ourselves to see the consequences of our actions and the effect they have upon the earth and her inhabitants?

Can we listen more closely to the earth's heartbeat as our world seeks to beat more in harmony with her people?

Can we feel more profoundly the impact we have upon our sacred home and tread more lightly upon our lands that have become so beaten and bruised?

Pope Francis encourages us in the encyclical *Laudato Si*. "All is not lost," the pope says, "Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning" (LS 205).

We have been called to a greater care for creation. This isn't simply a call from singer and songwriter Carly Simon. This is a call that comes from our Creator. As sons and daughters of the living God, we must be bold in our response. "Wake the nation... Come the New Jerusalem."

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

Join the Archdiocese of Chicago and Assumption Catholic Church for an annual Season of Creation Mass.

Season of Creation Mass: In Person and Livestreamed

Sunday, September 10, 2023 | 9 a.m.

Assumption Catholic Church

323 West Illinois Street, Chicago, IL 60654

Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Chamblain, OSM, Pastor

Homilist: Fr. John T. Pawlikowski, OSM

Homily: Responding to Laudato Si': A Call to Action

Livestream: assumption-chgo.org/m-home.asp and
youtube.com/@assumptioncatholicchurchch4026

John T. Pawlikowski, OSM

CTU Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics



Fr. John served on the Vatican's COVID-19 Commission Ecology Task Force and the International Justice and Peace Committee at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on its Energy Statement and its Pastoral Letter of the Economy. He has been a participant in three United Nations international conferences on world peace, alternative energy and human trafficking. He currently serves on the Parliament of World Religions Climate Action Task Force. Fr. John is a preeminent leader and scholar in social/environmental justice.

Chicago **C**hristians **U**nited

For the

Care of **C**reation

Declaration

August 17, 2023

The first revelation of God is creation. The Judeo-Christian story of creation begins with the Bible's first book of Genesis. "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." (Gen. 1:1, 31a) The Bible teaches us that we are made in God's image, and that we are to have dominion over the earth. (Gen. 1:26, 28) In this unique role as human beings, we are called to care for God's creation. (Gen. 2:15) We are a part of God's creation, and responsible for protecting and preserving what is the Creator's, for all of the earth is the Lord's. (Psalm 24:1)

Jesus Christ commands, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matt. 22:37, 39-40)

To love God, we must honor all that God has created. To love our neighbor requires us as Christians to preserve and protect all that sustains life. The Earth, its air, land, and water, and everything derived from such, are precious gifts that sustain us all. All of these elements must be cared for, protected, and preserved, here and now, for the common good and for future generations.

Because we are made in the image of God, and because God loves and cares for creation (Matt. 6:25-34), we must also care for our common home. To do otherwise is sin. Our common home is now suffering because of human-induced climate change and our wanton exploitation of God's precious gift of creation. Taking decisive restorative action is a moral and religious imperative.

Confessing that we have sinned against God and neighbor by our misuse of God's good creation, we humbly and urgently call all people to address this spiritual, ecological and existential threat to our common home.

United in Prayer,

[Signature]
American Baptist Churches
of Metro Chicago

[Signature]
Armenian Orthodox Church, Diocese of the
Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

[Signature]
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church,
3rd Episcopal District Office

[Signature]
Episcopal Church,
Diocese of Chicago

[Signature]
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
Metropolitan Chicago Synod

[Signature]
Greek Orthodox Church,
Metropolis of Chicago

[Signature]
Presbyterian Church (USA),
Presbytery of Chicago

[Signature]
Roman Catholic Church,
Archdiocese of Chicago

[Signature]
Salvation Army,
North & Central Illinois Division

[Signature]
St. Thomas Syro-Malabar
Catholic Diocese of Chicago

[Signature]
United Church of Christ,
Illinois Conference

[Signature]
United Methodist Church,
Northern Illinois Conference

[Signature]
St. Nicholas Ukrainian
Catholic Eparchy



GOD'S GIFT OF CREATION:

Future generations depend on us. Taking the lead on caring for our common home.

In recognition of Laudato Si' Week, Dr. George Nassos will share the solidarity between the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions on caring for our common home, compelling us to work together for generations to come.

Register here: forms.office.com/r/OWYR7hqA1A

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Refreshments: 6:30 p.m.

Presentation and Q&A: 7 – 7:45 p.m.

St. John of the Cross Parish Center

5005 Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL 60558



Dr. George P. Nassos is the principal of George P. Nassos & Associates, consulting on environmental sustainability and renewable energy. He was the Industry Associate Professor and the Director of the Master of Science in Environmental Management and Sustainability program at Illinois Institute of Technology's Stuart School of Business. George is the former Director of the Master of Science in Sustainability Management program at the DePaul University Driehaus College of Business.

Learn more about George P. Nassos & Associates consulting at georgepnassos.com.

6 OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTEMPLATE AND ACT UPON THE CALL OF LAUDATO SI'

What difference can it make: In your life? For the sake of our world?

Transforming Your Life in Light of Laudato Si' Action Platform: Retreat for Pastoral Associates and Adult Faith Educators

Monday, January 23 at 7 p.m. – Wednesday, January 25 at 12 p.m. (CT)

The splendid communion of Christ, humanity and all of creation is inviting us into a transformation of our lives. Pope Francis, aware of this sacred calling, wrote a letter to people of all faiths (*Laudato Si'*) inviting us to care for our common home. Five years later with urgency he invites the global community to action. Join in contemplating the call, discover yourself drawn into action and find your whole life being transformed.

In-person preferred; hybrid could be arranged. Cost: \$200 overnight, \$150 commuter, \$150 Zoom.

Caring for Life in Light of Laudato Si': Retreat for Religious Leaders

Tuesday, January 31 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. (CT)

Gather with your staff and other religious leaders of all faiths to discover the “why” of Pope Francis' letter, the urgency of the call to people of all faiths and the response of the global community to this letter. The intimate connection between Christ, humanity and creation reveals the importance of this invitation to realizing the reign of God. Be the influence your faith community is awaiting. Join the global movement making a difference for the sake of creating a future full of hope, starting now!

Hybrid (In-person and Zoom). Cost: \$50 In-person, \$50 Zoom.

The Letter Film Screening and Discussion

Monday, Feb. 6 from 1 – 3 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 8 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (CT)

Join us to watch “The Letter,” whose title refers to Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* on integral ecology and our planetary crisis. This film follows an indigenous leader from the Amazon rainforest, a young climate activist from India, a climate refugee from Senegal and two marine biologists in Hawaii as they travel from their corners of the world to meet with Pope Francis. Dialogue is central to the Pope's vision for humanity's peace with all creation. Let's watch the film together and engage in conversation on how we can solve our broken systems and more deeply understand that a better future is in our hands. The tools to protect our common home are already with us!

Hybrid (In-person and Zoom). Facilitator is at The Well.
Cost: Free in-person, suggested donation \$5 - \$10 on Zoom.

Living as Ambassadors for Christ: Lenten Retreat for Catechists

Saturday, February 25 from 9 – 11:45 a.m. (CT)

Join in reflecting on Ash Wednesday's call to be "Ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5: 20) in light of Pope Francis' letter *Laudato Si'*, together with its Action Platform. Discover yourself as part of the global movement of people of all faiths listening and responding to the cries of Earth and her people. Find yourself drawn into Lent involved in transforming the world into the communion of love announced and made present by Jesus. Go into the rest of Lent celebrating that you are offering a future full of hope to generations that follow!

Zoom only. Cost: \$20. Three Archdiocese of Chicago credits available.

Our Reality: Integral Ecology

Thursday, May 4 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. (CT)

We live in a world where division and separation seem to be part of life. However, this is an illusion. Reality is that we live in a spiritual world where we are all inter-connected. Join us as we reflect on our common home (our "ecos") and begin to celebrate our "integral ecology!" Every word we say, everything we do affects everything, everywhere!

Hybrid (In-person and Zoom). Facilitator is at The Well. Cost: \$15.

Summer Guided Retreat, with Option for Direction

Sunday, June 4 at 7 p.m. – Friday, June 9 at 4 p.m. (CT)

Spiritual Directors: Pat Bergen, CSJ; Maria Hill, CSJ; Diane Pfahler, SND; Sue Torgersen, CSJ

Each morning retreatants will gather for a communal session of prayer and a presentation regarding the themes of *Laudato Si'*, followed by the option for spiritual direction. In the evenings, gather for a sharing of the graces of the day. Retreatants will also gather communally on Sunday evening for an opening session, and on Friday afternoon for a closing session.

Hybrid (In-person and Zoom). Spiritual Directors will be at The Well.
Cost: \$600 overnight, \$500 commuter, \$300 Zoom.



All Programs will be Facilitated by Pat Bergen, CSJ

Pat Bergen is a Sister of the Congregation of St. Joseph, whose mission is "Unity" flowing from John 17: 21, "That All May be One." She is an educator, spiritual director, retreat and workshop facilitator and restorative justice circle keeper who served 18 years in leadership of her congregation. In her doctoral dissertation she focuses on Communion with Creation: Implications for Prayer, Justice and Leadership.

*"The upcoming *Laudato Si'* programming is thoughtfully developed to lead participants into a deeper understanding of the connection between Christ, humanity and creation. The retreat and workshops offer inspired means and material to implement the *Laudato Si'* vision in your parish and throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago."*

—Most Rev. Jeffrey Grob
Episcopal Vicar, Vicariate I

*"Peace with God, peace with one another and peace within ourselves require peace between us and our environment. Thanks to the Care for Creation Ministry and the Sisters of St. Joseph for planning these retreats and workshops. They provide an excellent opportunity for parishioners and church professionals in Chicago and the suburbs to "bring home" the global initiatives of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform."*

—Most Rev. Mark Bartosic
Episcopal Vicar, Vicariate II

For more information and to register, visit: csjthewell.org/offerings or call us at 708.482.5048.

Co-sponsored with the Siena Center of Dominican University

ECOSPIRITUALITY AND ECOJUSTICE IN LAUDATO SI' with Mary Evelyn Tucker

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. (CT)

Cost: \$30

Hybrid (In person and on Zoom)

The Well Spirituality Center

1515 West Ogden Avenue, La Grange Park, IL 60526

Mary Evelyn Tucker, a leader in the field of religion and ecology, will speak to the essential role of religious leaders at this time of ecological crisis. Her talk launches a new initiative at The Well, to awaken us to the spirituality of *Laudato Si'* as it flows from The Universe Story, and to the ways we can take action for the care of Earth.

Bill McKibben, the climate activist, has called *Laudato Si'* "perhaps the most important document yet of this millenium." Its ecojustice message, "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor" brings together the suffering of people and planet in a compelling manner. Mary Evelyn will discuss some of the main influences on the encyclical as well as some of the resulting movements. We will be inspired to take action.

To learn more and register visit csjthewell.org/programs/tucker-ecospirituality/.



Facilitator: Mary Evelyn Tucker

Mary Evelyn Tucker was a member of the Earth Charter Drafting committee and the International Earth Charter Council. She is co-director with John Grim of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology. With Brian Thomas Swimme, Tucker and Grim created *Journey of the Universe*, a multi-media project that includes a book, an Emmy Award winning film on PBS, a podcast series, and free online courses from Yale/Coursera. She is co-author of *Thomas Berry: A Biography* (2019).

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Receive “The Letter”

“Once you know, you cannot look away.”
— Lorna Gold



The Care for Creation Ministry Presents:



“The Letter” Film

February 1 – 11, 2023 at a location near you

Receive the beautiful, compelling message of “The Letter” by experiencing the recently released film with an audience across the Archdiocese of Chicago. Building on the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, “The Letter” shares the real stories of people from around the world who come together on a transformative journey. As the stories unfold, be inspired by how spiritual values unite us in the face of a planetary emergency.

Details and registration can be found at tinyurl.com/af55jehp.

Take the Creation Pledge

- Pray for and with creation
- Live more simply
- Advocate to protect our common home
- Share my time and talents

Next Steps

- Continue the discussion begun today with others.
- Read the encyclical letter, Laudato Si'
- Visit the following websites:
 - archchicago.org/creation
 - laudatosiactionplatform.org
 - laudatosimovement.org
 - catholicclimatecovenant.org
 - usccb.org/environment
- Contact your parish creation care champion

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

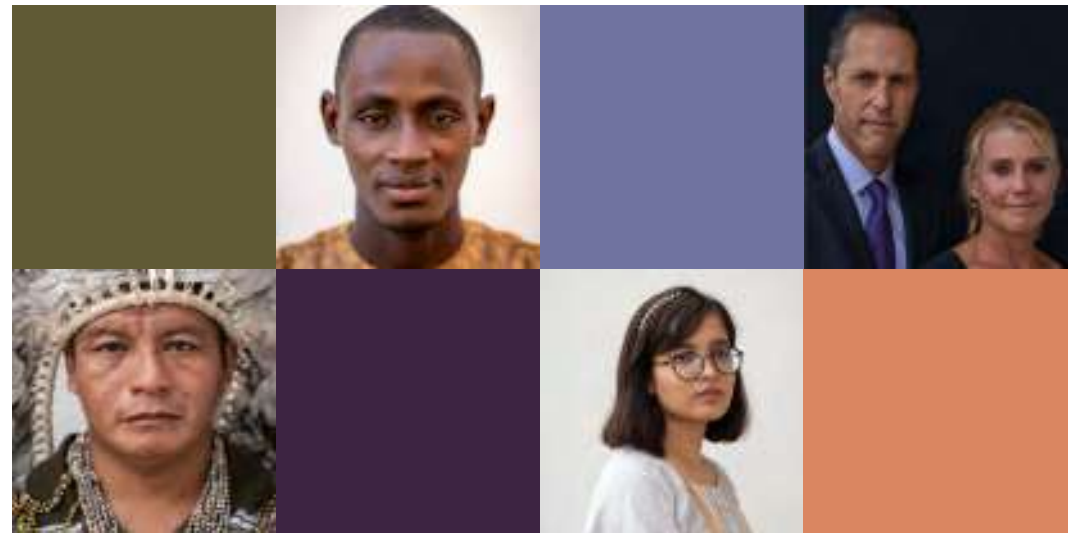


Five people received letters inviting them to the Vatican...

“The Letter” is the film that documents their journeys from the Amazon, Senegal, India and the coral reefs of Hawaii. It details the interaction of these strangers with one another, with Pope Francis and with the Holy Father’s vision proclaimed in Laudato Si’. The stories of these activists give voice to those who are young, poor and indigenous and who speak for wildlife.

Thank you for your presence today. We invite you to be a witness to the connections these sojourners develop—to the values that connect them to us—as we face the future of our planet and all who call it home.

Photo credit: theletterfilm.org | Copy adapted from theletterfilm.org



Goals of Laudato Si'



RESPOND TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

Calls us to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.



RESPOND TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

Calls us to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth.



FOSTER ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society which itself, embedded within the biosphere—our common home.



ADOPT SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

Grounds us in the idea of sufficiency and promotes sobriety in the use of resources and energy.



PROMOTE ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Asks us to rethink and redesign curricular and institutional reforms in the spirit of integral ecology to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.



PRACTICE ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

Helps us experience a profound ecological conversion and “discover God in all things,” in the beauty of creation, in the sighs of the sick, and in the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.



SUPPORT COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

Encourages us to imagine a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.



Photo credit: theletterfilm.org | Copy adapted from theletterfilm.org

Discussion Questions

Following the film, we invite you to form small clusters to facilitate discussion about what you have seen. Here are conversation starters:

- What about the documentary impressed you most? What is your key takeaway?
- The film presents the planetary crisis as a human crisis. What do the people in the film share in common? How can we connect with strangers as disciples of Christ?
- How can we make time and space to listen to those whose voices we do not usually hear?
- In the film we hear, “The Amazon depends on you.” Viewers are also asked how we will care for our common home. What will you do?
- How do you think caring for Creation connects with our faith?
- What signs of hope do you see in the film and/or in our world?



Celebrate Laudato Si' Week

Celebra la Semana de Laudato Si'

Laudato Si' Week began as a way to celebrate the first anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical letter, "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. This year, with the theme of "Hope for the Earth. Hope for Humanity," Catholics across the world will unite their communities as one human family in prayer and action to care for the Earth and the most vulnerable.

La Semana de Laudato Si' comenzó como una forma de celebrar el primer aniversario de la carta encíclica del Papa Francisco, "Laudato Si': Sobre el cuidado de nuestra casa común. Este año, con el tema de "Esperanza para la Tierra. Esperanza para la humanidad", los católicos de todo el mundo unirán a sus comunidades como una sola familia humana en oración y acción para cuidar la Tierra y los más vulnerables.

Annual Laudato Si' Mass

Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.

Most Blessed Trinity Parish,
Immaculate Conception Campus
508 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, IL 60085

Principal celebrant: Bishop Jeffrey Grob

Concelebrant: Fr. Tim O'Malley,
Pastor of Most Blessed Trinity Parish

Reception following.

All are welcome!

Misa Anual Laudato Si'

21 de mayo de 2023 | 12:30 p.m.

Parroquia de Most Blessed Trinity,
Campus de Immaculate Conception
508 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, IL 60085

Celebrante principal: Obispo Jeffrey Grob

Concelebrante: P. Tim O'Malley,
Párroco de la Parroquia de Most Holy Trinity

Recepción siguiente.

¡Todos son bienvenidos!



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



LAUDATO SI' MASS

MISA LAUDATO SI'

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Domingo 21 de Mayo del 2023

**Most Blessed Trinity Parish,
Immaculate Conception Campus**

Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad
Campo de la Inmaculada Concepción

**508 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085**

INTRODUCTORY RITES | RITOS INICIALES

Entrance Hymn | Canto de Entrada

Den Al Señor Sus Alabanzas/ Give to the Lord your Praises

Den al Señor sus alabanzas, denle poder honor y gloria

A una voz canten un himno al Señor

En siete días creo Dios al mundo, Adan peco y perdió el cielo

Jesus vino para redimirnos, murio en la cruz y nos salvo

Jesus dijo a Pedro ven te llamo, el camino es duro más iré contigo

Pedro respondió soy un pecador, tiro su red y al Señor corrió.

Translation: Give the Lord your praises, give him power, honor and glory with one voice, sing a hymn to the Lord.

In seven days, God created the world. Adam sinned and lost heaven

Jesus came to redeem us, He died on the cross and saved us.

Jesus said to Peter: follow me, the road is hard but I will go with you

Peter replied: I am a sinner, he threw his net and ran to the Lord.

Sign of the Cross and Greeting | Signo de la Cruz y Saludo

Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water | Bendición y Aspersión del Agua

Glory to God | Gloria

Collect | Oración Colecta

LITURGY OF THE WORD | LITURGIA DE LA PALABRA

First Reading | Primera Lectura

Acts 1:1-11/Hch 1, 1-11

En mi primer libro, querido Teófilo, escribí acerca de todo lo que Jesús hizo y enseñó, hasta el día en que ascendió al cielo, después de dar sus instrucciones, por medio del Espíritu Santo, a los apóstoles que había elegido. A ellos se les apareció después de la pasión, les dio numerosas pruebas de que estaba vivo y durante cuarenta días se dejó ver por ellos y les habló del Reino de Dios.

Un día, estando con ellos a la mesa, les mandó: “No se alejen de Jerusalén. Aguarden aquí a que se cumpla la promesa de mi Padre, de la que ya les he hablado: Juan bautizó con agua; dentro de pocos días ustedes serán bautizados con el Espíritu Santo”.

Los ahí reunidos le preguntaban: “Señor, ¿ahora sí vas a restablecer la soberanía de Israel?” Jesús les contestó: “A ustedes no les toca conocer el tiempo y la hora que el Padre ha determinado con su autoridad; pero cuando el Espíritu Santo descienda sobre ustedes, los llenará de fortaleza y serán mis testigos en Jerusalén, en toda Judea, en Samaria y hasta los últimos rincones de la tierra”.

Dicho esto, se fue elevando a la vista de ellos, hasta que una nube lo ocultó a sus ojos. Mientras miraban fijamente al cielo, viéndolo alejarse, se les presentaron dos hombres vestidos de blanco, que les dijeron: “Galileos, ¿qué hacen allí parados, mirando al cielo? Ese mismo Jesús que los ha dejado para subir al cielo, volverá como lo han visto alejarse”.

Palabra de Dios.

Te alabamos, Señor.

Psalm 47 | Salmo 46

Respuesta

Entre voces de júbilo, Dios asciende a su trono. Aleluya.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading | Segunda Lectura

Ephesians 1:17-23/Efesios 1, 17-23

Brothers and sisters:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him.

May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones,

and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us
who believe,
in accord with the exercise of his great might,
which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead
and seating him at his right hand in the heavens,
far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion,
and every name that is named
not only in this age but also in the one to come.
And he put all things beneath his feet
and gave him as head over all things to the church,
which is his body,
the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Palabra de Dios.

Te alabamos, Señor.

Gospel Acclamation | Aclamación Antes del Evangelio

Gospel | Evangelio

Matthew 28:16-20/Mateo 28, 16-20

Homily | Homilia

Profession of Faith | Profesión De Fe

Universal Prayer | Plegaria Universal

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST | LITURGIA EUCARÍSTICA

Preparation of the Altar | Preparación del Altar

La Aurora/Dawn

Ofrezco Dios este vino, se que Tu estas en él, serás Señor
mi salvación.

Es la esperanza que hoy renace dentro del corazón.

Por este pan es la verdad, habrá un nuevo amanecer.

La aurora ya empezó, como el día de la creación,
La aurora ya empezó y para todos brilla el sol.

The dawn has already begun, like the day of creation.
The dawn has already begun for everyone the sun shines.

Holy | Santo

Memorial Acclamation| Aclamación de Fe

Amen | Amén

The Lord's Prayer | Padre Nuestro

Sign of Peace | La Paz

Fraction Rite | Fracción del Pan

Communion Songs | Cantos de Comunión

Salmo de la Creación/Creation Psalm

Por tu océano azul y las aguas del mar,
por todo continente y los ríos que van,
por el fuego que diste como arbusto ardiente,
por el ala del viento, quiero gritar

Mi Dios, tú eres grande y hermoso, Dios viviente e inmenso,
tu eres el Dios de amor.

Mi Dios tu eres grande y hermoso, Dios viviente e inmenso
Dios presente en toda creación.

Y por los animales de la tierra y el agua,
por el canto del ave y el cantar de la vida,
por el hombre que hiciste semejante a ti,
y por todos tus hijos, quiero gritar

Por la mano tendida que te invita a la danza,
por el beso que brota al surgir la esperanza,
la mirada de amor que levanta y reanima,
por el vino y pan, quiero gritar.

My God, You are eminent and beautiful, living and immense God, You are the God
of Love.

My God you are eminent and beautiful, living and immense God. God present in
all creation.

Oración de San Francisco/Prayer of St. Francis

Hazme un instrumento de tu paz,
donde haya odio lleve yo tu amor,
donde haya injuria, tu perdón, Señor,
donde haya duda fe en ti.

Maestro, ayúdame a nunca buscar
el ser consolado sino consolar,
ser entendido sino entender,
ser amado sino yo amar.

Hazme un instrumento de tu paz,
que lleve tu esperanza por doquier,
donde haya oscuridad lleve tu luz,
donde haya pena tu gozo, Señor.

Hazme un instrumento de tu paz,
es perdonando que nos das perdón,
es dando a todos que tú nos das,
y muriendo es que volvemos a nacer.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith.

Prayer After Communion | Oración después de la comunión

CONCLUDING RITE | RITO DE CONCLUSIÓN

Blessing | Bendición Sacerdotal

Dismissal | Despedida

Closing Song | Canto de Salida

Cristo Sube a las Alturas/Christ Ascends to the Heights

Aleluya aleluya Cristo sube a las alturas, aleluya aleluya el Señor
entra a su mansión.

Ábranse puertas eternas, ábranse de par en par,
Cante el coro de los santos batiendo palmas de paz.
Hoy entra el Rey de los cielos, el siervo que aquí sufridlos ángeles
lo reciben llevando el trono de Dios.

Jerusalén está en fiesta canta la esposa del Rey
alzan todos sus coronas, felices cantando amén.
Hoy brillan sus cinco llagas, más puras que el mismo sol,
Cantan de gozo los mártires por el triunfo del Señor.

No queden tristes aunque me voy, aunque me voy, yo volveré *rep.*

Voy a la casa de mi Padre, a prepararles un lugar,
vendrá mi espiritual ustedes, para enseñarles la verdad.

Serán testigos de mi amor, por los confines de este mundo,
anunciaran la buena nueva a cada pueblo de la tierra.

Alleluia, alleluia Christ ascends to the Heights,
Alleluia, alleluia the Lord enters his mansion.

Después de la Misa todos están invitados a una recepción.

Everyone is invited to a reception following today's Mass.

Dios todopoderoso, presente en todo el universo
y en la más pequeña de tus creaturas.
Abrazas con tu ternura todo lo que existe.
Derrama sobre nosotros el poder de tu amor,
para que podamos proteger la vida y la belleza.
Llénanos de paz, para que podamos vivir
como hermanos y hermanas, sin dañar a nadie.
Oh Dios de los pobres,
ayúdanos a rescatar a los abandonados y los olvidados de
esta tierra,
tan preciosos a tus ojos.
Te lo pedimos por Cristo el Señor.
Amén.

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.
We ask this through Christ the Lord.
Amen.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Catholic Climate Covenantsm

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.



Youth Climate Summit

A CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION

Father, we praise you with all
your creatures.
They came forth from your
all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your
presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things
were made.
You were formed in the womb
of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world
with human eyes.
Today you are alive in
every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards
the Father's love
and accompany creation as it
groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what
is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous
community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and
thankfulness
for every being that you
have made.
Give us the grace to feel
profoundly joined
to everything that is.
God of love, show us our place
in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten
in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess
power and money
that they may avoid the sin
of indifference,
that they may love the common
good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which
we live.
The poor and the earth are
crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power
and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!

Amen.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si'



Care for Creation Ministry

Laudato Si' Action Platform Parish Champions Workshop

Bringing Laudato Si' to Life in Your Parish

Thursday, September 8, 2022 | 7 – 9 p.m. | In-person and Zoom

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Hickey Hall
1775 Grove Street, Glenview, IL 60025

Introduction and implementation of the Vatican's Laudato Si' Planning Guide for Parishes. Parish Creation Care LSAP Champions are invited to attend this special event.

Learn how to implement the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform through the Laudato Si' Planning Parish Guide, share parish Laudato Si' journeys and build community, solidarity and support in the spirit of Laudato Si'.

Refreshments will be served. Please register at bit.ly/3bHH7jK.



St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Wadsworth, IL



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



ECCLESIASTICAL/CHURCH NEW YEAR (INDICTION)

8TH ANNUAL SOLEMN VESPERS

FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 7PM

Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church

1401 Wagner Road, Glenview, Illinois 60025

All are invited as the Catholic and Greek Orthodox communities of greater Chicagoland join for an ecumenical service to give thanks for God's gift of creation and to recognize the conservation efforts of His disciples.



FOLLOWING THE SERVICE...

After Vespers join us for a lecture from Sr. Pat Bergen, CSJ, entitled, "A Splendid Communion! (Christ, Humanity and All Creation)"

The event also will be live streamed at

<https://sspplglenview.org/livestream>

For more information, please visit

sspplglenview.org/event/environmental-vespers/

or call 847.729.2235





Care for Creation Ministry

SEASON OF CREATION SPECIAL EVENTS

"As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family." —**Pope Francis**

Please join us in contemplation of the beauty of creation at two special events.

Laudato Si' Garden Walk

Sunday, September 11

2 – 4 p.m.

Saint Mary of Vernon
236 U.S. 45, Indian Creek, IL 60061

Register at bit.ly/3oMCNDg.

The journey will begin at the "Friendship Circle" trail, opening in prayer and song, followed by a one-mile nature walk up to Mary's Garden, led by SMV's Master Gardener, Kathy Felice. The walk will explore the SMV Prayer Labyrinth, Pinewoods Gardens and pass the Stations of the Cross along the Reflection Trail. This area is certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Habitat, carries an Archdiocese of Chicago Laudato Si' Garden Designation and includes Aldo Leopold benches for reflection spaces.

Mass, prayer labyrinth dedication and farm walk

Sunday, October 2

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

St. James Catholic Church
2912 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616 (GPS address: 21 East 29th Street)

Register at bit.ly/3oPBgMF.

Pastor John Edmunds, ST will celebrate Mass at St. James Catholic Church starting at 9:30 a.m. followed by a dedication of a Labyrinth and installation of a plaque commemorating Van Bensett in their prayer garden and a walk through the Just Roots & St. James Community Farm. Experience how St. James' responses to Laudato Si's "cry of the earth" and "cry of the poor" connects us by faith with creation, giving new meaning to the "joy of the Gospel."





SEASON OF CREATION



*Listen to the
Voice of Creation*
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Listen to the Voice of Creation

September 1 – October 4, 2022

The Archdiocese of Chicago is pleased to present Catholic schools with age-appropriate resources to use in connection with the Season of Creation from September 1 – October 4, 2022. The Season of Creation is an initiative of the World Council of Churches to demonstrate our unified, Christian commitment to care for our common home. (**Season of Creation website**)

The Office of Catholic Schools encourages teachers and school leaders to use the following resources in alignment with **standards-based religion instruction**. Care for Creation is one of the themes of Catholic Social Teaching. It is also an integral part of the Archdiocese of Chicago Religion Curriculum and the standards that are taught in Grades PK-8. Please consider making the Season of Creation part of your “back to school” celebrations in conjunction with the Catholic identity, mission and culture of your community.

CLASSROOM PRAYERS

- **Season of Creation for Grades 1–5**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 1**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 2**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 3**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 4**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 5**

CREATION OF A BURNING BUSH

(in the front of school/religious education center or outside)

Use long red ribbons and markers: All are invited to “listen to the voice of creation” and write a word or phrase of something or someone in need of our prayer, compassion and action (lakes and rivers, people living in polluted environments, pollinators-bees and butterflies, people suffering food insecurity, trees...) These ribbons are then tied to the branches of a bush or tree inside or outside.

Each week the invitation is extended to increase our commitment to Listen to the Voice of Creation, pray and act for those in creation needing our compassion by remembering the petitions on the “burning bush”. For more information and ideas, see the Celebration Guide: **SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf (seasonofcreation.org)**.

INTERCESSIONS

Include phrases from your burning bush or from the prayer for Season of Creation (long form), or draw from the following examples:

Intercessions for the Climate and Environment

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of creation.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world, our common home: that through God's grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our local community: that through God's grace we may be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made.

Lord, in your mercy...

[Visit here for more information on music, liturgies and homilies for Season of Creation.](#)



SEASON OF CREATION



*Listen to the
Voice of Creation*
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Listen to the Voice of Creation

September 1 – October 4, 2022

The image of the burning bush comes from Exodus 3: “The LORD appeared to (Moses) as fire flaming out of a bush. [A]lthough the bush was on fire, it was not being consumed.” (Ex. 3:2) The name of this God whose flaming presence does not consume the bush may continue to be a mystery, but God’s agenda is clear. God hears the cry of slaves and their suffering (3:7, 9), and promises to rescue them and give them a new life. Let the Burning Bush kindle our hope for rescue and freedom on our journey to reclaim the earth for future generations and rescue those at immediate risk from the effects of climate change.

PRAYER

(Insert in bulletin with invitation for personal, family, faith group, meetings prayer during Season of Creation)

Creator of All, from your communion of love, your Word went forth singing a symphony of life that sings your praise! By your Holy Wisdom you made Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being! You call us to keep your garden. You create us in relationship with creation so that we can listen and learn from their voices how to safeguard the conditions for life.

So often, we turn in on ourselves. We close our ears to your Word calling to us through creation and the Scriptures.

We lament and grieve the loss of species, their habitats and human cultures that have perished because of our unwillingness to listen.

In this Season of Creation, call to us, as from the burning bush, with the sustaining fire of your Spirit. Teach us to contemplate your creation, and listen for the voice of each creature declaring your glory. Fill us with hope to quench the fires of injustice with your healing love. Enlighten us to follow Christ in walking lightly on this holy ground.

This we ask In the name of the One who comes proclaiming good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGIES

Environment: Creation of a burning bush (in the front of church or outside).

Narthex of Church: Long red ribbons with markers: All are invited during the homily and/or the dismissal comment of the liturgies to “listen to the voice of creation” and write a word or phrase of some creature in need of our prayer, compassion and action (Great Lakes, Indigenous People, Pollinators-bees and butterflies, people of color, people suffering food insecurity, trees. . .) These ribbons are then tied onto the branches of a bush or tree in the front of church or outside the church.

Students in school, religious ed, teens and Liturgy of the Word for children are invited to do the same. Ministers of Care take to homebound and nursing homes for those visited to write on ribbon and return to be tied on bush. Each week the invitation is extended to increase our commitment to Listen to the Voice of Creation, pray and act for those in creation needing our compassion. For more information and ideas, see the Celebration Guide: **SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf (seasonofcreation.org)**.

Songs: September 1 – October 4 Themes: Creation and Listening (suggestions listed below).

Penitential Act: Using the format of form three, create acclamations using phrases from your parish burning bush or the Prayer for Season of Creation (long or short form). For example: Lord Jesus, you are the voice of creation, Lord have mercy; You will renew the face of the earth, Christ have mercy, etc.

SUNDAY HOMILIES

Preaching for God's World (preachingforgodsworld.org) This ecumenical resource is especially helpful for preaching on the Sunday Gospel and second reading during the Season of Creation.

Preaching with the Sciences - Catholic Theological Union (ctu.edu) These homily outlines highlight some of the ways sciences and the contemporary search for religious meaning can interface.

INTERCESSIONS

Include phrases from your burning bush or from the prayer for Season of Creation (long form), or draw from the following examples:

- **[chausa.org/docs/default-source/general-files/a2271fa655ec4213a122edf89f15ce3c1-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=0](https://www.chausa.org/docs/default-source/general-files/a2271fa655ec4213a122edf89f15ce3c1-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=0)**
- **[anglicanprayer.org/index.php/prayers-for-sustainable-development](https://www.anglicanprayer.org/index.php/prayers-for-sustainable-development)**
- **[slife.org/prayers-for-the-environment](https://www.slife.org/prayers-for-the-environment)**

Intercessions for the Climate and Environment

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of creation.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world, our common home: that through God's grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our local community: that through God's grace we may be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made.
Lord, in your mercy...

SUGGESTED MUSIC

- Abundant Life (text: Ruth Duck, music: Marty Haugen, GIA)
- All You Works of God (Marty Haugen, GIA)
- Canticle of the Sun (Marty Haugen, GIA)
- Canticle of the Turning (Rory Cooney, GIA)
- Change Our Hearts (Rory Cooney, GIA)
- For the Beauty of the Earth (Text and music: public domain)
- Holy Fire (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/holy-fire
- I am Standing on Holy Ground (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/i-am-standing-on-holy-ground
- Laudato Si'! Be Praised, O God! (Ricky Manalo, OCP)
- Maker of Galaxies (text: Delores Dufner, OSB, GIA)
- May We Become the Compassion of God (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/may-we-become-the-compassion-of-god
- Morning Has Broken (Text: Eleanor Farjeon)
- One Small Voice (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/one-small-voice
- Tapestry of Justice (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/tapestry-of-justice
- Tend the Ground (Curtis Stephan, OCP)
- Touch the Earth (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/touch-the-earth
- Touch the Earth Lightly (text: Shirley Erena Murray, Hope)
- When I Gaze on Creation (text: Delores Dufner, OSB, GIA)

SEASON OF CREATION GUIDE

Suggestions for Encouraging Sustainable Living, Action, Advocacy and Participation in Campaigns that Call for Ecological Restoration: **[SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf](#)**
(seasonofcreation.org)

CLASSROOM PRAYERS FOR SCHOOLS AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- **Season of Creation for Grades 1–5**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 1**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 2**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 3**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 4**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 5**



SEASON OF CREATION FOR GRADES 1-5



Listen to the
Voice of Creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Morning Prayers, 2022

Needed red strips/ribbons for each student each week.

These will be tied on the parish “burning bush” during the Season of Creation.

September 1

Hope for Creation | youtu.be/CCf26NRagc4

For little children: Look at the beautiful pictures.

For middle grades: Pray the prayer out loud as you watch.

For primary grades: Dear God, Earth is so beautiful. Thank you for the gift of this beautiful home. Amen. (Draw a picture on your red ribbon of something you are thankful for in creation)

Second Week of September

Laudato Si Animation | youtu.be/KOgF2Kgel6k

Dear God, all your creatures are beautiful and all of us call planet Earth our home. Long ago you called Moses from a burning bush. You told him that where he was standing was holy ground. Open my eyes and my ears today to see and hear all the voices of people, animals, plants, and bugs that love this home of ours. Today I would like it very much if you would please fill my heart with your love for our common home. Amen. (Write or draw one thing in creation that you will pray for because you see or hear its suffering)

Third Week of September

Climate Change | youtu.be/v8unGCTWUWI

Dear God, you called Moses from the burning bush and sent him to save all who were suffering on Earth, which you created as a beautiful garden. Today help me to take good care of our common home. This I ask in Jesus’ name. Amen. (Write or draw on your red ribbon one thing in creation you will care for this week)

Fourth Week of September

Care for Earth | youtu.be/VolQ3ljl4o

Dear Jesus, you loved the flowers of the field, the birds of the air, the seeds of the earth, and all people of every age and color. Please put your love for creation in my heart today. Amen. (Write or draw on your red ribbon something in creation for which you feel God’s love in your heart)

Fifth Week of September

8 Ways Kids Can Help the Environment | youtu.be/vONBU7btYuo

Come Holy Spirit, help me to know what I can do today to care for our common home. Amen. (Write or draw on your red ribbon one thing you will do to care for our common home this week)

October 4

Save Our World | youtu.be/bn8R_Xqjlo

Jesus, you are my best friend. I want to follow you in loving and caring for our common home. Yes, Jesus, I will do one thing to care. (Write or draw on your red ribbon one thing you will do in following Jesus in caring for creation)



SEASON OF CREATION FOR GRADES 6-12



Listen to the
Voice of Creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

September 1, 2022

Needed: Red Strips on which students write prayers for creation as indicated each week. Each parish is asked to have a bush designated to stand for a burning bush (outside or in church) during the Season of Creation on which red ribbons will be tied naming our prayers for creation.

Call to Prayer

Leader: Morning has broken, inviting us to us to love and protect all creation.

Response: We gather to greet a new day by praising God who is the Creator of all. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Reading from Exodus

Now Moses was tending the flock... There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Leader: Place your feet on the ground. God created Earth and blessed it. All land is holy ground.

Song: I Am Standing on Holy Ground (Kathy Sherman CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/i-am-standing-on-holy-ground

Where I'm standing is holy ground. I am standing on holy ground.

YouTube

Pope Francis' Call to the Day of Prayer for Creation (one minute)
youtu.be/19voA19DDXs

World Day of Peace Message 1990

Pope John Paul II

"An education in ecological responsibility is urgent: responsibility for oneself, for others, and for the earth...a true education in responsibility entails a genuine conversion in ways of thought and behavior...indeed all members of society, have a precise role to play in such education...where the child learns to respect neighbour and to love nature."

Silent Reflection
(one minute)

Response: (Share a word or phrase that names how you felt as you watched the film and listened to the words.)

Prayers of Praise

For all the wonders of your creation: sun and moon, stars and seas, winged, four-legged and two-legged creatures, trees and flowers — all that reveals your beauty.

All: We praise you. We bless you. We thank you

For clean water which quenches thirst, and flows through the veins of all creatures bringing them life.

All: We praise you. We bless you. We thank you.

For clean air, the breath of life, which keeps us alive and is revealed in words, songs and poetry.

All: We praise you. We bless you. We thank you.

For the land that yields food for all creatures.

All: We praise you. We bless you. We thank you.

For People of all races and creeds who uniquely reveal God's love.

All: We praise you. We bless you. We thank you.

Burning Bush and
Red Ribbons

Write on a Red Ribbon something in creation for which you give thanks. Tie this ribbons on the bush designated by your parish (outside or in the church) which will stand for the burning bush collecting our prayer for creation during the Season of Creation. (Teachers or Principles will decide the process to be used for tying the ribbons on the bush before the weekend liturgies.)

Closing Prayer

Part of Pope Francis' Prayer for Creation

All: O God, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. This we ask in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



On behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago Care for Creation Ministry and Saint Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, you are cordially invited to

LAUDATO SI' THE INTERSECTION OF SPIRITUALITY AND SCIENCE

Monday, May 23 | 7 – 8:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church (and via livestream)

McBrady Center (at Cardinal Joseph Bernadin School)

9300 West 167th Street, Orland Hills, IL 60487

Please visit forms.office.com/r/YJxEVnvqb6 to register.

To join via livestream, visit youtu.be/OyfQwvtHthU.

“Today... we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” —H.H. Pope Francis, *Encyclical Letter Laudato Si'*

Pope Francis' *Encyclical Letter Laudato Si'* — *On Care for Our Common Home* calls all of humanity to recognize that creation is a gift from God. It calls us to see that everything is connected, as a beautiful integral ecology. The ecological and societal crisis in our world implores us to renew our relationship with our God, who is a Trinity of mutual relations, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and with all elements of creation through prayer, daily sacrifice and a commitment to transformative actions as an imperative of our faith.

Professor Brother Mark Mackey, SJ will present the integral nature of the spiritual and scientific underpinnings of *Laudato Si'* and how those underpinnings compel us to an ecological and spiritual conversion, thus responding to the cry of the earth and cry of the poor.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Ecological and Social Justice is Loving God and Our Neighbors



Integral Ecology and Creation Care Retreat for Young Adults
April 29, 5 p.m. – May 1, 12 p.m.

Loyola University Chicago, Retreat and Ecology Campus
Woodstock, Illinois

Information and registration: bit.ly/yaretreat_reg

Once registered, please complete payment at bit.ly/yaretreat_pay.

“Building a Better Future, Together.”

Laudato Si’ Action Platform



CARING FOR LIFE IN LIGHT OF LAUDATO SI'

Retreat for Religious Leaders

Tuesday, January 31 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. (CT)

Hybrid (In-person and Zoom)

The Well Spirituality Center

1515 West Ogden Avenue, La Grange Park, IL 60526

Gather with your staff and other religious leaders of all faiths to discover the “why” of Pope Francis’ letter, the urgency of the call to people of all faiths and the response of the global community to this letter. The intimate connection between Christ, humanity and creation reveals the importance of this invitation to realizing the reign of God. Be the influence your faith community is awaiting. Join the global movement making a difference for the sake of creating a future full of hope, starting now!

Cost: \$50 In-person, \$50 Zoom.

For more information and to register, visit: csjthewell.org/offerings or call us at 708.482.5048.



All Programs will be Facilitated by Pat Bergen, CSJ

Pat Bergen is a Sister of the Congregation of St. Joseph, whose mission is “Unity” flowing from John 17: 21, “That All May be One.” She is an educator, spiritual director, retreat and workshop facilitator and restorative justice circle keeper who served 18 years in leadership of her congregation. In her doctoral dissertation she focuses on Communion with Creation: Implications for Prayer, Justice and Leadership.

“The upcoming Laudato Si’ programming is thoughtfully developed to lead participants into a deeper understanding of the connection between Christ, humanity and creation. The retreat and workshops offer inspired means and material to implement the Laudato Si’ vision in your parish and throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago.”

—Most Rev. Jeffrey Grob
Episcopal Vicar, Vicariate I

“Peace with God, peace with one another and peace within ourselves require peace between us and our environment. Thanks to the Care for Creation Ministry and the Sisters of St. Joseph for planning these retreats and workshops. They provide an excellent opportunity for parishioners and church professionals in Chicago and the suburbs to “bring home” the global initiatives of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform.”

—Most Rev. Mark Bartosic
Episcopal Vicar, Vicariate II



On behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, you are cordially invited to the

Seventh Annual

Solemn Vespers for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Friday, October 22, 2021 | 7 – 9 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
1775 Grove Street
Glenview, Illinois 60025

All are invited as the Catholic and Greek Orthodox communities of greater Chicagoland join together for an ecumenical service to give thanks for God's gift of creation and to recognize the conservation efforts of His disciples. His Eminence Cardinal Blase J. Cupich will preside at this service and is honored to be joined by His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago.

The vespers will be followed by a lecture from Chicago-based architect Doug Farr, entitled "The Role of Architecture in Caring for Our Common Home."

The event will be live-streamed as well at:
olphglenview.org/events/7th-annual-solemn-vespers-world-day-prayer-care-creation





Laudato Si'

An Invitation to Your Parish



The Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, which has primary responsibility for promoting the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home*, has created the **Laudato Si' Action Platform** (LSAP) as a space for parishes to learn and grow together in making the teachings of the Encyclical come to life.

Why This Is Important

As Pope Francis states in *Laudato Si'*, "Caring for our brothers and sisters means caring for the home we share. This responsibility is 'essential to a life of virtue.'" (LS 217)¹

"Our faith dictates that we have to care about and for humankind and we can't do that without caring for the earth, our common home. In short, we see the assault on the environment as a fundamental matter of right and wrong." –Cardinal Blase Cupich, 2015

Laudato Si' Action Platform Presentations Near You

To learn more about the Encyclical and the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform and identify how to bring *Laudato Si'* to life within your parish community, you are warmly invited to attend a parish creation care reception and presentation.

Sunday, October 24 | 2 – 4 p.m.

St. Mary of Vernon Parish, Indian Creek (Vic-I)

Tuesday, October 26 | 7 – 9 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School, McBrady Center, Orland Hills (Vic-V)

Wednesday, October 27 | 7 – 9 p.m.

St. Nicholas Parish, Oldershaw Hall, Evanston (Vic-II)

Sunday, November 21 | 1 – 3 p.m.

St. Giles Parish, McDonough Hall, Oak Park (Vic-IV)

Saturday, November 27 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Our Lady of Sorrows, Chicago (Vic-III)

Thursday, December 2 | 7 – 9 p.m.

St. James Parish, Chicago (Vic-VI)

Please [click here](#) to register for a parish creation care reception and presentation. For any additional information, please contact Luisa Pimentel at lpimentelrodriguez@archchicago.org.

¹ Encyclical Letter "*Laudato Si'* of the Holy Father Francis, *On Care For Our Common Home*" (May 24, 2015)



Laudato Si' Mass

Praise Be to You!

Sunday, May 22 at 2:30 p.m.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii
1224 West Lexington Street, Chicago, IL
Fr. Richard Fragomeni, presider

All are welcome to attend this year's Laudato Si' Mass to celebrate the 7th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on the care for our common home. A reception will follow the Mass.



LAUDATO SI'

Welcoming the Stranger

Enroll at laudatosiactionplatform.org



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT





Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
312.534.8230
archchicago.org

November 8, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* calls on us to respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. It frames reality as an integral ecology in which everything is connected, coming from and returning to the One true source, God. Because everything is connected, our faith calls us to pray and work in solidarity to care for creation.

To vivify *Laudato Si'*, the Archdiocese of Chicago announces its co-leadership of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development's *Laudato Si' Action Platform*, which will be open for enrollment to all parishes on the World Day of the Poor, November 14. On this date, *Laudato Si'* Planning Guides and all related materials will be published, and members of the universal Church will be invited to make a firm commitment to create their own *Laudato Si'* Plans.

The Platform is a concrete way for all of us, united in Christ, to integrate the teachings of *Laudato Si'* throughout our parishes. I ask that you review with your parish pastoral council the existing resources on the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) website and to discern your parish's commitment to creating a *Laudato Si'* Plan. The implementation of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform is a tangible way to witness to our faith as we renew our local Church and care for our common home.

Thank you for giving every consideration to having your parish join the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform in solidarity with the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. To learn more visit www.archchicago.org/creation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago

Vicariate LSAP Facilitator Toolbox

First Edition – November 2021

Goal

To accompany vicariate parishes in the registration, implementation and journey on the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP).

Objectives

1. Attend/participate in AOC LSAP Committee meetings.
2. Foster the AOC LSAP principles of synodality, solidarity and subsidiarity.
3. Adhere to the norms, practices, policies and procedures of the AOC.
4. Share your Zoom screen with the Community of Trust Guidelines and review with participants in order to establish an expectation of conversation that will stay on topic and be focused on the objectives.
5. Collaborate with co-vicariate facilitators in establishing cohesive communications with parishes, shared planning and meeting facilitation.
6. Coordinate regular communication with parish champions through monthly group Zoom meetings and one-on-one consultations.
7. Support building an inclusive Creation Care Committee.
8. Facilitate parish presentations about the LSAP as needed.
9. Network within the vicariate to build connections and grow the message of LSAP.
10. Encourage and support others with love in the spirit of Laudato Si'.
11. Develop a growing list of parish champions.
12. Establish a connection with the vicariate bishop to keep him updated on the latest actions, initiatives, etc. and invite his involvement in the process.
13. Report to AOC LSAP Committee.
14. Accompany parishes in their enrollment on the LSAP by April 22, 2022 (first cohort).

Role

- Communicate
- Coordinate
- Facilitate
- Encourage and support
- Network within the Vicariate
- Accompany parishes on the Vatican Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) journey

Tools

- laudatosiactionplatform.org
- archchicago.org/creation
- GodsPlanet.us
- catholicclimatecovenant.org
- laudatosimovement.org
- AOC LSAP Committee
- AOC Zoom platform subscription (allows for meetings of more than 45 minutes) Interactive presentation and/or in-depth Parish Essentials slide deck

Use the AOC official thank you letter (emailed and posted on the committee Google Drive) to copy, paste and fill out that message to the vicariate gathering parish participants. In that email, add the link to the survey poll you created. Please copy the AOC's Care for Creation Coordinator on this email and related correspondence.

Free Survey Poll Sites

doodle.com, surveymonkey.com and signupgenius.com.

Give participants a short 2–3 day deadline to commit to taking the poll so you can collect the results and confirm the meeting date with the group asap. If need be, personally call non-respondents and check-in!

First Zoom Meeting Structure

The first meeting is key and sets the tone for creating a new support system and guidance for the LSAP. It is also the place to be positive about parish involvement in the LSAP. The Vicariate LSAP Facilitator is the guide and support for parish success.

Create an agenda, such as:

1. Welcome and brief introductions (name and parish). Record names, etc. of everyone who is in attendance.
2. Share and establish the Community of Trust Guidelines.
3. Prayer (see list on the Google Drive for examples or use your own).
4. Tell a brief success story about your experience on the AOC EWG and/or parish Creation Care Committee.
 - As a Vicariate Facilitator, share the importance of embracing the LS Goals on the journey to vivifying the themes of integral ecology throughout the parish.
 - Stories help connect people on a personal level.

5. Explain this is an important meeting place where ideas, resources, and support can be shared along the LSAP journey.
6. At the conclusion of your vicariate zoom gathering, ask attendees to consider these questions:
 - What do you see as the next step to bring the LSAP into your parish?
 - What support do you need?Encourage attendees to stay on the question so everyone can have a chance to share.
7. For anything that needs to be discussed further in detail with the Vicariate Faciliator, offer to set up an appointment connecting by email or phone at a future date.
8. Determine and suggest something specific for participants to work on before the next meeting.
9. Set up the next Zoom meeting date.
10. End with gratitude and a final prayer.

Community of Trust Guidelines

- Give and receive welcome.
- Be as fully present as possible.
- Listen carefully offering our undivided attention.
- Share our truth with kindness.
- Welcome many perspectives and learning styles.
- Use “I” statements. (Take responsibility for what you express. Do not speak for “them”)
- Help all to participate.
- Stay on the topic and stay focused on Pope Francis’ message.
- Be respectful and charitable at all times.
- Trust and learn from the silence.
- Observe deep confidentiality.
- Be open to the spirit of God’s love.
- Know that it’s possible.

Adapted from Circle of Trust Touchstones, the JustFaith Group Guidelines and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Laudato Si’: On Care For Our Common Home* Discussion Guide.

Answers to Questions People May Have About the LSAP

Is there a model to follow in developing a Creation Care Committee?

Yes, the model uses an “integral ecology” approach. The Creation Care Committee, comprised of the parish community, collaborates in using the LSAP goals as vehicles to fulfill the parish’s mission, ministry and operations as it relates to the care of creation. Every stakeholder group (ministries, committees, staff, etc.) is responsible for administering the LSAP goals that are applicable to their function. The Creation Care Committee serves as an umbrella over all ministries in guiding the direction of focus and planning toward the *Laudato Si’* Goals through a collaborative, inclusive approach. It is suggested that this committee will initially meet every other week to reflect/assess, plan and put initiatives into action.

Make an in-person appointment to meet with your pastor. Prepare ahead of time materials that show what the LSAP is about, the importance of getting involved soon and how developing a Creation Care Committee with members from across the parish has many benefits. Bring the letters from H. Em. Cardinal Turkson, Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery of Promoting Integral Human Development and H.Em. Cardinal Cupich's LSAP Letter of Invitation to Pastors — Renew My Church to demonstrate the Church's support. Benefits include:

- Increasing parishioner involvement
- Engaging youth and young adults
- Evangelizing the Gospel of Creation
- Being in union with our Church and each other
- Caring for the earth and the poor
- Bridging gaps between ministries
- Networking with sharing parishes and other vicariate parishes
- Using the LSAP as a tool for the parish

How do I find members for a Creation Care Committee?

Finding members involves reaching out and talking to others across the parish community. A pastor/ ministry/ school staff/parish staff/parishioner/parish council member may have someone in mind. In the beginning, it may just start with 2–5 people and include the pastor. As the Creation Care Committee grows, it will have representation from several key areas from across the parish.

How do I educate others about integral ecology and the LSAP across my parish?

Vicariate Facilitators will support you along this journey. It is recognized that every parish has unique needs and levels of participation. By attending the monthly Vicariate Zoom meeting, you will be able to network with other Creation Care Committee Members to share resources, suggestions and successes, solve problems and create solutions that might work best for your parish. Additionally, the Vicariate Facilitator can schedule an appointment with you to present materials about the LSAP to a parish leadership group.

Who specifically enrolls and maintains the parish dashboard on the LSAP?

The Creation Care Committee co-chairs can enroll and maintain the parish dashboard. It is important to have input from all areas of the parish to reflect and assess what is currently being done related to the Laudato Si' Goals and determine where the parish would like to go along this LSAP journey. Ideally, two parish representatives will work together on inputting and maintaining the LSAP parish dashboard. The work planned for the LSAP should be shared and should involve all of the different parish stakeholders every step of the way.

Will enrolling on the LSAP make ministry work more effective?

Yes! With a Creation Care Committee, each parish component will grow and share their ministry and area of expertise focused on the Laudato Si' goals and LSAP. The actions and initiatives chosen from the LSAP builds on an interconnected parish response which creates solidarity between various parish functions and ministries to amplify and reinforce each other's efforts.

For example:

- **The Immigration Ministry** identifies how environmental degradation, including climate change, loss of arable land, potable water and communal violence, impacts the reality of refugees seeking asylum in foreign countries, and communicates those realities to the parish community. Examples of engagement activities include lectures, films, art, stories, documentaries, the Archdiocese's La Posada, etc.

- **The Faith and Justice Action Ministry** is planning a fair trade sale event. Members of that committee learn how unjust economic practices adversely affect people in low income countries and how sustainably grown fair trade items positively impact the planet while providing a living wage for the growers. Members of the Committee provide this information through multiple mediums, including bulletin inserts, homilies, tabling, lectures, inter-parish experiences, etc.
- **The Respect Life Ministry** is planning a march and invites the entire parish because Care for Creation is inherently grounded in a pro-life ethic.

The LSAP supports and eases the work of parish ministries, committees and functions. It encourages collaboration between currently silo'd entities. For example, it amplifies the parish's effectiveness as each stakeholder group pursues efforts to care for the poor, advocate for respect life, justice and our work for the common good. Each parish ministry, committee and function establishes its own objectives, using the LSAP activities identified within each of the seven LSAP goals. The Creation Care Committee's Co-chairs will enter the objectives onto the LSAP. The Creation Care Committee, comprised of stakeholders of the parish ministries, committees and functions, will together monitor and calibrate actions throughout the seven year journey. Other parishes will be inspired and encouraged by the progress made by our parish.

What resources are available to implement the suggested LSAP activities?

- The LSAP provides a list of activities that each parish's ministries, committees and functions can use to achieve its parish goals.
- Once enrolled, users will have access to resources made available by entities promoting and advocating for the care of creation and other parishes and dioceses.
- Archdiocese of Chicago Vicariate Facilitators are available to accompany you in your parish's LSAP engagement process. Vicariate Facilitators will support you in presenting LSAP to your pastor, parish council and others.
- You are joining a network of parishes that are using the LSAP to advance the Care of Creation within their community. These parishes will share how they are enrolling and engaging their community in this LSAP process.

What specifically is involved in the enrollment process?

- Two people take on the role of "Laudato Si' Champions."
- Those Champions learn about the platform and solicit the pastor's full support and engagement.
- With the pastor, the champions introduce LSAP to the parish council and other key stakeholders.
- The LSAP Parish Overview Presentation, the Parish Essentials Slide Deck and Vicariate Facilitators are resources available to support you in this journey.
- Champions enroll onto the platform.

See the Parish Overview Presentation and Parish Essentials Slide Deck for further information.



Rooted in Love



Exploring *Laudato Si'* in a Pandemic

Explore Pope Francis' groundbreaking and transformative encyclical, *Laudato Si'* (Care for Our Common Home). In it Francis builds on the teachings of Benedict XVI, John Paul II., and Paul VI to argue that environmental stewardship is a social justice issue.

Join us as renown speaker, theologian, and author Fr. Richard Fragomeni helps us understand the liturgical roots and theological connections to *Laudato Si'*. He'll provide new insights into this amazing document.

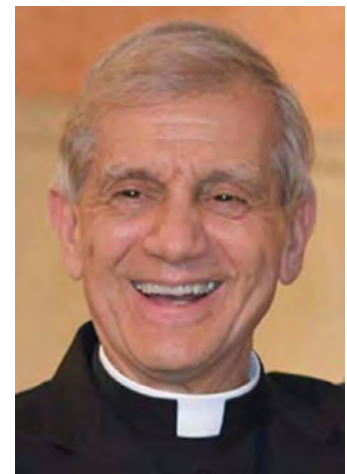
Tuesday, September 29 | 7 – 8:15 p.m.
Live Web Meeting Presentation and Q&A

Our Guest Presenter: Fr. Richard Fragomeni

- Professor of Liturgy and Preaching
- Chair of the Department of Word and Worship, Catholic Theological Union
- Adjunct Faculty, Religious Studies, DePaul University, Chicago
- Published Author

Who Should Attend?

- Anyone interested in learning about our responsibility to care for the environment
- Anyone who loves Pope Francis and his message to care for God's Creation



Register here or call Andy Panelli at **708.508.3111**.

Sponsored by the St. Elizabeth Seton, Our Lady of the Woods and St. Stephen Deacon Creation Care Ministry.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



LAUDATO SI' GARDENS

*"What good people produce is like a life-giving tree.
Those who are wise give new life to others."*

Proverbs 11.30



LAUDATO SI' GARDENS

Laudato Si' Gardens are sacred places that promote in us a love for all of God's creation. The gardens contribute to enhancing local biodiversity and environmental justice with their special emphasis on the beauty of native plants, food and the dignity of all people. Laudato Si' Gardens help people to remember the goodness and peaceful serenity of God's creation and to recover the original harmony between God, our first parents and all of creation in the Garden of Eden. They are sacred spaces where all of God's families can gather to pray and to celebrate outdoor liturgies. Laudato Si' Gardens also serve as a place for encounters with local community members, including children, the elderly, diverse ethnic groups and the physically challenged. They provide a means to knit the community's social threads together, thus promoting neighborhood cohesion, solidarity and peace. Those involved in establishing and maintaining Laudato Si' Gardens are encouraged to celebrate significant occasions like birthdays or to commemorate the passing away of a dearly beloved person by planting flowers, native plants and tree saplings.

DEDICATING YOUR LAUDATO SI' GARDEN

Though Laudato Si' Gardens may be planted for any occasion, they are often planted to commemorate special occasions such as holidays, anniversaries, events and festivals. Planting a Laudato Si' Garden is a way to bring people together from many different sectors of a community. Every Laudato Si' Garden dedication ceremony is a unique outcome of the shared experience for those who attend. Here are some suggestions to consider in the creation of your Laudato Si' Garden dedication ceremony:

- Secure an official Archdiocese of Chicago Laudato Si' Garden Plaque. Contact Luisa Pimentel at creation@archchicago.org.
- Invite your community to participate in the ceremony, including children, seniors, representatives of various faith communities and/or ethnic groups, schools, clubs, youth groups and local media. Ask a community leader or clergy member to say a few words at the ceremony.
- Explain the history and origin of the Laudato Si' Garden, how you learned about it, and the significance of the garden site and date of dedication.

- Choose an inspiring spiritual passage, litany, poem or prayer for the occasion.
- Invite those in attendance to contemplate the questions presented on the Laudato Si' Garden Plaque and Prayer Cards.
- Invite local groups to provide entertainment, such as a church choir or a children's dancing school. It is nice to end with everyone singing together.
- Some Laudato Si' Gardens are already planted prior to the ceremony and unveiled during the dedication. You may also choose to have a group planting, where everyone gets to heave a shovelful of earth. Creation poems or other items may be planted along with your Laudato Si' Gardens.
- Plan an annual ceremony for Rogation Days, the Season of Creation and feasts and blessings related to the seasons of the year.

Whatever you do to dedicate your Laudato Si' Garden, the important part will be to hold a prayer for the care of God's creation in your heart and to send that prayer around the world. You will make your garden special, and your organization will be seen as part of the global movement to care for our common home. Your Laudato Si' Garden's dedication will be filled with love!

Let Us Know

Please send information and digital photos of your Laudato Si' Garden dedication to Luisa Pimentel at creation@archchicago.org.

pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/care-for-creation-ministry/laudato-si-gardens

Laudato Si' Garden 2021 Partners

Congregation of St. Joseph
 DePaul University
 Faith in Place
 The Field Museum
 Life Directions
 Openlands



Care for Our Common Home

LAUDATO SI' GARDENS

LAUDATO SI' MI SIGNORE! PRAISE BE TO YOU, MY LORD!

How do I care for all of God's Creation?

Hail Mary...

How do I uphold the life and the dignity of each human person?

Hail Mary...

How do I support families and future generations?

Hail Mary...

How do I love the poor and vulnerable?

Hail Mary...

How do I advocate for human rights and a just economy?

Hail Mary...

How do I live in solidarity with all, as one human family?

Hail Mary...

How do I live my life knowing that everything is interconnected?

Hail Mary...

Listen to the Cry of the Earth.

Hear the Cry of the Poor.



Scan to visit
our Website!



Albert Cardinal Meyer Lecture Series

Thursday, March 5 - Friday, March 6, 2020
Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis

Author and theological advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, who has been a leading voice on a Christian theological engagement of environmental issues.

*Lecture I:
On Earth as in
Heaven: Toward an
Ecological Ethos
and Worldview*



*Lecture II:
Integral Ecology
and Ecumenical
Integrity: The
Vision of
Pope Francis
and Patriarch
Bartholomew*

Admission is free, reservation is required.

usml.edu/events/



UNIVERSITY
OF
SAINT MARY
OF THE LAKE

APPENDIX A: VIDEOS AND LINKS

- 2024 Announcement of AOC Shift to Renewable Energy: bit.ly/3V4eylf.
- National Catholic Reporter News: "Chicago Archdiocese to power parishes, schools with 100% renewable energy." bit.ly/4bYn3V4
- Listen to inspirational 2024 Catholic Youth Climate Summit leaders share their experiences on the Archdiocese of Chicago YouTube channel: youtu.be/_p1HdZViUbs.
- February 2024, National Catholic Reporter News: "At Catholic Youth Climate Summit, Cardinal recognizes importance of student leadership." bit.ly/4c2wbbf
- The Letter Film Event Agenda Guide: bit.ly/3uWipGx.
- Dr. George Nassos presents on the solidarity between the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches on caring for our common home, compelling us to work together for generations to come: youtu.be/43OxOSm7URk?si=4SLPn2AxZP4P8Aa4.
- 2023 Cardinal's Response to Laudate Deum: chicagocatholic.com/cardinal-blase-j.-cupich/-/article/2023/11/01/our-planet-is-nearing-a-breaking-point-.
- View Fr. John Pawlikowski's Homily: Responding to Laudato Si'. A Call to Action, Assumption Catholic Church, September 10, 2023: youtu.be/zn3VyCizfns.
- Homily of Bishop Robert G. Casey at the Solemn Vespers for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, September 1, 2023: vimeo.com/860635703.
- View Sarah Elizabeth Ippel, founder of the Academy for Global Citizenship, A Chicago Model for Cultivating a Sustainable and Just Future: vimeo.com/860633283.
- 2023 Archdiocese of Chicago Laudato Si' Integral Ecology Themes and Goals Descriptor PowerPoint Tool: bit.ly/3lpCyaY.
- View the 2023 Catholic Youth Climate Summit Experience: youtu.be/8NgZ5IGHujg.
- August 2023, Chicago Catholic News: "Christian leaders sign care for creation declaration at the Parliament of World's Religions." bit.ly/3v1jg8P
- August 2022 8th Annual Solemn Vespers for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Lecture, presented by Sister Pat Bergen, CSJ. Title: "A Splendid Communion! (Christ, Humanity and All Creation)." bit.ly/49DgBkG
- Laudato Si' Mass Highlights 2022: youtube.com/watch?v=-QDSmlM1gOQ.
- Brother Mark Mackey, Laudato Si': The Intersection of Spirituality and Science youtu.be/sX3dVRqXr1w?si=rTkDg_FanUmtavdL.
- Parish Experiential Overview Presentation (Facilitator's Guide): bit.ly/3wGgfel.
- LSAP Champion Workshop Introduction and Implementation of the Vatican's Laudato Si' Planning Guide for Parishes: vimeo.com/739058682/5c858691d6.
- Cardinal Cupich's Keynote Address text July 2021: bit.ly/3UZxn9r.
- 2021 AOC LSAP Parish Essentials PowerPoint: bit.ly/3UYMgco.
- Hear young adult perspectives from the Integral Ecology Retreat: youtu.be/_PStl3CniNU?si=vyHMoVazFNhH3lJ1.
- Parish Laudato Si' Journeys: bit.ly/49V5aom.
- Ecumenical and Interreligious Guidebook: Care for our Common Home: usccb.org/resources/Ecumenical-Guidebook-Care-for-Our-Common-Home_o.pdf.

APPENDIX B:

2014–2019

The Archdiocese of Chicago LSAP Journey

A sampling of events, speakers, initiatives, announcements and videos are included.

Note: For annual events, different content is available for items not shared here.

Visit [archchicago.org/creation](https://www.archchicago.org/creation) for more information and to see archived materials.

Chicago Youth Climate Strike

Earth Day | Wednesday, April 22

Grant Park

Intersection of Columbus Drive
and Jackson Boulevard

10 a.m. **Prayer Service**
11 a.m. **Climate March**

**Catholics understand that the
Climate Emergency is Real!**
All ages are welcome.



PRAY WITH US. MARCH WITH US.



SEASON OF CREATION 2019

THE WEB OF LIFE

Sunday, September 1 – Friday, October 4

This Fall, Christians around the world will be celebrating the Season of Creation by praying and acting together to protect our common home.

The theme of this year's Season of Creation celebration is "The Web of Life." You are invited to unite with others in the Christian family to protect every creature in God's beautifully complex web of creation.

For more information on the Season of Creation, including how to get your community involved, please visit pvm.archchicago.org/season-of-creation or contact Ryan Lents at rlents@archchicago.org or 312.534.8057.





CREATING YOUR LAUDATO SI' NARRATIVE

A Communications Workshop

Join the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity on Wednesday, June 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as we answer Pope Francis' call to "each person on this living planet" to care for our common home.

Because everyone's home is different, creating effective campaigns around this initiative can be challenging. During this seminar, Assistant Professor of Journalism Jill Hopke of DePaul University will share insights from the latest social science research on how to design communication strategies that connect climate change to daily life and tips for choosing engaging climate visuals. Participants will get ideas for how to tell new narratives about the human toll of our changing climate, as well as for building community resiliency and climate hope.

Wednesday, June 6

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Cardinal Meyer Center

3525 South Lake Park Avenue

Chicago, IL 60653

Lunch will be provided to all attendees.

To register, please click [here](#).

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



**GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO**

1301 ESTES AVE., ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL 60007 | TEL: 847-264-8350 | FAX 847-264-8369

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and SS Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, you are cordially invited to the

FIFTH ANNUAL **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION**

Sunday, September 1, 2019 | 4 – 6 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church
1775 Grove Street
Glenview, IL

All are invited as the Catholic and Greek Orthodox communities of greater Chicagoland join together for an ecumenical service to give thanks for God's gift of Creation and to recognize the conservation efforts of His disciples.

Bishop Mark Bartosic will preside over this special prayer service, which will be followed by a lecture from Greek Orthodox scholar Rev. Dr. Deacon Perry Hamalis entitled, "Love God, Love Thy Neighbor, Love the Trees: Orthodox Reflections on Ecology, Theology, and Human Dignity."



PRAYING TOGETHER FOR THE HEALING OF OUR PLANET



© Mary Southard, CSJ. One time use permission granted.

Friday, October 4th at 12 NOON

St. James Cathedral Commons

(corner of Rush and Huron in Chicago)

Sponsored by:

Ecumenism Metro Chicago (EMC)

Chicagoland Christians United for the Care of Creation (4C)

Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Archdiocese of Chicago

Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity

Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

JOIN US! ALL ARE WELCOME!



HOW YOUR SCHOOL CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE **SEASON OF CREATION**

From Sunday, September 1 to Friday, October 4 Christians around the world will be celebrating the Season of Creation by praying and acting together to protect our common home. It is important to include children in this celebration – they are our future!

To love God, we must honor all that God has created. To love our neighbor requires us as Christians to preserve and protect all that sustains life. The theme of this year's Season of Creation celebration is "The Web of Life: Biodiversity as God's Blessing." Catholics are uniting with others in the Christian family to protect every creature in God's beautifully complex web of creation.

Below are a few ideas that your school can utilize to celebrate and recognize the Season of Creation. Resources for all ideas are available on pvm.archchicago.org/season-of-creation

- **Encourage the attendance of the Prayer Service for the World Day of Prayer and the Care of Creation.** This ecumenical prayer service will take place at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church from 4 – 6 p.m.
- **Participate in the Global Climate Action Day on Friday, September 20.** Youth around the world will be taking a stand for the global climate on this day.
- **Utilize the Season of Creation 2019 during Masses or morning prayer.** Weekly prayers will be distributed beginning in the last week in August.
- **Organize a special celebration of the Feast of St. Francis.** The Feast of St. Francis marks the end of the Season of Creation on Friday, October 4.
- **Emphasize recycling efforts in your school.**
- **Organize a park clean up.**
- **Adapt Catholic lesson plans created for Earth Day for your school.**

For more information on these events and resources for your school, please visit pvm.archchicago.org/season-of-creation or contact Ryan Lents at rlents@archchicago.org or **312.534.8057**.

CLEAN ENERGY ADVOCACY DAY

Monday, April 26
Virtual Meetings

The Archdiocese of Chicago invites the faithful throughout the local church to advocate for renewable and clean energy legislation. Sign up **here** to talk virtually with your state lawmakers about principles of clean energy as part of the Catholic Conference of Illinois' Clean Energy Advocacy Day. To learn how the climate crisis is a profound moral issue and how to lobby our state legislator, go to the archdiocese's **Care for Creation Ministry Advocacy site**.

In preparation for Clean Energy Advocacy Day, check out Care for Creation's monthly radio show with Bob Gilligan. Bob interviewed Dan Misleh, Executive Director of Catholic Climate Covenant. You can watch this interview at [youtube.com/watch?v=vKVm6ZZmifs&t=1590s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKVm6ZZmifs&t=1590s).





Care for our Common Home

Bringing Life and Vitality to *Renew My Church*

In May 2015, Pope Francis published *Laudato Si'*. This letter, addressed to every person on this planet, speaks forcefully about the impact of climate change and environmental degradation, the dangers of consumerism, and the need for a lifestyle change that promotes an ecology that respects all forms of life. While care for God's creation has long been recognized as a tenet of Catholic social teaching and had been explored in many previous religious documents, *Laudato Si'* offers extended commentary on the ecological crisis, and draws important connections between the environment, poverty, and faith: "We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."¹ Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, the Archbishop of Chicago, stated that *Laudato Si'* represents "a watershed moment for the church, for humanity and for the planet which Pope Francis calls our common home. It's time for the church to be bold – to speak about major issues – and to achieve a new level of relevance in people's lives. We may not know all that science has to learn about climate change, but we do know enough to realize it is time to act."² The message is clear: as people of faith, we are a moral responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation.

In response to this decisive call to action, the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity assembled the Encyclical Working Group (EWG), a committee of archdiocesan staff, academics from Catholic Theological Union, DePaul University, and Loyola University, and community leaders. The EWG was tasked with strategizing how

to spread the message of *Laudato Si'* broadly throughout the archdiocese – the collective work of the EWG has come to be known as the Care for our Common Home initiative. As the emerging priorities of *Renew My Church* have come into greater focus, the EWG has worked diligently to align the efforts of the Care for our Common Home initiative with vision of *Renew My Church*. The EWG has identified four major goal areas for its work:

Prayer – To inspire the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago to pray on behalf of our common home by providing resources and experiences of personal and communal prayer

Advocacy – To promote legislation and institutional policies that better protect and care for our common home

Education – To educate and inspire pastors, social ministers, school leaders, and the lay faithful about the science, theological foundations, ethical considerations, and faith formation grounded in *Laudato Si'*

Community Engagement – To animate and support parishes to embrace an integral ecology that cares for our common home and works in solidarity to promote healthy environmental, economic, and social systems for all of creation



¹ *Laudato Si'*, no. 49.

² Michelle Martin, "Local Catholics applaud climate encyclical", *Chicago Catholic*, June 29, 2015, www.chicagocatholic.com/chicagoland/-/article/2016/06/28/local-catholics-applaud-climate-encyclical.



The Archdiocese of Chicago's Care for Our Common Home (CCH) brings to life *Renew My Church*. Called by Jesus Christ, we are making disciples, building communities, and inspiring witness to care for our common home.

One of the underpinnings of Care for Our Common Home is to foster solidarity³ between parishes, so they can minister in a collaborative way as a whole.

EVANGELIZATION AND FORMATION

Evangelizing young adults and others often overlooked by the Church

Care for Our Common Home calls us to form new and existing Catholics in the faith. CCH appeals to people often overlooked by the Church, such as young adults and others, who recognize that caring for the earth is essential to the future of all people. According to the World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Shaper Survey, close to half (48.8 percent) of young adults surveyed ranked "climate change/ destruction of nature" as their number one concern, marking the third year in a row that 18-to-35-year-olds declared the issue as their greatest global concern.⁴ The clear majority of young adult survey participants also agreed about the cause of climate change. Ninety-one percent answered "agree" and "strongly agree" with the statement "science has proven that humans are responsible for climate change." Because of the congruence between the teachings of the Church and young adults' concern for life and future generations, now is the time for the Archdiocese of Chicago to embrace CCH ministry as an effective means of evangelizing this cohort.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

Modeling the way of Christ by caring for His creation



Care for Our Common Home calls priests, staff and lay leaders to evangelize the gospel and virtues of the Church. By caring for God's creation, leaders in the Church are proclaiming the glorious truth that God is in all things.⁵ Thus, when priests, staff and laity implement Catholic Social Teaching⁶ that underpin the principles of integral ecology,⁷ they experientially develop their leadership capacity and model the way of Christ.

PARISH MISSION VITALITY

Advancing responsible stewardship of parish resources; Integrating the role of creation in the Liturgy, Sacraments, ministries and life of the parish community

Care for Our Common Home supports parishes in achieving strong mission vitality by listening to parish and parishioner needs and facilitating discernment and planning in how to be responsible stewards of community resources.

By increasing the energy efficiency of their buildings and facilities, parishes not only respect the financial gifts given to vivify the Church's mission, they also put into practice the Church's mandate to reduce carbon emissions that threaten health and life for generations to come.⁸ The archdiocese, through its sustainability staff and CCH ministry, is

³ "Solidarity", United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/solidarity.cfm.

⁴ "The Global Shapers Survey", *World Economic Forum*, www.shaperssurvey2017.org.

⁵ Colossians 1:15-23.

⁶ "Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching", United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm.

⁷ *Laudato Si'*, no. 137-162.

⁸ The Archdiocese of Chicago spent over \$31 million on the purchase of energy in fiscal year 2015.



supporting parishes with best practices to optimize such parish mission vitality efforts.

CCH also furthers parish mission vitality by providing ways and means for parishes to bring to light the beauty of God’s creation and its role in all parish ministries, including the Liturgy and Sacraments. Through the CCH ministerial process, parishes and ministries join together, in solidarity,⁸ to learn from each other and put into practice the principles of *Renew My Church*.

SCHOOL MISSION VITALITY

Fostering a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church by loving the beauty of His magnificent creation and caring for all those who inhabit it

Catholic schools exist to evangelize, to foster a relationship between each student and Jesus Christ and His Church. How better to foster a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church than to teach students to love the beauty of His magnificent creation and to care for all those who inhabit it. If we do not love the precious gift of God’s creation, we are but a “resounding gong or clashing cymbal.”⁹ CCH is working with Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools to foster this love of creation. For if we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind, and if we are to love our neighbor as ourselves¹⁰, then we must foster love for all of God’s creation.

FAITH IN ACTION

Embracing a consistent ethic of life as expressed through Catholic Social Teaching; Working and praying in solidarity to be responsible stewards of creation and one another through community-based action

Putting our faith into action by helping those in need and building solidarity and peace among people underpins CCH ministry. If the Church is to embrace a consistent ethic of life¹¹ as expressed through Catholic Social Teaching, the Church must address the throw-away culture that is overwhelming America today. CCH’s engagement

process facilitates the local Church, in a spirit of subsidiarity, to work and pray in solidarity for the Common Good. These actions are being manifested through the collaboration of multiple archdiocesan offices, the Catholic Conference of Illinois, Catholic universities and community-based NGOs.

SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

Bringing the message of Jesus Christ into the educational, governmental, civic and private sectors of society

Increasing engagement with broader society to bring Jesus Christ to the world is another underpinning of CCH ministry. Our engagement with such organizations as the Field Museum, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, university classes and conferences and Catholic advocacy with the State of Illinois legislature are just the beginning of what will hopefully become a groundswell of Catholics identifying ways they can promulgate the teachings of *Laudato Si’* through international, national, regional, state and local initiatives.



⁹ 1 Corinthians 13:1.

¹⁰ Matthew 22:36-39.

¹¹ Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, *A Consistent Ethic of Life: An American-Catholic Dialogue*, Gannon Lecture, Fordham University (December 6, 1983).



Encyclical Working Group

Advisory Circle

Amanda Hanley
Co-Founder, Vice President and Secretary, Hanley Foundation

David Holmquist
Midwest Regional Chair, Citizen's Climate Lobby

Very Reverend John Kartje, Ph.D., S.T.D.
Rector and President of University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Dr. Scott Kelley
Assistant Vice President for Vincentian Scholarship, Office of Admissions and Values, DePaul University

Dr. George Nassos
George P. Nassos and Associates; Faculty, DePaul University

EWG Core Team

Marian Diaz, PhD
Professor of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University

Marilou C. Gervacio, JD
Director of Social Services/Social Justice, Catholic Conference of Illinois

Ryan Lents
Director, Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity, Archdiocese of Chicago

Sr. Dawn Nothwehr, OSF
Professor of Catholic Theological Ethics, Catholic Theological Union

Gina Orlando
Adjunct Science Professor at DePaul University and Parishioner at Ascension Parish (Oak Park)

Rev. Msgr. Patrick Pollard
Director Emeritus, Catholic Cemeteries, Archdiocese of Chicago

Mark Potosnak, PhD
Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences and Studies at DePaul University, Climate Ambassador with the Catholic Climate Covenant

Robert Rabe
Director of Evangelization and Catholic Identity, Office of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Chicago



Rev. Brian Sauder
Executive Director, Faith in Place

Wendy Barton Silhavy
Senior Coordinator of Liturgies and Music, Office of Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago

David Singler, MS
Energy and Sustainability Associate, Offices of Real Estate & Facilities and Construction, Archdiocese of Chicago

Michael Terrien, Obl. OSB
Chair, Care for Creation Committee, Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers; Board of Trustees, Parliament of the World's Religions, Climate Action Task Force

EWG Working Committees

Prayer

- Marian Diaz (Lead)
- Wendy Barton Silhavy
- Michael Terrien

Advocacy

- Marian Diaz
- Marilou Gervacio (Lead)
- Brian Sauder

Education

- Dawn Nothwehr
- Gina Orlando
- Mark Potosnak (Lead)
- Robert Rabe

Community Engagement

- Ryan Lents
- Brian Leonard
- Lorena Lopez
- Craig Mitchell
- Diane Mulroe
- Gina Orlando
- Msgr. Patrick Pollard
- Louise Przywara
- McLouis Robinet
- Jenna Rummelhart
- Brian Sauder
- David Singler
- Michael Schuck
- Clare Salamon
- Gary Schiappacasse
- Wendy Barton Silhavy
- Michael Terrien (Lead)

Vicariate Facilitators

- Vicariate I: Diane Mulroe, Gary Schiappacasse, Louise Przywara
- Vicariate II: Clare Salamon, Craig Mitchell
- Vicariate III: Brian Leonard
- Vicariate IV: Gina Orlando, McLouis Robinet

Archdiocese of Chicago Interoffice Collaboration

- Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity
- Office of Divine Worship
- Office of Catholic Schools
- Office of Real Estate
- Office of Facilities and Construction
- Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
- Department of Stewardship and Development
- Office of Lifelong Formation
- Department of Communications



Encyclical Working Group Charter

Out of gratitude and obligation for all of God’s creation, Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’* calls the Church to evangelize the Gospel by prayerfully caring for our common home and living for the common good. The encyclical embraces an integral ecology to protect and care for the earth and one another. Such an integral ecology invites all the faithful to work in solidarity to address the environmental, economic, social and cultural ills that are destroying the fabric of life and all that sustains it.

From this foundation, the Encyclical Working Group (“EWG”) was formed to bring *Laudato Si’* to life in the Archdiocese of Chicago.


THE ENCYCLICAL WORKING GROUP

Mission: Through prayer, education, advocacy, and community organizing and engagement, directed especially toward Catholics in the Archdiocese of Chicago, but also including all partners of good will, the Encyclical Working Group promotes the teachings, values and vision expressed in *Laudato Si’* — On Care of Our Common Home.

Vision: People of faith and conscience to proclaim the beauty, worth, and interconnectedness of all God’s creation, and act to care for and nurture our common home.

Framework: Taking into careful consideration how the EWG can operate to complement the vision of Renew My Church, the EWG and other stakeholders will support the faithful as a unitive force and work collectively to advance Christ’s love through social, environmental and systemic change. Here is the EWG’s overarching framework to structure its ministry:

1. **Parish Support:** To support parishes in incorporating *Laudato Si’* into their ministries,
2. **Support of Bishops & Leaders:** To support the bishops and other Church leaders in increasing their understanding about the Encyclical and related policy and governmental issues (i.e. environmental degradation and climate change, etc.) that affect the Church, the faithful and the community-at-large. The EWG can serve Church leaders in this capacity.
3. **Formation Support:** To support the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, and archdiocesan staff, clergy and laity in *Laudato Si’* formation initiatives.
4. **Catholic Schools Support:** To support the Archdiocese of Chicago’s schools and area Catholic high schools in their efforts to bring to life the teachings of *Laudato Si’*.
5. **Vicariate Support:** To support the six Archdiocese of Chicago vicariates in incorporating the precepts of *Laudato Si’* within their areas of responsibility.
6. **Cross-Functional Collaboration:** To facilitate cross- functional collaboration to better support the faithful and Archdiocese of Chicago departments and agencies in addressing their needs as they relate to *Laudato Si’*.
7. **Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue of Action:** To support Archdiocese of Chicago’s engagement in ecumenical and interreligious initiatives that foster care for God’s creation.
8. **Support Systems:** To work with Archdiocese of Chicago parishes and agencies in using and developing systems to continually grow the Archdiocese of Chicago’s capacity to bring *Laudato Si’* to life, including systems and structures to support interdepartmental collaboration and communication.
9. **Assessment:** To incorporate a continuous learning process, empowering all stakeholders to assess how their desired changes are being implemented

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO | 

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church
218 West Alexander Street
Chicago, IL 60616

This practical gathering will focus on concrete actions to address climate change and regional environmental degradation.

Participants will delve into specific environmental issues that are plaguing the Chicagoland area and develop action plans to address those concerns. Presented in collaboration with the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity, St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church, Vicariate III, and Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

Join us as we work in solidarity to Care for Our Common Home!

"Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." (Pope Francis, Laudato si')

**To register, go to pvm.archchicago.org/creation
or call the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity at 312.534.5393.**





BRINGING TO LIFE RENEW MY CHURCH

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- Developed AOC CCH Identifier
- Developed of AOC CCH promotion material
- Developed of AOC CCH Archdiocese Website: pvm.archchicago.org/creation
- Developed Care for Our Common Home bi-weekly online gatherings
Every Other Monday, 7:00pm: Zoom — <https://zoom.us/j/376135525>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Vicariate Gatherings (Dates and Participating Parishes):

Vicariate I: June 17, '17; Nov. 18, '17; May 19, '18

- St. Mary of the Annunciation (Mundelein)
- St. Anne (Barrington)
- St. James (Arlington Heights)
- St. Gilbert (Grayslake)
- St. Joseph (Libertyville)
- St. Mary of Vernon (Indian Creek)
- St. Francis de Sales (Lake Zurich)

Vicariate II: June 3, '17; Nov. 11, '17; Feb. 24, '18

- St. Nicholas (Evanston)
- Queen of Angels (Chicago)
- Assumption (Chicago)
- St. Gertrude (Chicago)
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Glenview)
- Queen of all Saints (Chicago)
- Immaculate Conception (Chicago)

Vicariate III: June 24, '17; Oct. 20, '17; Jan. 16, '18

- Notre Dame de Chicago (Chicago)
- St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church (Chicago)
- Old St. Mary's (Chicago)
- Old St. Pat's (Chicago)
- St. Malachy + Precious Blood (Chicago)
- St. Procopius (Chicago)

Vicariate IV: June 10, '17; Oct. 14, '17

- St. Edmond (Oak Park)
- St. Mary (Riverside)
- Ascension (Oak Park)

- St. John Bosco (Chicago)
- St. Giles (Oak Park)
- St. Damian (Oak Forest)
- Mary Queen of Heaven (Cicero)

Vicariate V: Oct. 7, '17

- St. Julie Billart (Tinley Park)
- St. Damian (Oak Forest)

Vicariate VI

- Currently developing communication mix for target audience

Outreach Events:

- Field Museum
- Loyola
- Peggy Notebaert Museum
- Liturgical Institute

ADVOCACY

- CCI Resolution
- Advocacy Training Day, October 26, 2017
- Springfield Advocacy Day, April 26, 2018 (in collaboration with Faith in Place)
- Fossil Fuel Divestment Initiative
- Energy Efficiency Initiative
- Stickney Water Reclamation Initiative (Led by Ixchel)

PRAYER

- Solemn Vespers for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, August 31, 2017
- Laudato si' Retreat, October 1, 2017
- Mundelein Earth Day Retreat, April 22, 2018

EDUCATION

- Care for Our Common Home (Laudato si') lesson plans distributed within Archdiocese Catholic Schools via electronic correspondence for the Feast of St. Francis
- Creation's Role in Liturgy and Sacraments Seminars (Autumn 2018)
- Climate Change Conference
- Catechesis Curriculum being developed



CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



EARTH DAY RETREAT

A Day's Immersion into God's Wonderful Natural World

April 22, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cardinal Stritch Retreat House

University of St. Mary of the Lake

1300 Stritch Drive, Mundelein, IL

Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical that urges us to care for our common home, will guide us as we explore ways to appreciate, heal and protect our earth, and to inspire others to do the same. Spend a day with other concerned Catholics, discovering ways to put faith into action by stewarding the garden that God gave us. Activities will include:

- Celebrating Mass outdoors (weather permitting)
- Exploring the biblical basis for *Laudato Si'*: Learning to see all of Creation as God sees it
- Enjoying a walk to search for wild flowers and other early spring treasures on the beautiful retreat house grounds
- Learning about invasive species that threaten our natural places and assisting in their removal
- Discovering the many ways that native plant species heal our planet
- Exploring ways to reduce damage to the earth, for example, by studying the impact of the foods we choose on our environment
- Learning about and participating in activities that protect threatened butterfly, bird, and pollinator populations

Participants should dress comfortably for the weather and wear good outdoor walking shoes.

For more information or to register go to pvm.archchicago.org/creation or call the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity at 312.534.5393.

Facilitator bios:

Dr. Elizabeth Nagel has a Doctorate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome. For 24 years, she taught Scripture to seminarians at Mundelein Seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary at Overbrook for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. She is the author of *Be a Blessing. A Spring of Refreshment on the Road of Daily Life*, articles for *Chicago Studies* and *The Bible Today*, and contributes to *Give Us This Day: Daily Prayer for Today's Catholic* published by Liturgical Press.

Sandy Washburn is a board member of Wild Ones, a national organization whose goal is to heal the earth "one yard at a time," and a passionate native gardener who cares deeply for creation. She earned her Master Gardener certificate at the Chicago Botanic Garden and is active in local efforts to remove invasive species and restore appropriate natives to these areas. She also helps coordinate a garden project in Highland Park that provides fresh produce to a local food pantry.

Earth Day Prayer Service

Wednesday, April 22 | 10 a.m. CST

Join us for an Online Prayer Service
via Zoom at 10 a.m. CST
Register [here](#) or by scanning
the QR Code below.

Catholics understand that the
Climate Emergency is Real!
All ages are welcome.



PRAY WITH US. ACT WITH US.

On behalf of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church invite you to...

The 4th Annual Great Vespers for the Protection of the Environment

ADDRESS

Friday, August 31st, 2018 @ 7:00pm
Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church
1401 Wagner Rd, Glenview, IL 60025

Great vespers, evening prayer service, for the Protection of the Environment. Followed by a presentation featuring...

SPEAKERS

Sr. Dawn Nothwehr and Jake Barnett

TOPIC

Impact Investing: Addressing the moral imperative to mitigate climate change and environmental degradation



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO





SEASON OF CREATION

Chicagoland Christians United for the Care of Creation **2020 SEASON OF CREATION ECUMENICAL GATHERING** **SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 4**

SOUNDS OF NATURE

These the words on the screen:

FEEL THE RICH SOIL. LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS OF OUR COMMON HOME.

TODAY WE GATHER IN UNION WITH ALL LIVING CREATURES WHO HAVE EVER CALLED THIS LAND HOME.

THE CHICAGO AREA IS LOCATED ON THE TRADITIONAL HOMELANDS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE THREE FIRES: THE OJIBWE, ODAWA AND POTAWATOMI NATIONS.

Marked by a global pandemic, this Season of Creation, (Sept 1 - Oct. 4), proclaims a Year of the Lord's Favor – a Jubilee Year for Planet Earth! In the Biblical tradition of Jubilee, you and I along with the global Christian Community are invited into prayer, reflection and bold action. Truly this will be a Year of God's Favor as together we activate our imaginations and create new ways of sustainable living for the flourishing of Earth—the Common home for all creatures! Please join us as we pray:

PRAYER:

We gather in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of Earth and all its creatures
Praise be to the Holy Trinity! (Hildegard)

WE PRAY:

At Your word, Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit.

The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life.

The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing.

And throughout time, Earth has sustained life.

Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons,

renewal and growth, You open Your hand to give creatures their food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom, You granted a Sabbath; a blessed time

to rest in gratitude for all that You have given;

a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption;

a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production.

(Prayer from Season of Creation)

Song: ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Confession

Scripture: Romans 13

“and whatever other commands there may be, are summed up in this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself.”. . . [b] 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

Reading: HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

“The way we respond to the natural environment directly reflects the way we treat human beings. So the survival of the natural environment, is also the survival of ourselves. When will we understand that a crime against nature is a crime against ourselves and sin against God?”

Prayer: O God, we confess in our ignorance, we have forgotten the call of love to give Sabbath rest to the land from which we are born. Forgive us for exploiting our natural resources out of greed and ignorance. Forgive us for neglecting the common good.

All: (Sing) Hold us in Your mercy.
We have taken beauty and majesty for granted, and have lost our sense of awe and wonder,

All: (Sing) Hold us in Your mercy.
You call us to fairness and justice. Forgive us for not loving You with our whole heart and strength and mind, for not loving our neighbors as ourselves, and for failing to be good stewards of creation.

All: (Sing) Hold us in Your mercy.

Prayer: Bp. Ken Carter, RENEW US IN THE WATERS OF RENEWAL AND FRESH HOPE,

Move in us with the winds of Your spirit,
and sustain us with Your promise of life and abundance for all.
In the name of Jesus Christ and for the sake of our precious planet, we pray. Amen.

Sing: WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD (© 1978, Damean Music)

We praise You O God for all Your works are wonderful.
We praise You, O God, forever is Your Love.
Your wisdom made the heavens and the earth. O Lord;
You formed the land then set the lights;
And like Your love the sun will rule the day,
And stars will grace the night.

Repeat Chorus (above)

PRAISE PRAYERS

1. We praise You in the cosmos, the glittering galaxies that humans have begun to explore as well as distant domains far beyond our imagination. There are also unknown domains deep within each minute molecule we have yet to comprehend. For each of these we praise and thank You.
2. We praise You for the forests, the lungs of our planet, blessing all species with breath to sing, to groan, to speak in all our various languages.

Sing: We Praise You, O God for all Your works are wonderful

1. We praise and thank You for the rich and bountiful soil, full of nutrients, coming forth in flowers and food to nourish all creatures.
2. We praise You for clean water, especially our Great Lakes, the essence of life, without which no creature lives, moves or has its being.

Sing: We Praise You, O God for all Your works are wonderful

1. We give thanks for the intricate design of flora and fauna comprising our ecosystems, revealing Your beauty. Inspire us with ways to protect each species and habitat necessary for the flourishing of life.

Sing: We Praise You, O God, for all Your works are wonderful

Prayer: Inspire us with creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. As we proclaim a year of Jubilee for Earth, send Your spirit to renew Our Common Home and all who dwell herein.

Prayers of Petition

Reading: from **FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT**

There is now urgency as never before to heed God's call to earth-keeping, to justice, and to community.

Social justice cannot be achieved in the absence of environmental justice. . . "The love of neighbor, particularly 'the least' of Christ's brothers and sisters, requires action to stop the poisoning, the erosion, the wastefulness that are causing suffering and death."

Prayer: Holy Wisdom, impel our hearts to love. Transform our living from all that poisons to all that protects, from harm to harmony. Fill the hearts of humanity with enthusiasm for our vocation as Earth Keepers, we pray.

Sing: Christ be the light burning within You. Christ be the love we bring to Earth.

Reading: Pope Benedict XVI

"We must therefore encourage and support the "ecological conversion" which in recent decades has made humanity more sensitive to the catastrophe to which it has been heading

Prayer: Spirit of the Living God, Transform us from a culture of consuming to a culture of caring, from a culture of greed to a culture of "enough," we pray.

Sing: Christ be. . .

Reading: Pope John Paul II (*World Day of Peace*)

“[W]e cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention both to the consequences of such interference in other areas and to the well-being of future generations.”

Prayer: Holy Spirit of Love, in the wake of COVID 19, all creation is gasping. Breathe in us. Inspire us with holy imagination for sustainable ways of living where all have enough, where Earth is restored and children are healthy and free to run and play without harm, we pray

Sing: Christ be. . .

Reading: (*Elder Porphyrios, Wounded by Love*, p. 218)

“All things around us are droplets of the love of God, both things animate and inanimate, the plants and the animals, the birds and the mountains, the sea and the sunset and the starry sky.

Prayer: Creator of the Universe, fill us with wonder and awe as we contemplate our amazing planet! Teach us to honor and care for all creation so that those who come after us may discover You in its beauty and majesty, we pray.

Reader: John 17:20-23

“My prayer is . . . may all be one, O God, just as You are in me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that it is You who sent me. I in them and You in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.

Prayer: Christ in whom we live, move and have our being, fill us with a thirst for unity, peace and justice for all of creation. Make us bold and courageous that we may glorify You in our actions to protect and heal Earth, we pray.

Sing: Christ be. . .

Conversion

Reading: Pope Francis “Laudato Si” 217, 219

Living our vocation as protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue. It is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. . .The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. . .the ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion.

What will You do to act on your ecological conversion? What will you invite your community to do to act on your communal conversion?

Blessing:

Reading: Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ Ask the Beasts (p.xiv)

Once one understands that the evolving community of life on Earth is God’s beloved creation and its ruination an unspeakable sin, then deep affection shown in action on behalf of ecojustice becomes an indivisible part of one’s life.

Leader: May Christ who dances in creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God’s Glory in creation. (CTBI Eco-Congregation Program)

Missioning:

Go forth filled with wonder and awe at the glories of creation.

Go forth filled with gratitude for your vocation as Earth Keeper that future generations and indeed all life may flourish.

Go forth into this Jubilee Year in solidarity with all races and creatures with all generations to proclaim a year of Jubilee throughout the land.

(Sounds of Creation)

These words on the screen:

MAY THIS PRAYER BE FOLLOWED BY MEETINGS OF EVERY AGE GROUP IN OUR CHURCHES TO DISCUSS "NEXT STEPS WE WILL TAKE AS COMMUNITIES OF ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION.

Visit: SeasonofCreation.org for suggestions

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



GATHERINGS

Parishes are working in solidarity to care for God's gift of life and all of creation. Join us at one of our upcoming Care for Our Common Home gatherings as we live out our Catholic faith to preserve and protect all that God has entrusted to us. The gatherings will celebrate how parishes are currently preserving life and all that sustains it, as well identify ways to expand our ministry to care for our common home.

- **OCTOBER 7**
St. Julie Billiart (Tinley Park)
- **OCTOBER 14**
St. Giles (Oak Park)
- **OCTOBER 21**
Our Lady of Sorrows (Chicago)
- **NOVEMBER 11**
St. Nicholas (Evanston)
- **NOVEMBER 18**
St. Mary of the Annunciation (Mundelein)

All sessions will run 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
RSVP online at pvm.archchicago.org/creation
or call the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity at 312.534.5393.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



TO EVERY LIVING PERSON ON THIS PLANET:
Integrating the Spiritual Call of Laudato Si'

Sunday, October 1, 2017

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center

513 West Fullerton Parkway

Chicago, IL 60614

In Laudato Si', Pope Francis echoes St. John Paul II's call for no less than a global ecological conversion. This mini-retreat will use personal reflection, forms of prayer and guided activities to lead participants through the spiritual movements central to the integration of the Pope Francis' vision of care for our common home. This conversion includes the following elements: experiencing ourselves as creatures rooted in God, falling in love again with our common home, exploring how we relate to creation "out there," recognizing our suffering and the suffering of our common home and responding to these deep needs. Jesus' own life as expressed in the Gospels displays this same spiritual path. The call of our church through our continued life in the Spirit enables us to join Him on the way. Throughout the retreat participants will also consider how they might use some of the retreats elements in their own parish communities.

Facilitator

Dr. Marian K. Diaz serves on the Archdiocese of Chicago's Laudato si' Encyclical Working Group, and as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago. For the past twenty years she has held various positions in university teaching and administration and in pastoral leadership and formation at the diocesan level. From 2009-2012 she accompanied her husband as he served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See in Rome. Marian's dissertation addressed the needs for adult faith formation diverse cultural contexts. Her theological interests include Scripture and early Christian history, spirituality, women in the Catholic church, Catholic social teaching and the intersection between pastoral practice and theological method.

For more information or to register go to pvm.archchicago.org/creation
or call the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity at 312.534.5393