

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN - YEAR 3 2025

St. John Neumann Parish, Reston, Virginia, USA

Overall Goals for Year 3

Take advantage of Jubilee Year and 10th Anniversary of LS to promote integral ecology

Build collaborations with other SJN ministries to advance sustainability efforts

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Investigate possibility of being a plastic water bottle-free campus	CCH, Office Administrator, Staff, Heads of Ministries	New Investigation	Yearlong	Collaboratively developed protocol for parish events
Investigate feasibility of installing a water bottle filling station near the narthex	CCH, Facilities Manager, Office Administrator	New Investigation	Spring 2025	If feasible, new water station installed
Investigate entire building HVAC system, boiler, heat pumps, kitchen equipment, water heaters, age of roof, temperature settings	CCH, Facilities Management	New Investigation	Spring 2025	Documentation with a comprehensive list of energy-consuming equipment, age and estimated replacement date
Collect compost during events with food	CCH, Staff and Heads of Ministries	Continued Action	Yearlong	Schedule of compost dropoff arranged
Offer training in the kitchen with dishwasher and compostable use and collection.	CCH, Hispanic Ministry	Continued Action	Twice a year or more as needed	Many parishioners are trained in competent use of kitchen

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Look at ways to make our multiple and effective outreach programs more sustainable and aligned with LSi'. Meet with many ministries to see how we can collaborate and share Laudato Si' values.	CCH, Outreach Coordinator, Heads of Ministries	New Investigation	Quarterly	Meet with ministries to understand how services are offered. Provide list of sustainable suggestions if applicable.
Initiate pill bottle collection program	CCH, KOC, Parishioners	New Action	Yearlong	Clean, label-free pill bottles are collected during KOC Pancake Breakfast and mailed to Mt25.org
Hold annual Fair Trade Sale to highlight the work of artists in poor or developing countries, highlighting the dignity of work	CCH	Repeat Action	Thanksgiving	Successful market

Give donation (from Fair Trade Sale proceeds) to Catholic Relief Services for a sustainability project	CCH	Repeat Action	January 2025	Donation made
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ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Take next step on developing a voluntary carbon tax or fee program to offset carbon footprint for interested parishioners. Get suggestions for how funds will be spent. Investigate accounting system.	CCH, Accounting	New Investigation	Laudato Si' Week	Develop plan for how funds would be collected and accounted for
Develop fact sheet explaining circular vs linear economy	CCH, Communications Director	New Action	Spring	Factsheet written and shared with the parish in English and Spanish
Educate and provide tools for families to investigate divestment from banks, insurance and credit card companies that are funding fossil fuel expansion.	CCH	New Action	Summer	Fact sheet developed with background on financial divestment and links to reputable sites that rate institutions
Offer textile and e-waste collection for recycling at Green Drop or PayMore for responsible recycling. Include signage in English and Spanish.	CCH, Office Administration	Repeat Action	During Season of Creation	Proper disposal of e-waste and textiles with photos and list of items diverted from the waste stream

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Collaboratively develop a set of "minimal waste" guidelines to be used for events sponsored by the parish (and for outside groups and caterers)	CCH, Office Administrator, Staff, Heads of Ministries	New Investigation	Yearlong	Sustainability checklist and booklet prepared and in use at parish events by the end of the year
Invite a new cohort of households to join LSAP in the spring	CCH	Continued Action	Before Laudato Si' Week	New families/households enrolled in LSAP
Meet with LSAP cohorts from previous years to give guidance and build community	CCH, LSAP Households	Continued Action	Yearlong	Each household submits a new yearly action plan
Continue modeling sustainable practices during Hypothermia Prevention Shelter meals, Mardi Gras dinner, Lenten Soup suppers, and Funeral Ministry receptions	CCH, Workcamp, Outreach Coordinator, Funeral Ministry	Continued Action	Throughout the year	Reduction in waste disposal and visibility with other ministries
Grow the dishwashing ministry to allow for more sustainable use of the kitchen	CCH	Continued Action	All Year	Longer list of volunteers and closer communication with members

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION is about rethinking and redesigning curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Offer Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum study sessions in English and Spanish, included rollout, facilitator training	CCH, Hispanic Ministry, Parishioners	New Action	Spring and Fall	Study sessions planned, promoted and held
Encourage parishioners to participate in free Audubon at Home Sanctuaries for Families over the summer	CCH, Rel Ed, Parishioners	New Action	Summer	Pamphlets shared with families
Landscaping: Conduct a demonstration project at lower parking lot by planting native trees, bushes, plants appropriate for sunny and shady spots. Include signage and encourage parishioners to reduce a portion of their grassed lawn areas to improve biodiversity.	CCH, Facilities Management	Continued Action	Spring 2025	Native plants selected and planted. Photos taken. Education provided to parishioners to model at their homes.
Share list of local sharing/reuse/recycling groups make visible on website, bulletin tip	CCH	Continued Action	Laudato Si Week	List on website

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

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Organize Jubilee pilgrimage(s) for many parishioners to join	CCH, Liturgy, Rel Ed, Heads of Ministries	New Action	Yearlong	At least one pilgrimage completed
Conduct annual Season of Creation, highlighting the spiritual aspects of creation care for parishioners	CCH, Liturgy	Repeat Action	Sept 1 to Oct 4	Successful Season of Creation celebrated at Parish with many offerings
Submit intentions for Prayer of the Faithful for consideration	CCH, Liturgy	Continued Action	Monthly	Submit a list of potential intentions for use throughout the year as a resource for the Prayer of the Faithful collator of the month
Pray the "Prayer for our Earth" from Laudato Si' every day	CCH	Continued Action	Daily	Refresh schedule for one or two ministry members to pray for creation every day

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT (ADVOCACY) envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
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CRS - coordinate with VA chapter to share advocacy alerts and actions for legislation dealing with hunger and environment	CCH, VA CRS Chapter Leader	New action	Yearlong	Shared calls for action with CCH ministry members
Road cleanup along 1 mile of Lawyers Road in front of church	CCH	Continued Action	2 times per year	Submit reports to DMV
Meet with Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) to see how we can participate in advocacy efforts at the county level	CCH, FACS	Continued Action	Quarterly	Meetings held and information shared with CCH members
Encourage CCH ministry members to advocate for climate-friendly policies in the Virginia General Assembly	CCH	Continued Action	Winter	Coordination with Virginia Catholic Conference; updates provided to CCH members urging emails to local legislators
Other				
Action	Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success

Abbreviations

CCH Care for our Common Home Ministry
 CRS Catholic Relief Services
 LSAP Laudato Si' Action Platform

This plan was developed as a collaboration among the Care for Our Common Home ministry and staff leads.