



The Catholic Church
in Central and Southern Indiana

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

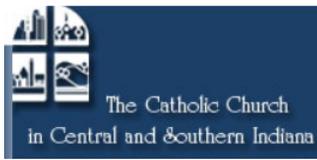
LAUDATO SI' PLAN

2022 -2023

**“Lord, what do you want me to do?” he asked.
“Show me what you want me to do with my life.”**

And the Lord answered:

“Francis, go and rebuild my church which, you see, is falling down.”



Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Creation Care Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles *

Mission

To encourage and foster the care for God's creation as a way of life and a core principle of our Catholic faith, and to minimize the Archdiocese' impact on the environment

Vision

We are an Archdiocese committed to the principles and values set forth in Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'.

Parishes, schools, agencies, and organizations exhibit a culture of sustainability and consider the environmental impact of their activities.

Parishioners make good environmental choices in their homes and daily lives and understand that their choices affect the lives of others. They know the joy of living more simply and understand that creation care is a moral imperative.

Guiding Principles

All Church operations and individual activities shall be conducted in an ethical and environmentally sustainable manner.

All we do shall be rooted in gospel values and Catholic social doctrine.

*Adopted and approved by Archbishop Thompson in November 2019



Connecting to the Laudato Si Goals

Pope Francis and the Church call us to join together on a pathway of ecological conversion. How will we in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis respond? Everyone – including individuals, families, parishes, religious congregations, businesses, universities, and ecclesial movements – is exhorted by the Holy Father to participate in creating specific ecological plans to implement Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* that shares care of creation and our common home as a key aspect of our faith. To help guide this effort, seven ***Laudato Si'* (LS) Goals** have been established to ensure that key elements of the environmental crisis are addressed:

The **Increased Response to the Cry of the Earth** - a call to protect our common home.

The **Increased Response to the Cry of the Poor** - a call to promote ecojustice for the poor who depend daily on the earth for their sustenance and livelihood and are most endangered in times of natural disaster.

The **Development of Ecological Economics** - acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society embedded within the biosphere, and that there is a need to find alternatives to the current system.

The **Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles** - is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and sobriety connected to responsible interdependence.

The **Enhancement of Ecological Education** - is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology.

The **Encouragement of Ecological Spirituality** - recovers a religious vision of God's creation and encourages greater contact with the natural world to 'rediscover God in all things.'

The **Growth in Community Engagement and Participatory Action** - encourages the development of cultures and policies that protect our common home through the creation of networks at local, regional and international levels.

As indicated above, these **LS Goals** call for, as Pope Francis would say, an 'ecological conversion' that involves social actions to create new economies based on lifestyle choices well-informed by spiritual and ecological teachings. As such, this Archdiocese of Indianapolis LS Plan aims to provide overall guidance and direction to facilitate the development of specific local LS Plans by Catholic individuals, families and parishes, as well as for archdiocesan structures and ministries.

Laudato Si Plan 2022 to 2023 Activities

LS GOAL 1: The Increased Response to the Cry of the Earth

Goal: Minimize environmental impact from all church facilities.

- Formally announce the participation of the Archdiocese in the Laudato Si Action Platform during the 2022 Season of Creation.
- Begin tracking energy use in all facilities owned by the archdiocese.
- Encourage and provide support for parishes and other archdiocesan agencies to enroll in Energy Star Portfolio Manager to track their energy use.
- Recruit the next group of parishes or facilities for a pilot energy audit program during the summer of 2023. (target: 5 to 10)
- Provide Sustainability Interns to gather energy data and complete audits – Summer 2023.

LS GOAL 2: The Increased Response to the Cry of the Poor

Goal: Identify current archdiocesan ministries that work with the poor and enter into a dialogue with them about how Laudato Si' relates to their mission and how we can support them

- Help parishes monitor energy savings through Energy Star Portfolio Manager.
- Provide Creation Care grants to selected parishes with lower financial resources.

LS GOAL 3: The Development of Ecological Economics

Goal: Evaluate current economic and financial choices to determine if they are consistent with the mission and vision of Laudato Si' principles.

- Seek to independently evaluate Archdiocesan investments to verify consistency with Laudato Si' principles.
- Encourage the permanent establishment of a long-term ongoing Creation Care budget as a line item for the Archdiocesan budget.
- Establish an independent Archdiocesan Creation Care fund and grant process for sustainability projects.
- Sponsor a Catholic No Purchase Day or a Catholic "Lights Out" Evening to draw attention to and raise awareness of consumerism and the economic power of financial withdrawal.

LS GOAL 4: The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

Goal: Encourage purchasing and lifestyle choices of individuals and parishes to align with sustainable development.

- Adopt, recognize, and celebrate the Catholic Climate Covenant's program that recognizes Laudato Si parishes and schools based on their efforts in specific areas.
- Encourage establishing Parish/School 'Shared Resources' programs that encourage a shared 'Communion of Goods' approach for wants and needs versus purchasing.
- Explore ways for families/individuals to make sustainable lifestyle choices.

LS GOAL 5: The Enhancement of Ecological Education

Goal: Educate archdiocesan agencies, parishes, and organizations about environmentally sustainable actions they can take.

- Develop LSAP teams to facilitate the involvement of parishes, schools, and archdiocesan offices. Teams would facilitate the reflection process and provide lists of possible actions related to the LS goals.
- Maintain/improve ourcommonhome.org website with resources and supporting information.
- Continue to contact and support parishes with interest in Creation Care.
- Host quarterly Zoom conference call/webinar meetings with parish representatives.
- Create communications for Lent, Earth Month, Laudato Si Week, and Season of Creation.
- Send representatives to state and national Creation Care working groups.
- Hold regular meetings of the Archdiocesan Creation Care Commission.
- Communicate resources to existing organizations within the archdiocese, such as the Office of Catholic Schools, Youth Ministry, and DREs.

LS GOAL 6: The Encouragement of Ecological Spirituality

Goal: Provide spiritual resources for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and lead the way in prayer and worship.

- Hold an annual Green Mass for the Season of Creation.
- Encourage the visitation of Sacred Spaces and hikes during the Season of Creation.
- Incorporate Creation Care into the 2024 Eucharistic Revival.

LS GOAL 7: The Growth in Community Engagement and Participatory Action

Goal: Become the voice of Pope Francis's Laudato Si' encyclical in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

- Continue working with the Indiana Catholic Conference's work at lobbying for legislation that reflects Catholic values in the State of Indiana.
- Continue to monitor state-wide environmental issues.