

*Our Garden...a beautiful field of Texas Bluebonnets and Indian  
Paintbrush that God's creation puts on display for us every spring.  
We want our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and  
great-great-great's.... to be able to feel this beauty!*

***Caring for God's Creation Ministry***

# **Caring for God's Creation Laudato Si' Ministry**

***"From God's hands we received  
a garden....."***

***We cannot leave a desert to our  
children"***

***Pope Francis,  
Laudato Si'  
May 2021***



## **2025 – 2027 Laudato Si' Action Plan 2024 Accomplishments**

### **Caring for God's Creation Ministry**

*Most Blessed Sacrament Church  
A Catholic Community  
Arlington, Texas USA*

January 2025





## Caring for God's Creation Ministry, Our Vision and Mission

Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home*:

### Our Vision

To protect and preserve God's Earthly creation for future generations.

### Our Mission

To see God in all things and to actively support Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* call that we act personally, within our parish, and globally to protect the earth and its people.

We are committed to increase awareness through activities that provide education to all, young and old alike, concerning care for the environment and the Poor. We will promote sustainable environmental practices and lifestyles. We will build community partnerships to increase the impact of environmental initiatives.

## Our Parish, Most Blessed Sacrament (MBS) Church, A Catholic Community

Most Blessed Sacrament was formed in 1978 and is located in Arlington, Texas USA, in the middle of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Our church has 4,027 total parishioners and 1,819 families. We are an active Catholic Community with over 75 ministries ([MBS Proclamation pg 4, 5](#)) that are supported by parishioners who volunteer their time in support of the parish, the community, and the underprivileged.

## Caring for God's Creation, Laudato Si' Ministry at MBS

Caring for God's Creation ministry was announced to the MBS community on May 21, 2023. The ministry was formed to respond to the call of Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si' (Praise Be), On Care for Our Common Home* (2015). Our MBS parish responded. The first ministry meeting was on May 24, 2023, the 8th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*.



### *Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home*

*Laudato Si'* is an encyclical of Pope Francis published in May 2015 addressed to all people of the world. His CALL is for us to take better care of the natural environment and all people, especially the poor. In order to

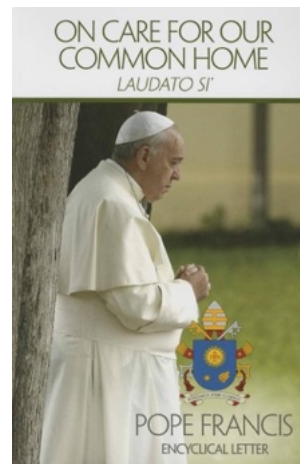


do this, he says we need to mend the relationship between God, each other, and the Earth. While *Laudato Si'* is the first encyclical to focus on the environment, its foundation rests in a long history of [Church teaching on creation](#).

## Ministry Enrollment in the “[Laudato Si’ Action Platform](#)” (LSAP)

The Laudato Si’ Action Platform, LSAP, is a global initiative of the Vatican Dicastery (*Department*) for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The [LSAP website](#) is a shared online space that equips the Church to achieve solutions to the ecological crisis. LSAP supports participants in the development of tailored Laudato Si’ Action Plans to accomplish a single purpose: Concrete actions for each of the 7 Goals of LSAP to protect our common home and the people in the world.



### 7 Goals of LSAP



Most Blessed Sacrament’s enrollment in LSAP was accepted by the Vatican in June 2023.

We committed to the following:

1. Complete an annual parish self-assessment
2. Upload an annual Laudato Si’ Action Plan (this document)
3. Upload a reflection of our values connected to the 7 Laudato Si’ Goals

**We invite you to read further.**

**The 2025 – 27 Laudato Si’ Action Plan** outlines what the ministry hopes to do in 2025 and beyond. We have some exciting plans!

**See our 2024 Accomplishments in pictures!**

**Welcome to Father Binoy Kurian and Deacon Willie Muñoz who joined MBS in July!**  
See a fun, wonderful Blessing of the Pets on the Feast Day of St Francis with parishioners and their pets.

**Interested in learning more about the Caring for God’s Creation ministry?**

Contact Carol Stilley, [mbs.creationcareteam@gmail.com](mailto:mbs.creationcareteam@gmail.com)  
Visit Website [Caring for God’s Creation](#)



# Goal 1 CRY OF THE EARTH

## OUR COMMUNITY (local gardens, wildlife, water)

**Karen Donnelly (Lead), Kim Davis (Co-Lead)**

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si’ 160*

| Goal: Our Community |  | Implementation | Collaboration                             |
|---------------------|--|----------------|---|
| 1.1                 | Create sustainable, native plant and pollinator gardens for the parish to <u>conserve water</u> , thereby also <u>saving money</u> , and to <u>support pollinators</u> . A special consideration will be made for the Monarch Butterfly, which is the state insect of Texas, and is now an endangered species.<br><br>Redesign the parish Mary Garden. | 2025 – Ongoing | CGC Team, Facilities, Doug Burris, Pastor |
| 1.2                 | Use the parish gardens to inspire, parishioners and people living in the area to do the same.  | 2025 – Ongoing | CGC Team, Parish staff                    |
| 1.3                 | To support biodiversity, evaluate ways to maintain garden and lawn areas without chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Share with parishioners and others.  | 2025 – Ongoing | CGC Team, Facilities, Doug Burris         |
| 1.4                 | Continue our efforts to engage parishioners to create native plant gardens at their homes.   | 2025 – Ongoing | CGC Team, parishioners                    |

## 2024 Accomplishments

1. **Created awareness of the importance of supporting biodiversity and the Monarch butterfly,** the Texas state insect and an endangered species. Announcement examples:

**The Monarch Butterfly, our TEXAS State Insect, is endangered. The Monarch Needs US!**



The Monarch migrates through Texas in March and October. Their habitat is declining.

Arlington is helping the Monarch by creating Waystations to support reproduction (milkweed) and nutrition (native flowers).

**Especially important is additional milkweed habitat.**

To find out how you can help, go to: [www.arlingtontx.gov](http://www.arlingtontx.gov)  
Search “Monarch Butterflies”



What kind of world do we want to leave to our children? How do we take action?  
---Pope Francis

Caring for God’s Creation Ministry



**World Wildlife Day March 3, 2024**

“Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.” (Laudato Si’, 33)

Some Endangered and Threatened Species in Texas impacted by habitat loss, over-exploitation, pollution, invasive species, and climate change:



What kind of world do we want to leave to our children? How do we take action?  
---Pope Francis

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## 2. "Become a Gardener" Native Plant Seed Giveaway Event



**"Nature is God's Art" – Laudato Si' 80**

**Become a Gardener !**

**Sunday, March 17**  
**After Sunday Masses**  
**Parish Hall**

**Planting Demonstration**

**Free Seeds to plant at home**

**Coneflowers & Zinnias**

- Attract Pollinators
- Drought Tolerant
- Self-Seeding
- AND Texas Tough !

**What kind of world do we want to leave to our children? How do we take action?**

**—Pope Francis**

Caring for God's Creation Ministry

Become a Gardener was successful

event!! We gave away 150 seed packets. And educated and inspired parishioners to use native plants.

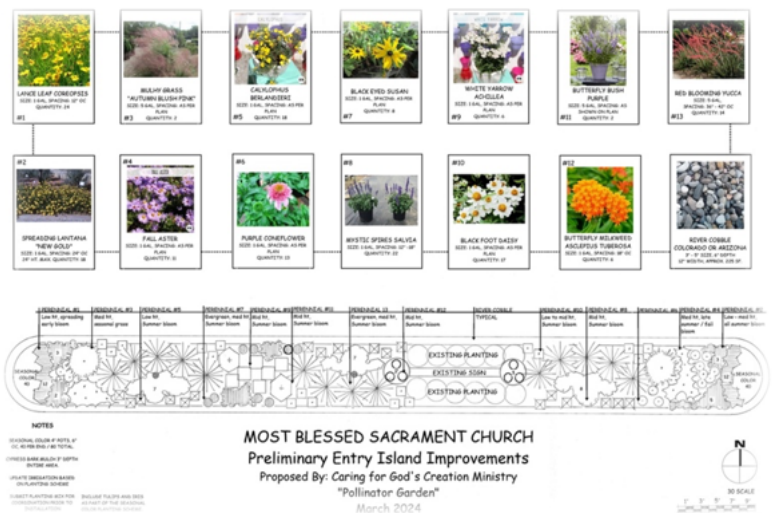
Native Plants are easy to grow, beautiful, and saves money because they are drought tolerant—use less water, and grow without fertilizers and pesticides.



## 3. Created a beautiful Native Plant and Pollinator Garden in the church entryway in time for Easter!



The Garden was completed for Easter Sunday 2024. Plants in garden are native, drought tolerant, beneficial for pollinators, and do not need pesticides and fertilizers.



## 4. THE Parish MARY GARDEN Redesign Has Been Approved

Project to enhance the Parish Mary Garden was approved and started November 2024.



# Goal 1 CRY OF THE EARTH

**OUR COMMON HOME (atmosphere, energy choices, pollution)**

**Anthony Nagy (Lead), Katie Rasmussen (Co-Lead)**

*“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”*

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si’ 160*

| Goal  | Implementation | Collaboration                          |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>1.11</b> Explore ways for our parish to significantly reduce global warming emissions through energy reduction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Achieve energy star certification for our parish</li><li>• Install LED lights throughout the parish and parking lots.</li><li>• Reduce emissions by transitioning to renewable energy</li></ul> Use as inspiration, other churches and dioceses, and municipal entities that are already involved with Energy Star. Implement, share findings, educate and inspire: parishioners, community, other Arlington parishes, Diocese to measure and improve Energy Star performance.<br>Publish results in parish announcements. | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, Business Mgr, Facilities Mgr |
| <b>1.12</b> Seek improvement by getting an energy assessment of the parish property by pro-bono outside engineering group   | 2025           | CGC Team, Business Mgr, Facilities Mgr |
| <b>1.13</b> Continue to explore ways to better care for our common home by improving our common surroundings--the air that we breathe.  | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, Parishioners                 |
| <b>1.14</b> Create programs that will help our community understand the importance and urgency of reducing pollution of the atmosphere by carbon dioxide and methane.   | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, Parishioners                 |

## 2024 Accomplishments

### 1. Began process of achieving Energy Star Certification for MBS.



It was learned, through contacts with the North Texas Association of Energy Engineers (NTAEE), that our church could obtain an EPA Energy Star Rating and thus have a means of comparing our energy usage to similar worship facilities.

An Energy Star Account was established on November 11, 2024 and the electricity and Natural gas energy usage data collected for the previous 24 months was recorded. Further facility size and usage information is being gathered in 2025 for comparative purposes.

It is planned that the use and publicizing of an Energy Star rating will prompt more awareness of parishioners and community into a better understanding of their part in caring for the planet.

### 2. Ministry Members List Personal Actions Implemented to Practice Laudato Si'

Caring for God's Creation steering committee documented detailed actions we have personally taken to answer Pope Francis' call to take better care of our world and the people in it. It will be used to be a source of inspiration for others and was shared with Fr. Binoy.



### 3. LED lights were approved for installation in the church gymnasium.

A return on investment was developed for replacing LED lights, an energy saving and cost saving initiative. Parish approved.

The gym lights will be switched out in 2025. LED lights will be installed in phases throughout the parish, continuing over the next few years.

### 4. Power to Choose "Cut your home energy costs" event

"Power to Choose" is a State of Texas website that offers options to select energy providers that are low cost and offer 100% renewable energy. This was presented at an event in the parish hall after Mass on Sunday.



## National "Cut Your Energy Costs" Month

Anthony showing how to "Cut your energy costs."

**Need Help Saving Money?**

**Location:** Parish Hall

**Date/Time:** After mass on Sunday, January 28.

Caring for God's Creation will show you the Power To Choose website.

To find a best plan for you, go to [PowerToChoose.org](https://www.powertochoose.org), the official website of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Renewable Wind and Solar Energy Plans are now being offered by Texas electric companies.

A photograph of a green field with a dirt path leading towards a windmill and several wind turbines in the background under a blue sky.

Caring for God's Creation Ministry





## Goal 2 CRY OF THE POOR

### OUR COMMUNITY (Arlington, Fort Worth Diocese, Texas)

#### Caring for God's Creation Ministry Members (Lead)

*"When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person... it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected."*

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 117*

| Goal: TEAM |   | Implementation | Collaboration            |
|------------|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| 2.1        | Support existing community and parish ministries that help people in need, in our parish and our community.   | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, MBS ministries |
| 2.2        | Rent a vegetable garden plot at UTA (University of Texas, Arlington) to grow vegetables for organizations that serve the people in need in our community. | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team                 |

#### Non-Profit Organizations Supported by other MBS ministries



#### [UTA Community Garden](#)

In 2024 we paid for space in the UTA garden, when a lot becomes available. The half-acre garden supports Arlington's commitment to sustainability by preserving green space, educating the community about preserving green space and utilizes both compost and rain harvesting techniques to promote water conservation. A portion of all food grown here is donated to Mission Arlington, the garden's designated food bank program. The garden is a joint venture between [UTA's Office of Sustainability](#) and the City of Arlington's Parks and Recreation Department.







## Goal 2 CRY OF THE POOR

OUR COMMON HOME (all people of the world)

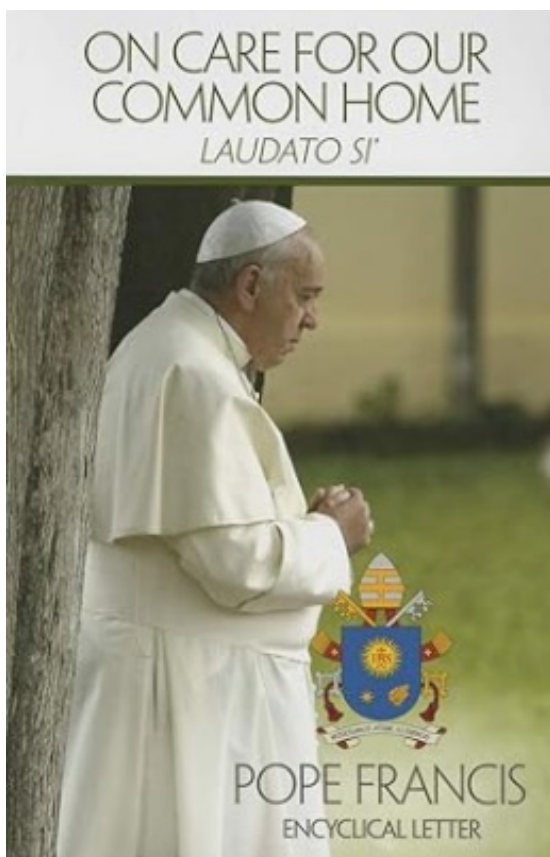
### Caring for God's Creation Ministry Members (Lead)

*"When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person... it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected."*

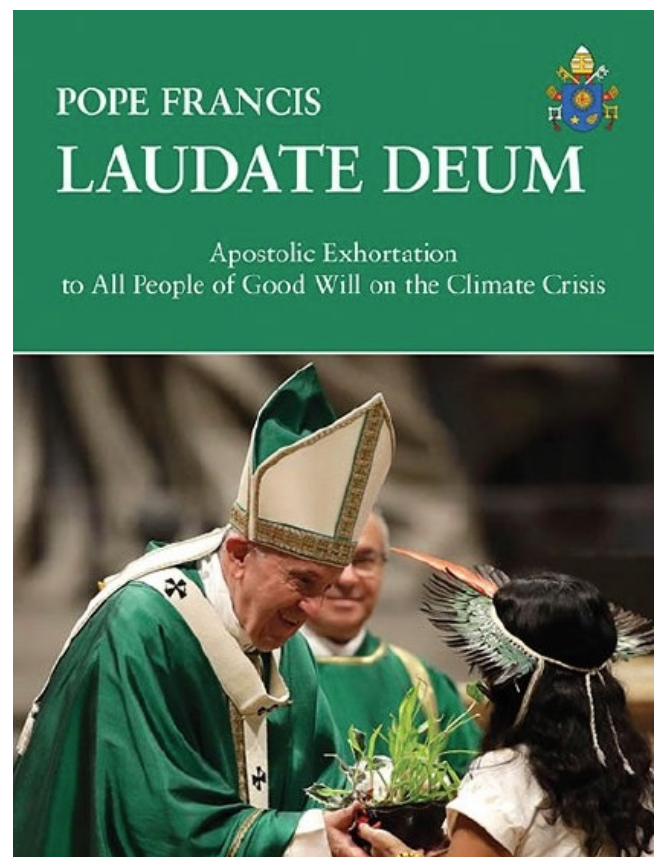
*Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 117*

| Goal   | Implementation | Collaboration |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| <b>2.11</b> As we read <i>Laudato Si'</i> and <i>Laudate Deum</i> this year we will reflect on Pope Francis' call that we "Listen to the 'Cry of the Poor.'" The Cry of the Earth is intimately linked with the Cry of the Poor. How do our actions impact the disadvantaged in the world? | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team      |
| <b>2.12</b> Create awareness of how our lifestyle in the US impacts the disadvantaged in our community and around the world. Inspire change.   | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team      |

Pub. 2015



Pub 2023





## Goal 3 ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

### Caring for God's Creation Ministry Members (Lead)

*"Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act."*

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 206*

| Goal   | Implementation | Collaboration                          |
|--|----------------|--|
| <b>3.1</b><br>Support Team Leaders with financial analyses for initiatives that have a money saving benefit. Ex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Native plants: Less water, pesticides, fertilizer</li><li>• Parish Energy reduction</li><li>• Renewable energy conversion</li><li>• LED lights parish wide</li><li>• Cost of compostable dinnerware vs plastic.</li></ul> | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, Business Mgr, Facilities Mgr |
| <b>3.2</b><br>Conduct an annual parish energy audit, including a carbon footprint with the goal of reducing our energy use and increasing renewable energy sources.<br><br>Use parish audit and energy goals as an inspiration for community to do the same.   | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, Business Mgr, Facilities Mgr |
| <b>3.3</b><br>Buy local, buy sustainable, buy recyclable, share what you no longer use, embrace The Gift Economy.  | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor     |

### 2024 Accomplishments: Save You Money

#### 1. Created the "Power to Choose" Cut your home energy costs" Parish Event.

Demonstrated to parishioners how to go to a government website to select the least expensive electricity cost for their home. And, at the same time showed how they can select a 100% renewable energy plan.



#### 2. Developed a return on investment for replacing LED lights, an energy saving and cost saving initiative. Parish approved.

The gym lights have been switched out. 3-month ROI (return on investment). LED lights will be installed in phases continuing the next few years.



over

#### 3. Installed a bottle filler in the gym water fountain in Feb 2024.

Cost savings for both the parish and the parishioners. Neither needs to buy single use plastic water bottles!







## Goal 4 SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

**Jack Heizelman (Lead), Karen Donnelly (Co-Lead)**

*If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits."*

*Pope Francis: Laudato Si' 208-209*

| Goal |   | Implementation | Collaboration                        |
|------|---|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4.1  | <p>Promote sustainability and a sustainable parish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Model how to be sustainable at MBS to inspire and motivate parishioners and our community to do the same.</li><li>• Communicate why this is important and urgent.</li><li>• Select parish events and make them sustainable<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Lent: Work with MBS Youth to prepare a Sustainable Lenten Meal for parish.</li><li>○ Help Sunday's Youth "Fast Lunch" become a sustainable lunch.</li></ul></li></ul>  | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, Parishioners, Parish Staff |
| 4.2  | <p>Research and evaluate ways to make the MBS kitchen and food production "sustainable."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research which elements of sustainability should we try to achieve?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ E.g. Zero waste, "single-use plastic" free, Styrofoam free parish, Zero food waste</li><li>○ Reduction of microplastics in food preparation.</li></ul></li><li>• Use eco-friendly materials rather than plastic and Styrofoam in the MBS kitchen. Activities include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Use washable dinnerware, with sterilizing dishwasher</li><li>○ Use biodegradable cups and dinnerware</li><li>○ Discontinue Styrofoam cups</li></ul></li><li>• Model how to reduce food waste in our parish</li></ul> | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor   |
| 4.3  | <p>Promote Sustainability and Publicize results.<br/>Food Waste Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The \$ cost of food waste, costs to our environment, and other statistics to motivate change.</li><li>• A Biblical reminder: Food is a gift from God. We should not waste. Be good stewards of creation.</li></ul>   | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team                             |

# 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 1. Fountain Bottle Fillers Installed by Gym (Youth Group suggestion)

The addition of bottle fillers in the church was a suggestion from the Youth Group. They would prefer to use their existing water bottles, so they don't have to use single use plastic water bottles.

The bottle filler was installed February 2024. As of December 2024, we have saved **1,175 bottles!**

## 2. Initiated Plastic-Free in the MBS Kitchen

As we've learned more about the impact of plastics (from the Catholic Climate Covenant and other sources), especially single use plastics (!), we see an opportunity to both model and implement greener options in the MBS kitchen.

- The Bereavement Committee has made a commitment to discontinue single use plastic utensils, plates, and coffee stirrers.

Through our ministry members' participation in other ministries, we are laying the groundwork to promote sustainable options in the kitchen for upcoming events. Goals include:

- Discontinue use of Styrofoam cups.
- Use biodegradable options for cups and plates.
- Use washable plates and cups, stainless steel utensils, and use the sterilizing dish washer.
- Continue to research how to reduce food waste.

## 3. Promoted Sustainability Topics in the Weekly Parish Announcements and Website

TOPICS:

Recycling, Reduce Single Use Plastic, Skip the Straw, Microplastics, Eco-Friendly Christmas Ideas.

## 4. Joined the JULY North American Plastic Free EcoChallenge with the Texas Chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement

For our 1<sup>st</sup> EcoChallenge, we came in 41<sup>st</sup> out of 137 teams!

**Microplastics: Threat to Our Environment**



- Small pieces of plastic < 5mm in size
- Widespread in natural environment; found in oceans, rivers, rain, ice cores, plants, wild animals, the air we breathe
- *Are swallowed by farm animals or fish who mistake them for food*
- Effects of microplastics on humans is being studied
- Existing research on wildlife shows consumption of plastic particles severely damages their health—for example, *neurotoxicity and intestinal deformities in fish.*

**SOLUTION**

- ✓ **Avoid Plastic Products**
- ✓ **Dispose of Plastic Properly**
- ✓ **Keep Microplastics Out Of Our Water**

For information on the impact of plastics on our Earth, go to: "Resources" on our Caring for God's Creation webpage.



**Think Green Before You Shop**

- *Do I need?*
- *Will I use?*
- *Do I already own?*
- *Can I borrow?*

**Buy reusable, not disposable**

**Can I buy it used?**

**Made from recycled materials?**



What kind of world do we want to leave to our children? How do we take action? ---Pope Francis

www.epa.gov/recycle

Caring for God's Creation Ministry



**National Skip the Straw Day**

Texas' shoreline is swamped by plastic trash – *the most of any state.*

Plastic straws are in the **Top 10.**

**The Last Straw**

Switch to biodegradable, compostable straws made of grass, coffee, coconut, rice or sugarcane.



Debris litters Mustang Island, an 18-mile barrier island stretching from Corpus Christi to Port Aransas. (NOAA)

What kind of world do we want to leave to our children? How do we take action? ---Pope Francis

Caring for God's Creation Ministry



Plastic Free EcoChallenge July 1-31, 2024  
LAUDATO SI' MOVEMENT TEXAS TEAM

Progress as of July 10, 2024

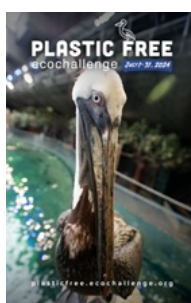
**16 Team Members with 2235 Team Points!!**

### TEAM IMPACT

- Up to 10 disposable cups NOT SENT TO THE LANDFILL
- Up to 20 minutes SPENT LEARNING
- Up to 1,600 minutes SPENT OUTDOORS
- Up to 12 plastic containers NOT SENT TO THE LANDFILL
- Up to 32 gallons of water HAVE BEEN SAVED
- Shout out to Barbara Hinds with 270 points

**WE NEED YOU TO JOIN US!!**

SIGN UP AT: <https://plasticfreeecochallenge.org>  
Join the "Laudato Si' Movement" Texas team.  
NEED HELP? email: [mbs.creationcareteam@gmail.com](mailto:mbs.creationcareteam@gmail.com)







## Goal 5 ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

**Barbara Hinds, Carol Stilley (Co-Leads)**

*“Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change.”*

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si’ 202*

| Goal |  | Implementation | Collaboration                      |
|------|--|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 5.1  | Work with Spirituality Team to conduct a reflection of <i>Laudato Si’</i> , then <i>Laudate Deum</i> . First with the Steering Committee, then with parishioners.  | 2025           | CGC Team, Fr. Binoy                |
| 5.2  | Focus of Year 2 is to “Talk about it ( <i>climate change and its impacts</i> ) more”. In-person conversations to increase membership and participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discuss and identify how we are going to “talk about it more” 1 on 1, in our community, with family, in groups, MBS ministries, community, etc.</li><li>Create a presentation/handout that explains the situation and urgency, along with good news and bad news, and what we can do about it. (~Dr. Hayhoe)</li></ul> | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team                           |
| 5.3  | In 2023 we created a Vision/Mission. This year we will create our Values statement.  | 2025           | CGC Team                           |
| 5.4  | Grow ministry membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grow our list of parishioners who have indicated an interest in our purpose, our activities and have a desire to occasionally participate.</li><li>“Talk about it” and engage by creating communication materials.</li></ul>  | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team                           |
| 5.5  | Promote sound ecological behaviors along with the reasons WHY they are <u>important</u> and <u>urgent</u> .  | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor |
| 5.6  | Support all 7 GOALS in our communication and promotion.  | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team                           |

The Education team’s role includes the communication support for all Caring for God’s Creation Leaders in achieving our 7 Laudato Si Action Plan Goals.

Below are parish announcement examples that were created by the Education Team working with the Goal Team Leads.

## 2024 Accomplishments



### 1. Caring for God's Creation ministry logo created

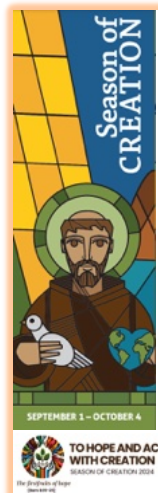
Using the Laudato Si' tree (from the Laudato Si' Action Platform) and the subheading "Laudato Si' Ministry" a logo was created for Caring for God's Creation ministry to visually link the purpose of our ministry to Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.

### 2. Created [weekly parish Eco-Announcements](#) to promote events and educate parishioners in a variety of ecological topics.

Announcements placed in: parish bulletin, email blasts, MBS website homepage banner, and the Caring for God's Creation webpage.

#### TOPIC Examples

- Season of Creation Activities
- Power to Choose Clean Energy
- Mother's Day at a Garden
- Microplastics in the Ocean
- Plastic-Free EcoChallenge
- "Take Action" to stop Plastic Pollution
- Recycling, Plastic Reduction, Skip the Straw
- Monarch Butterfly, Endangered Species
- Eco-Friendly Native Plant and Pollinator Gardens
- Eco Friendly Christmas
- Volunteers needed announcements



#### Celebrate SEASON of CREATION at MBS!

September 1 – October 4

##### September 1—World Day of Prayer for Creation Care

Join Pope Francis and people worldwide to thank and praise God The Creator.

Weekend masses highlight the Season with special Prayers of the Faithful, songs, music, and words to praise God and the splendor of His gift of creation.

##### September 8 and September 29—Creation Care Rosary

Affords time to reflect, pray, and nourish our commitment to care for our Earth.

##### September 14—W.A.T.E.R Festival at River Legacy Park

Family fun and education about our precious Water resource.

##### September 22—Religious Education classes

St. Francis of Assisi, Creation, Environmental Stewardship, Care for Each Other

#### This Week

##### October 4 8:30am Mass, Feast Day of St. Francis

Celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Ecology.

##### October 6 @ 6pm — Blessing of the Pets

In honor of St. Francis, bring your pets for a blessing.



#### Find a Garden to Celebrate!

American Public Garden Association celebrates every Mother's Day with Go Public Gardens Days.

[www.publicgardens.org/go-public-gardens/](http://www.publicgardens.org/go-public-gardens/)

##### Ft Worth Botanic Gardens

3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Ft Worth [www.fwb.org/plan-a-visit/](http://www.fwb.org/plan-a-visit/)

##### River Legacy Park

Our beautiful neighborhood park. 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd

##### Weston Gardens

Harpist plays as you walk through amazing demonstration gardens.\*

\* For Schedule [call or check website](#)

817-572-0549  
[www.westongardens.com/](http://www.westongardens.com/)

8101 Anglin Drive, Fort Worth



### 3. Celebrated Earth Day 2024, Planet vs Plastic

## Earth Day Celebration

2024 Theme: "Planet vs Plastic"

Saturday, April 20, 9 - 11am

Lake Arlington Native Plant and Pollinator Garden Volunteer Day

Location: 5500 Lake Arlington Dr.

Help restore native wildflowers! Sign up at: [SaveArlingtonWater.com](http://SaveArlingtonWater.com)

Saturday, April 20, 11am - 2pm

Arlington ISD Energy and Sustainability Department Earth Day 2024

Location: Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center, 2101 Browning Dr.

Games, demonstrations, crafts, tree planting, snacks, and free swag.

Monday, April 22, 8am - 12pm


2024 Earth Day Celebration

Location: MBS, Adult Ed Room. Coffee, donuts!

An informative UTA "ZOOM" presentation by Environmental Sustainability leaders.

Tuesday, April 23, 11am - 2pm

UTA Earth Day Festival

Location: Brazos Park, 601 S. West St. 

T-Shirts, food trucks, giveaways, activities, and music.



#### Planet vs Plastic

For information on the impact of plastics on our Earth, go to: "Resources" on our [Caring for God's Creation](#) webpage.



#### UTA\* Earth Day Festival

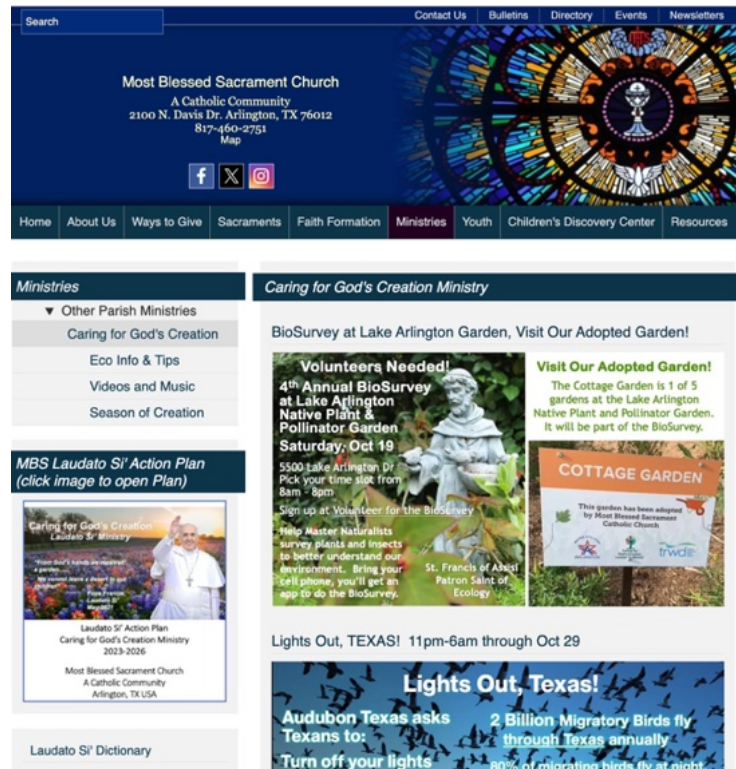
\* University of Texas, Arlington





5. Created [Caring for God's Creation webpage](#) as a source of information.

- Ecological information (videos, articles)
- Resources
- Ministry Events
- Our Ministry's Laudato Si' Action Plan
- How to Sign-up
- Season of Creation Information
- Hymns, songs



6. Media Coverage

**OSV (Our Sunday Visitor) Magazine Article notes MBS for work with Native Gardens**

Anna Dougherty from OSV (Our Sunday Visitor) wrote a magazine article about churches across the country that have implemented a Laudato Si Action Plan. MBS was mentioned in this article with a focus on the work we do with native plants and pollinator gardens.

<https://catholicreview.org/parishes-heed-pope-francis-warning-the-earth-may-be-nearing-the-breaking-point/>



Father Michael G. Ryan, pastor of St. James Cathedral in Seattle, leads the blessing of the St. James kitchen garden Sept 22, 2018. (OSV News photo/courtesy Patrick Barredo)

**Parishes heed Pope Francis' warning the Earth 'may be nearing the breaking point'**



September 8, 2024  
By Anna Dougherty  
OSV News

Filed Under: Environment, Feature, News, World News



## Goal 6 ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

**Barbara Hinds, Julianne Davis (Co-Leads)**

*“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue.”*

*“There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions.”*

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si’, 217, 211*

| Goal  | Implementation | Collaboration                        |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>6.1</b><br>Encourage and offer Laudato Si’ focused, Prayers of the Faithful, Rosaries, hymns and homily themes throughout the year, according to the liturgical season. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lent</li><li>• Ordinary Time</li><li>• Season of Creation</li><li>• Advent</li></ul>     | 2025           | CGC Team,<br>Parish Staff,<br>Pastor |
| <b>6.2</b><br>Assist with the study of <a href="#">Laudato Si’</a> and later, <a href="#">Laudate Deum</a> . The CGC Steering Committee will study the Encyclical prior to offering the study to MBS parishioners.  | 2025           | CGC Team,<br>Pastor                  |
| <b>6.3</b><br>Celebrate the Season of Creation, September 1-October 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open SOC with a Creation Care Mass</li><li>• Have a weekly focus on a SOC topic or event</li><li>• Create a SOC banner</li><li>• Present a SOC topic to Religious Education Classes</li></ul> | 2025           | CGC Team,<br>Parish Staff,<br>Pastor |
| <b>6.4</b><br>Sponsor an Earth Day Activity to celebrate this annual ecological event.<br>April 22 is Earth Day and the 2025 theme is “Our Power, Our Planet”, highlighting renewable energy sources.   | 2025           | CGC Team                             |
| <b>6.5</b><br>Observe Laudato Si’ Week, May 21-28.<br>2025 is the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Laudato Si’.  | 2025           | CGC Team                             |
| <b>6.6</b><br>Observe 2025 as a Jubilee Year and to embark on a “Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation.”  | 2025           | CGC Team                             |

# 2024 Accomplishments

## 1. Celebrated Season of Creation (SOC), September 1-October 4

The Season of Creation—its history, purpose, theme and planned activities—was introduced with parish announcements in August. Weekly during SOC we submitted Prayers of the Faithful and hymn suggestions for masses. We held two Creation Care Rosaries. We taught about the Season of Creation in all Religious Education Classes. During SOC, announcements were run weekly in the parish bulletin and online.



## SEASON OF CREATION 2024

### September 1 – October 4

Pope Francis has called all Catholics to join in celebrating the Season of Creation.

**Begins Sept 1**  
**The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**  
Established by Pope Francis in 2015

**Ends Oct 4**  
**The Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Ecology**

*Most Blessed Sacrament and Caring for God's Creation Ministry are planning activities for our parish to celebrate the season. Continue to check the MBS bulletin and website for more information.*



### SOC 2024 Theme

To Hope and Act with Creation

### SOC Symbol

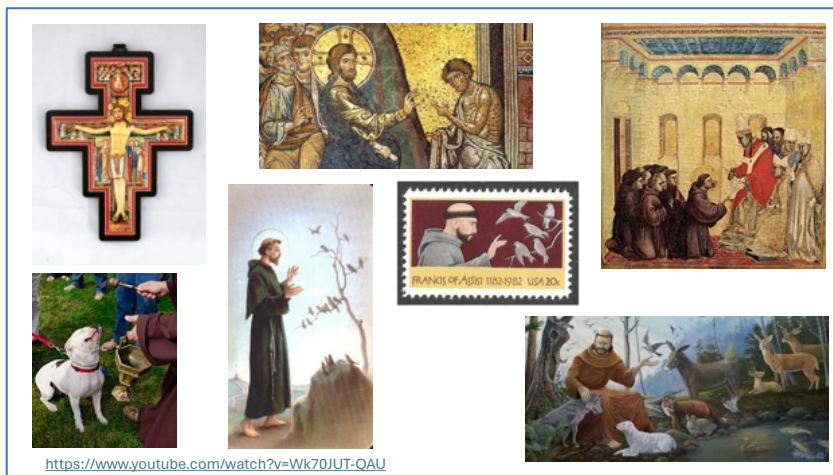
The firstfruits of Hope

**HOPE is not passive.**

**HOPE energizes us to ACT.**

## 2. Season of Creation Day in Religious Education Classes, September 22

160 Religious Education students, Kindergarten through Adult, learned about 1. St. Francis of Assisi, 2. Pope Francis and Laudato Si', and 3. Their responsibility to care for God's Creation.

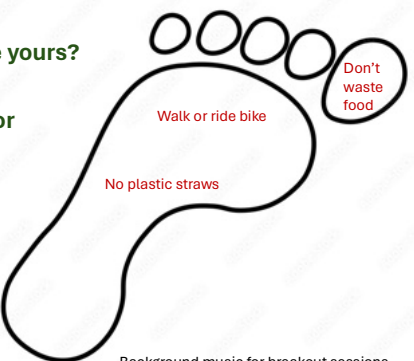


**St. Francis and Pope Francis  
Greeting Youth at MBS**

**Ecological Footprint**  
...how can you reduce yours?

Remember the 3 R's for sound ecology

**Reduce**  
**Reuse**  
**Recycle**



Background music for breakout sessions  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFoyqMG1bDA>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tevVTnYvss>





## Goal 7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Don Stilley (Lead), Carol Stilley (Co-Lead)**

*"Bring the whole human family together... for we know that things can change"*

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si'*

| Goal |  | Implementation | Collaborate  |
|------|--|----------------|--|
| 7.1  | Continue to support City of Arlington and Tarrant County personnel in the development of the Lake Arlington Native Plant and Pollinator Garden. Support 2nd Arlington Pollinator site if approved for 2025.  | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team, City of Arlington Water, Tarrant Regional Water District |
| 7.2  | Work with organizations such as the Catholic Climate Covenant and the Laudato Si’ Movement to continue progress in achieving the goals of Laudato Si'.   | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team   |
| 7.3  | Develop a native plant and pollinator garden model for parish homeowners. Inspire neighbors and community to participate.<br>Learn “How to Create Gardens” by working with local organizations.  | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team   |
| 7.4  | Develop the UTA relationship, and explore other organizational relationships that would be beneficial to meeting the goals of Laudato Si’. (e.g., UTA Newman Center, City of Arlington, Catholic Rural Life, etc.). Reach out to Fort Worth diocese for participation. | 2025 - ongoing | CGC Team   |

## 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- We adopted the Cottage Garden, at the Lake Arlington Native Plant and Pollinator Garden. Most Blessed Sacrament and Caring for God's Creation are noted on the Garden sign!**

We are learning about gardening and serving our community at the same time.

This garden is a Demonstration Garden. The City of Arlington Water Utilities and Tarrant Regional Water District are working with local conservation stakeholders and community groups to restore native prairie and wildflowers to 2.75 acres of land adjacent to the Lake Arlington Dam.



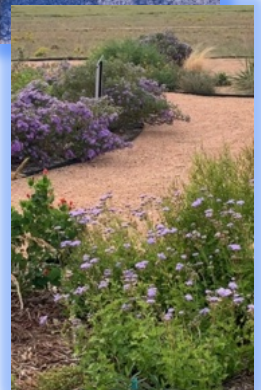


## 2. Volunteer at the Lake Arlington Native Plant and Pollinator Garden multiple times during the year.

Saturday, Oct 19 was garden maintenance & BioSurvey day. We focused on the garden maintenance this year. Carol & Don had some new help from Mara, and guidance from Betsy (TRWD) and Tracy (Arlington Water Dept).



**Bold Jumper Spider**



## 3. Announcement examples: For Mother's Day, Find a Garden to Celebrate! Instead of cut flowers, visit to a garden! Volunteers Needed for BioSurvey

**Volunteers Needed!**  
**4th Annual BioSurvey**  
**at Lake Arlington**  
**Native Plant & Pollinator Garden**  
**Saturday, Oct 19**  
5500 Lake Arlington Dr  
Pick your time slot from  
8am - 8pm  
Sign up at [Volunteer for the BioSurvey](#)  
Help Master Naturalists  
survey plants and insects  
to better understand our  
environment. Bring your  
cell phone, you'll get an  
app to do the BioSurvey.



St. Francis of Assisi  
Patron Saint of  
Ecology

### Visit Our Adopted Garden!

The Cottage Garden is 1 of 5  
gardens at the Lake Arlington  
Native Plant and Pollinator Garden.  
It will be part of the BioSurvey.



### Find a Garden to Celebrate!

American Public Garden Association celebrates every  
**Mother's Day with Go Public Gardens Days.**  
[www.publicgardens.org/go-public-gardens/](http://www.publicgardens.org/go-public-gardens/)

#### Ft Worth Botanic Gardens

3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Ft Worth [www.fwbgo.org/plan-a-visit/](http://www.fwbgo.org/plan-a-visit/)

#### River Legacy Park

Our beautiful neighborhood park. 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd

#### Weston Gardens

Harpist plays as you walk  
through amazing  
demonstration gardens.\*

\* For Schedule call or check [website](#)  
817-572-0549  
[www.westongardens.com/](http://www.westongardens.com/) 8101 Anglin Drive, Fort Worth



#### 4. Break Free from Plastics Pollution Act

After the July Plastic EcoChallenge, the participants were invited to go to the Jesuit Conference website and “Click a Link to Take Action.” The link gave them a means to quickly “write your senator” to sign the Break Free from Plastics Pollution Act.

## Take Action



Tell your Senator the **Break Free from Plastics Pollution Act** would build healthier communities and cleaner environments.



Jesuit Conference  
Office of Justice and Ecology



**Click Link to Take Action:**

<https://www.jesuits.org/our-work/justice-and-ecology/take-action-2/plastics/>

#### 5. Engage with our Neighboring Texas Diocese: Invitation to a Harvest Mass at the Whistling Duck Vineyard, Weimar, Texas

Bishop Cahill, Diocese of Victoria invited members of the Texas Chapter of Laudato Si' Movement to the celebration of a Harvest Mass. The farmers gathered at the vineyard for the Harvest Mass. It was a beautiful, unique experience.

Possible opportunity to acquaint our youth with the rigors and challenges of producing food, and stress the importance and necessity of eliminating “food waste” in Diocese of Fort Worth... viewing food as a gift from God. An organization, Catholic Rural Life was at the Harvest Mass and was interested in exploring this idea.

#### Harvest Mass at the Whistling Duck Vineyard, Weimar, Texas





**Welcome Father Binoy & Deacon Willie!**

***Season of Creation***

***Blessing of the Pets, October 2024***









# Caring for God's Creation Ministry Steering Committee



*Left to Right*

**LEFT:** Bette & Mike O'Dell, **Back row:** Don & Carol Stilley, Karen Donnelly & Jack Heizelman, Anthony Nagy, Julianne & Kim Davis, **Front row:** Barbara Hinds, Xeita Nagy, Helen Machala

*Left to Right*

Pat Conner,  
Stephanie Biesi



Katie Rasmussen  
& Firooz Taleghani

Valerie &  
Tom Moore





*Prayer for Creation,  
Inspired by Pope Francis' Laudate Deum\*  
(Praise God)*

**--USCCB (United States Council of Catholic Bishops)**

We praise you, O God, Creator of all things,  
whose mystery unfolds in "a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a  
dewdrop, in a poor person's face."<sup>1</sup>

Jesus, your Son, taught us to wonder  
as he made his way throughout the land, contemplating the  
beauty of creation.<sup>2</sup>

We pray, O God, that you may stir in us  
a reverent awareness of our invisible link with the entire  
created world.

We pray for humility—  
to remember that we, too, are created and are not creation's masters.

We pray for compassion—  
for open eyes and hearts to welcome those forced to flee from their homes due to rising sea levels  
and drought.

We pray for repentance—  
so that our thirst for power and domination may be transformed into service.

We pray for simplicity—  
and the will to turn from our greed which impacts vulnerable people everywhere.

We pray for cultural conversion—  
that we may simplify our lifestyles, reduce pollution and waste, and exercise prudence in our  
decision making.

We pray for policy changes—  
that as a nation and world we may work together to reverse the course of climate change.

Our hearts ache as we ponder:  
"The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?"<sup>3</sup>

We praise you, O God,  
confident that you work in our hearts and through our actions, so that we may better care for our  
common home.

Amen.



<sup>1</sup> Laudate Deum, Quoting Laudato Si', no. 233.

<sup>2</sup> Laudate Deum, no. 64, quoting Laudato Si', no. 97.

<sup>3</sup> Laudate Deum, no. 65.

*\*This prayer is inspired by [Laudate Deum](#)*