

## Reflection on the Laudato Si' Goals

Senyor Santo Niño Catholic Church, San Antonio, Texas

We are a Catholic parish rooted in the Word of God, the sacraments, and the lived practice of discipleship. Our identity flows from the conviction that all creation belongs to God, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” (Ps 24:1), and that we are entrusted with the vocation to “till and keep” the garden of creation (Gen 2:15).

Inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si’, we understand that care for creation is not an optional or secondary aspect of Christian life but essential to virtue and holiness. As Pope Francis teaches, “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue” (LS 217). We have embraced his call to ecological conversion, recognizing that environmental destruction is both an ecological and moral crisis that most deeply wounds the poor and vulnerable.

In communion with Archbishop Gustavo-Siller and the Archdiocese of San Antonio, we affirm that care for creation is inseparable from care for people. This conviction shapes our parish mission and our pastoral project, Caring for Creation as a Parish Community, which integrates prayer, formation, and concrete action.

Through our tree-planting initiative, we respond to the cry of the earth by planting twenty trees on parish

grounds as a sign of hope and stewardship. Our ecological spirituality retreat, “Creation as Gift: Caring for the Earth, Caring for Each Other”, helps parishioners encounter God in creation through Scripture, reflection on Laudato Si’, and outdoor prayer. Our six-week Rosary for Creation roots ecological concern in communal prayer, focusing on creation, justice, and solidarity with the poor.

Guided by the seven Laudato Si’ Goals, we commit ourselves to prayer for creation, ecological education, simpler lifestyles, and solidarity with those most affected by environmental harm. We seek conversion of heart and habits so that stewardship becomes part of everyday discipleship.

As Pope Francis reminds us, “Everything is interconnected” (LS 70). By uniting practical action, spiritual formation, and communal prayer, Senyor Santo Niño Catholic Church aspires to be a sign of hope for our common home and a living witness to God’s love for all creation. Amen