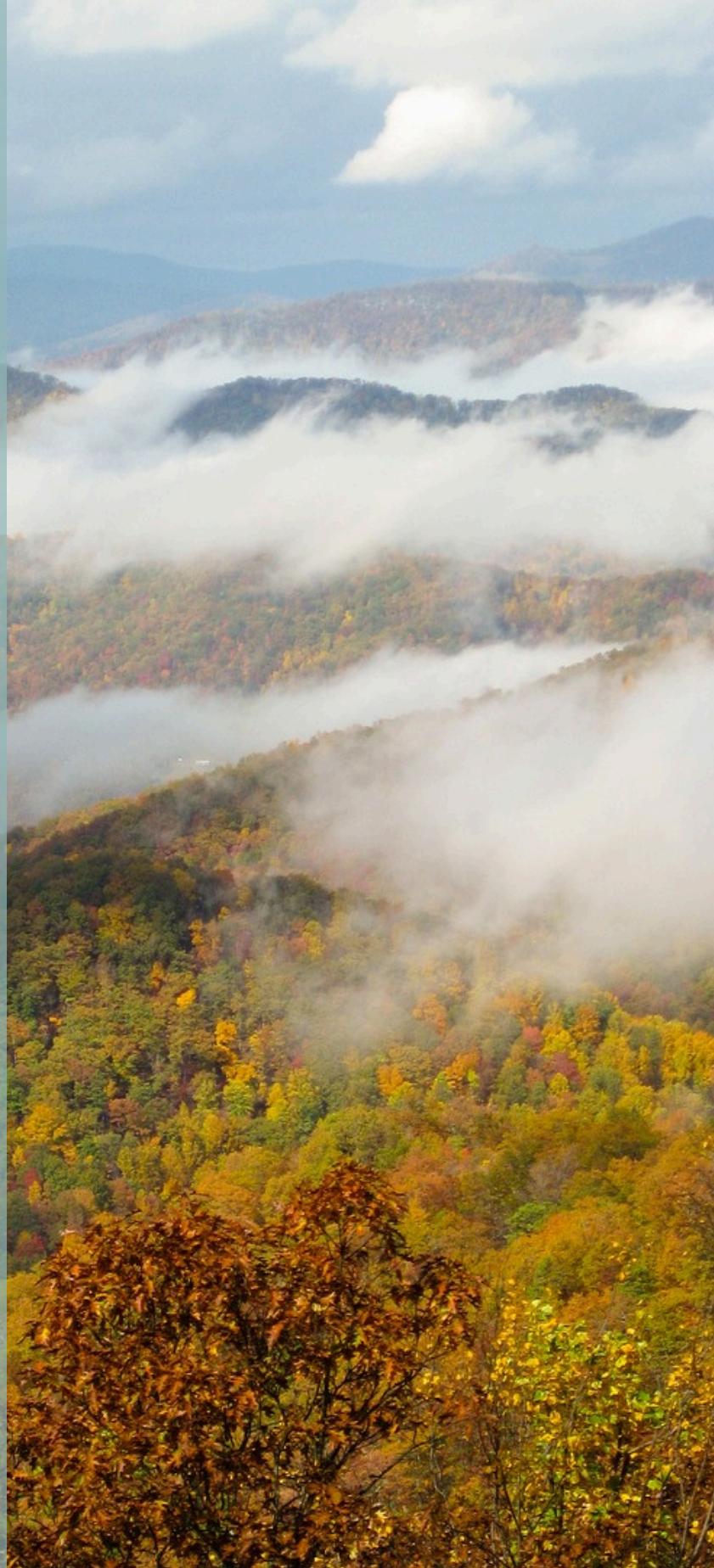


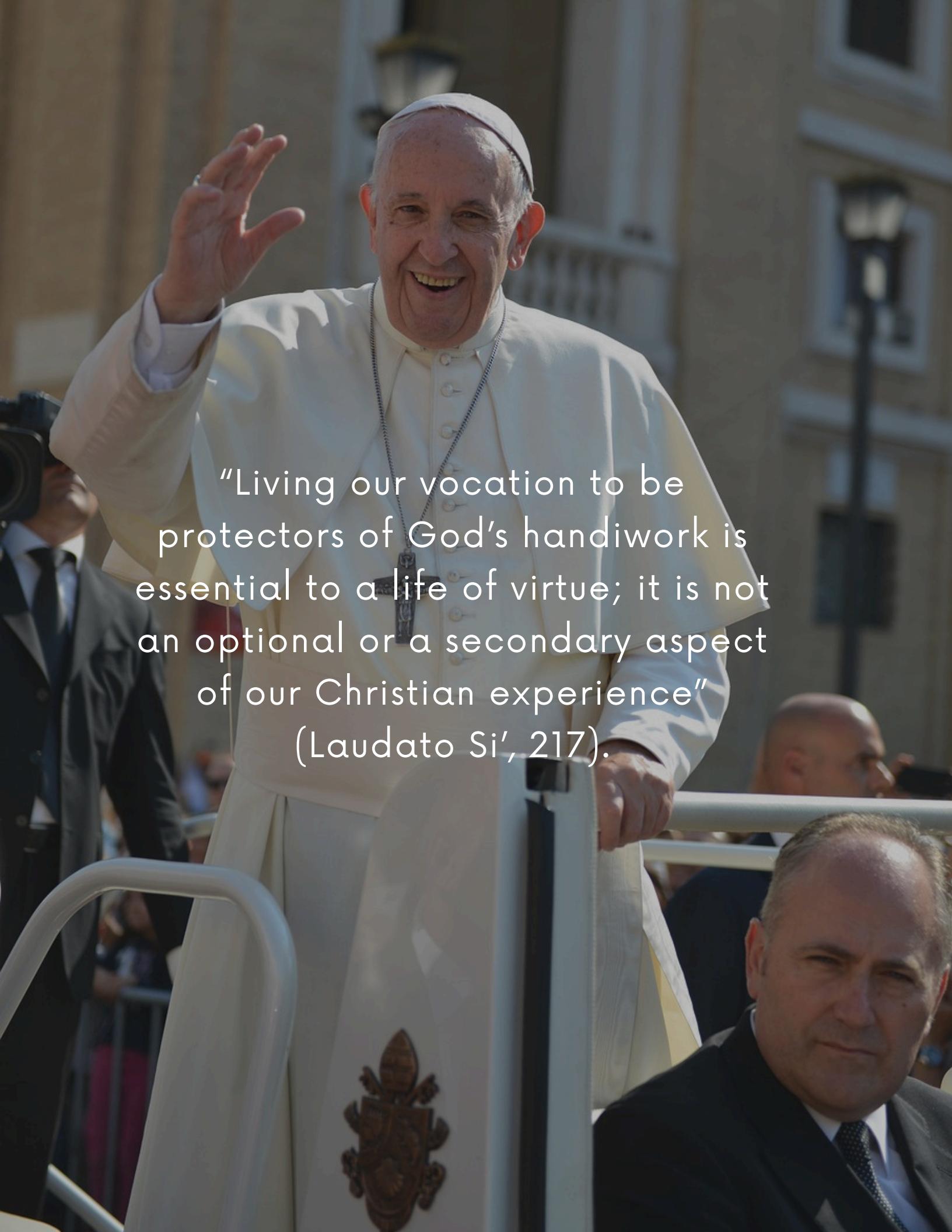


The
Catholic
Diocese of
Lexington

Laudato Si' Action Plan

January 1, 2025





"Living our vocation to be 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"
(*Laudato Si'*, 217).

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*May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
May the Lord be glad in his works! (Psalm 104: 31)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we begin the Jubilee Year of 2025, we do so rejoicing in the gift of the Savior who was born to reveal God's infinite love to the world. Early in our calendar year, the Feast of Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of this Child of Bethlehem not only as Israel's Messiah, but a gift to all of humanity. The traditional texts for the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours on Epiphany celebrates God's saving action having effect in all of creation. In the central story of the adoration of the magi from the east, a story of pagans encountering the manifestation of God in the Child Jesus, these astrologers who studied the skies were guided by a star in the heavens. The Epiphany theme is continued in Jesus' manifestation at his baptism where we see God in the flesh bathed in the River Jordan, and by doing so making the waters holy. The magnificence of all creation is renewed by the birth and manifestation of Christ. Therefore, it is fitting that we publish the Catholic Diocese of Lexington's *Laudato Si* Action Plan in this special season of Christmas on the first day of 2025.

This Action Plan can serve as a kind of a diocesan New Year's Resolution for this Jubilee Year. We may recall that in the biblical legislation about jubilee years, found in the Book of Leviticus, even the land was to lay fallow to allow it to rest and rejuvenate. There was a concern about not over-burdening the land and depleting its richness.

In the decree announcing our present Jubilee Year with the theme that "*Hope Does Not Disappoint*", the Holy Father Pope Francis reminds us that forgiveness and release from debt are always a part of a jubilee "Year of Favor", as the one announced by Jesus himself in his first sermon in the synagogue of Nazareth. The pope tells us that we can also consider that we have an "ecological debt" towards those nations who have sacrificed a great amount of their natural resources, but fail to share in the benefits their consumption has brought to some countries.

As sacred Scripture teaches, the earth is the Lord's and all of us dwell in it as "aliens and tenants" (*Lev 25:23*). If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry (*Spes non confundi*, #16).

It is therefore in the spirit of the Jubilee and of our ongoing commitment to cherish the gifts of creation and the inter-relatedness of all life, that I am very happy to present this *Laudato Si* Action Plan for the Catholic Diocese of Lexington.

This plan illustrates in a beautiful way how the diocese really consists of its parish and mission communities in right relationship with each other. At the conclusion of the Season of Creation last year on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, each of our parishes and missions presented a plan for implementing our Catholic teaching on the environment in their own local setting. These parishes and missions had their *Laudato Si* teams come together in the fall and study the plans of each parish/mission which were shared with the other parishes and missions of their deanery. Together, along with some of the policies and practices already underway at the Catholic Center in Lexington, these parish and mission plans contribute to our diocesan plan shared here. I am proud of the good work and the deep discussions that led to the creation of these various plans. It is very inspiring to see how many people participated in this process. I pray that we may continue to engage more and more people from our faith community and beyond in the critically important work of caring for creation.

In addition to the parish plans, as a diocese we have already committed to being Net-Zero by the Year 2030 and are actively planning and working to meet that goal. We regularly monitor all diocesan investments to make sure that they are not with companies whose practices are harming the environment.

May 2025 truly be a year of Jubilee, of rejoicing in God's goodness, and of committing ourselves even more fully to freeing creation from its slavery to overconsumption by human beings. May the Spirit of the Lord be upon us as the Spirit was upon Jesus, who proclaimed a year acceptable to the Lord (*Luke 4:19*), and may our work for the health of our planet be found pleasing and acceptable in God's eyes.

Thank you to everyone who has participated actively in the work of implementing *Laudato Si*. May the conversion of hearts and minds to the care of our common home also empower us to work for policy changes on state, national, and global scales, so that God's creation may be enjoyed and appreciated by future generations.

Peace and all good,



Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

The Catholic Diocese of Lexington Laudato Si' Action Plan

In his 2015 Encyclical, Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home, Pope Francis states that "Living our vocation to be 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" (217).

These words remind us that our call to care for creation is an essential part of Christian life and the life of the Church. In his 2023 Apostolic Exhortation, Laudate Deum, Pope Francis makes plain that this vocation requires the Church, at every level, to take bold, urgent, and faith-filled action.

In response to this call, and with firm trust in the work of the Holy Spirit, the Diocese of Lexington marks the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si' with its Laudato Si' Action Plan. The plan is comprised of two main components: 1) Diocesan Commitments and 2) Laudato Si Action Plans from all 59 parishes/missions.

Diocesan Commitments

The Diocese of Lexington is committed to Net-Zero by 2030, as announced in 2024, for its scope two emissions. The Diocese is also committed to ensuring that its investments align with its values and promote care for creation. Additionally, as of March 1, 2024, the Chancery implemented The Catholic Center's Commitment to Care for Creation: Policies, Guidelines, and Next Steps. This Catholic Center Commitment, along with a description of the Net-Zero Commitment, can be found in the final section of this plan.

Parish Plans

The second dimension of the plan is the parish Laudato Si' Action Plans from all 59 parishes/missions. These plans articulate how each faith community, in its own context and with God's people, plans to pursue the Seven Goals of Laudato Si' in simple and profound ways. All plans can be found in the pages that follow.

The Parish Laudato Si' Action Planning Process

Bearing in mind the diversity of communities across the Diocese, the parish Laudato Si' planning process aimed to create a simple process in which all parishes could participate. The process emphasized subsidiarity, co-responsibility, capacity building, and concrete action.

The parish planning process consisted of the following steps:

- On Pentecost, May 19, 2024, each parish received a letter from Bishop John Stowe introducing the planning process.
- Each Pastor/ Parish Life Director was asked to enroll their parish in the Laudato Si' Action Platform and assembled a Laudato Si' Action Team. Teams consist of the Pastor/PLD and at least two other parishioners.

- Laudato Si' Action Teams completed the Diocesan parish assessment based on the Seven Goals of Laudato Si and hosted at least one parish-wide listening session.
- The Diocese provided seven webinars to support parish teams: Introduction and Enrolling in the Laudato Si' Action Platform, Conducting a Listening Session, Integrating Laudato Si' in Preaching and Liturgical Celebrations, Greening Our Parish Facilities, Developing Parish Policy and Guidelines, Encountering Affected Communities: The Global Reality of the Climate Crisis, Making a Laudato Si' Action Plan.
- Teams developed their plans and appointed a Laudato Si' Coordinator. The coordinator is charged with overseeing the implementation of the plan, monitoring progress, and each year during the Season of Creation, updating and evaluating the plan with support from the Diocesan Office of Peace and Justice.
- By October 4, 2024, all teams submitted their plans to Bishop John Stowe.
- On November 23, 2024, teams gathered for the first annual Laudato Si' Action Team Assembly. This was a time of prayer, reflection, and collaboration in deanery groups.

Laudato Si' Action Platform and the Seven Goals of Laudato Si'

The Diocese of Lexington is enrolled in the Laudato Si' Action Platform and requested that each parish enroll as well. The Laudato Si' Action Platform is an initiative of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development with the goal of helping create Laudato Si' Action Plans based on the Seven Goals of Laudato Si.'

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

The 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.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

The 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.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

Ecological economics acknowledges that the economy plays an important role in protecting the well-being of our common home. Actions could include purchasing sustainability produced goods, ethical investments, and protecting the dignity of workers.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

The adoption of sustainable lifestyles is grounded in the idea that in our personal lives and in parish life, we can make intentional choices regarding our use of resources and energy that can promote the well-being of the planet.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

Ecological education prioritizes formation and educational opportunities that promote ecological awareness and transformative action.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

Ecological spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to discover God in all things.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

Community resilience and empowerment promotes active and conscious involvement and participatory action to care for creation at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

The Parish Plan Format

Informed by the parish assessment and listening session, each parish plan is comprised of two main elements: the Laudato Si' Statement and Parish Commitments. The Parish Laudato Si Statement articulates why caring for creation is important to the parish community. The Parish Commitments are new or continued concrete undertakings discerned by the teams. Parish teams were asked to follow the acronym SMART when developing their commitments. Commitments should be **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant to the Goals of Laudato Si', and **T**ime-bound. Having measurable goals with timeframes will help each parish monitor their progress and, each year during the Season of Creation, update and evaluate their plans.

Building Capacity for Laudato Si' Ministry

The development of this Laudato Si' Action Plan offered an opportunity to engage the faithful in our Church communities, fostered participation and co-responsibility, and in many cases, called forth new leadership from among parishioners. The newly assembled Laudato Si' groups at parishes testify to the possibility of renewal, evangelization, and engagement through our care for creation ministries. The Diocesan Office of Peace and Justice will continue to support Laudato Si' coordinators, their teams, and parish leadership as they bring their Laudato Si' Action Plans to life in their home communities. This is only a beginning. We will work together to learn and grow as we implement our plans, opening our hearts to being transformed by the Spirit along the way. The Diocesan Laudato Si' Commission will also continue to offer Diocesan-wide programming in which parishes may take part, including the Appalachian Immersion Experience. Though each plan and each parish community is unique, we stand in prayerful solidarity with one another as we embrace the "vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork" in new ways across the 50 counties of the Diocese of Lexington.

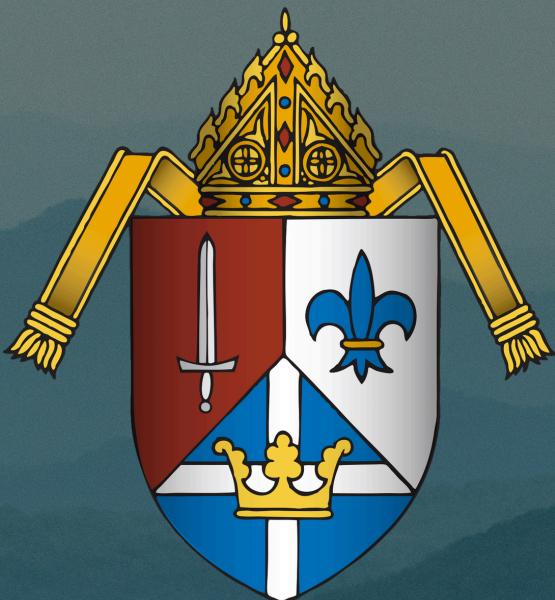
This Laudato Si' Action Plan is a product of prayer, preaching, listening, sharing, and discernment in every parish in our Diocese, the Catholic Schools, and among Chancery staff and Diocesan leadership. This plan speaks to the Holy Spirit's activity among the People of God. For this, we give thanks. With joyful hearts, we echo the words of St. Francis in his Canticle of the Creatures, "*Laudato Si', mi' Signore!*" (*Praise be to you, my Lord!*).

Contact: Catholic Diocese of Lexington Office of Peace and Justice

Joshua van Cleef, Director

jvancleef@cdlex.org

(859) 253-1993 ext. 1040



FAYETTE DEANERY

The Cathedral of Christ the King
St. Paul
Holy Spirit/Newman Center
Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary
Pax Christi
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. Peter
St. Peter Claver
Dean: Fr. Charles Howell

**Cathedral of Christ the King
Christ the King School**
299 Colony Blvd. Lexington, KY 40502

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Care of Creation is important to the parish of the Cathedral of Christ the King because the most tangible way we can demonstrate our love for God and Neighbor is by loving and protecting the natural world, of which we are all an integral part. We cannot authentically love God and our Neighbor while simultaneously degrading the natural world. Consequently, our parish embraces a Life of Love by committing to significant yet sustainable changes that reduce our impact on the natural world and respond to "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Distribute a comprehensive survey to all parish ministry leaders to share each of the seven Laudato Si' goals and gauge the ministry leaders' level of commitment to the Laudato Si' initiative. The survey is the first step in an ongoing dialogue between the Laudato Si' Action Team and ministry leaders about making significant yet sustainable changes consistent with Pope Francis' call to action in Laudato Si' and the parish's Laudato Si' Action Plan. The survey embraces all seven goals of the Action Plan.

Timeframe: November 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Rebecca McGrail

Commitment: Apply to the "Green Check Lexington" certification program which will formally guide the parish's efforts to engage in more ecologically friendly practices via assessment and implementation protocol with the assistance and oversight of LFUCG staff. The parish office, church, and school will all participate in the certification process.

Timeframe: Application due 1/15/2025 (internal deadline: 12/1/2024)

Person or Group Responsible: Deborah Gana and Angela Minella

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Gather referrals and resources for people searching for household goods, clothing, etc., including networking with parishioners who have items to donate that specifically meet expressed needs.

Timeframe: 2/1/2025

Person or group: Rebecca McGrail

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Apply to the "Green Check Lexington" certification program which will formally guide the parish's efforts to engage in more ecologically friendly practices via

assessment and implementation protocol with the assistance and oversight of LFUCG staff. The parish office, church, and school will all participate in the certification process.

Timeframe: Application to program due 1/15/2025 (internal deadline: 12/1/2024)

Person or Group Responsible: Deborah Gona and Angela Minella

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Apply to the "Green Check Lexington" certification program which will formally guide the parish's efforts to engage in more ecologically friendly practices via assessment and implementation protocol with the assistance and oversight of LFUCG staff. The parish office, church, and school will all participate in the certification process.

Timeframe: Application to program due 1/15/2025 (internal deadline: 12/1/2024)

Person or Group Responsible: Deborah Gona and Angela Minella

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Form a study group for the parish to read and discuss both Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum. Leaders of the groups will not only focus on the substantive and spiritual messages of Pope Francis' writings but specific ways those messages can lead to tangible and beneficial change.

Timeframe: March 2025

Person or Group Responsible: John Yopp and Angela Minella

Commitment: The Laudato Si' Action Team will meet bimonthly to read and discuss Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum to gain a better understanding of the writings for educational and spiritual formation purposes and to prepare for the parish-wide study groups forming in March 2025.

Timeframe: Fall 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Derek Van Daniker, Rebecca McGrail, John Yopp, Deborah Gona, Angela Minella, and Ralph Clark

Commitment: The parish website will contain a specific page devoted to Care of Creation in which web links and other educational resources will be posted regarding Laudato Si', Laudate Deum, activities in furtherance of the Laudato Si' Action Plan, symposiums (in-person and virtual), news articles, messages from Pope Francis and Bishop John, study group opportunities, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Timeframe: January 1, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Deborah Gona

Commitment: The parish bulletin will contain concise summaries, broken into chapters, of Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum, over the next several months. After the summaries have reached their conclusion, the bulletins will contain, indefinitely, a small Laudato Si' Action Team section in which something is shared - a quote, a prayer, a picture, an opportunity - that will remind the parish of the importance of keeping our natural world in heart and mind and encourage participation in actions and activities stemming from the Laudato Si' Action Plan.

Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: John Yopp and Angela Minella

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Petitions centered on Care of Creation regularly included in The Prayer of the Faithful. Also, initiate dialogue with other clergy about possible Sunday Homily centered on Care of Creation.

Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Derek Van Daniker

Commitment: Form of study group for the parish to read and discuss both Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum. Leaders of the groups will not only focus on the substantive and spiritual messages of Pope Francis' writings but specific ways those messages can lead to tangible and beneficial change.

Timeframe: March 2025

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Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: John Yopp and Angela Minella

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Gathering to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si'. Gathering will include prayer, readings, Laudato Si' Action Plan progress discussion, and refreshments.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Derek Van Daniker, Rebecca McGrail, John Yopp, Deborah Gona, Angela Minella, and Ralph Clark

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Derek Van Daniker

Team Members: Fr. Derek Van Daniker, Rebecca McGrail, John Yopp, Deborah Gana, Angela Minella, and Ralph Clark

St. Paul

501 W. Main Street Lexington, KY 40507

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Care of creation is important to St. Paul Catholic Church as a form of outreach to the entire community including our local neighbors, but also our neighbors throughout the state, nation, and globe. The Earth is our common home and caring for it means caring for all the people, plants, and animals within it. At St. Paul, we seek justice for all, especially the marginalized, and caring for all creation ensures the problems and challenges of all people are addressed.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Convert our daily lunch distribution from plastic bags to paper. We will encourage our parishioners who currently donate plastic bags to the lunch program to recycle the bags at Kroger's and work toward reusable bags in their own grocery buying.

Timeframe: This is currently in early stages of implementation and will continue.

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Team, Communications Team and Open Door Lunch Ministry

Commitment: Encourage environmentally conscious landscaping throughout the upcoming plaza project.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year(s) as the Community Plaza Committee works on the project.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and the Community Plaza Committee

Commitment: Conduct an energy audit.

Timeframe: This will take place in the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and the Property Committee

Commitment: Encourage the use of energy efficient lighting. Some lighting has already been changed to more energy efficient fixtures and/or bulbs, and we will work toward more efficiency in the remaining lighting over the next year and all new lighting going forward.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and the Property Committee

Commitment: Investigate solar power for the next year with the goal of adding solar power.

Timeframe: Next 3-5 years

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and the Property Committee

Commitment: Encourage a carpooling initiative among parishioners for weekend Masses.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Host a community-building dinner on a regular basis for our housed and unhoused neighbors, hoping to encourage connections between all members of our community.
Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Commitment: Develop an emergency fund for people in need to be administered at the Pastor's discretion.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Team, Finance Council, and Communications Team

Commitment: Continue to support the Catholic Action Center and commit to explore more ways we can work with them.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team

Commitment: Better implement the Rice Bowl Program, with increased presentation and participation.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team will be responsible for this commitment.

Commitment: Continue our sleeping bag initiative for the homeless, collecting and distributing zero-degree sleeping bags for our unhoused neighbors.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Work toward more locally produced food for our lunch ministry and parish functions.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team, the Communications team, the Open Door Lunch Ministry, and the Knights of Columbus will be responsible for this commitment.

Commitment: Make cleaning products in-house for use in the parish. This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team will be responsible for this commitment.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Convert to reusable coffee mugs for the post-Mass coffee and donuts.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and the Coffee and Donut Committee

Commitment: Eliminate Styrofoam containers at parish functions.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team, the Knights of Columbus, the Bereavement Committee, and the Coffee and Donut Committee

Commitment: Encourage recycling throughout the parish, including electronics recycling.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Commitment: Install a water fountain in the plaza area for guests' refillable water bottles.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year(s).

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Committee and the Community Plaza Committee

Commitment: Use sustainably sourced office supplies in the Parish Office.

Timeframe: This is ongoing.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and the office staff

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Encourage parish participation in the Appalachian Immersion Pilgrimages as well as Diocesan Laudato Si' and Season of Creation events.

Timeframe: Next year

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Commitment: Explore local ecological educational opportunities offered by the numerous universities and environmental entities in the Fayette County region.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Commitment: Better promotion of Catholics at the Capitol.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Commitment: Provide ecological education through a dedicated bulletin section, providing tips and information, as well as upcoming events and educational opportunities.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Encourage ecological spirituality through homilies, bulletin reflections, and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Pastoral Team

Commitment: Plan events for the Season of Creation, Earth Day, Pet Day, and other outdoor events focused on Care for Creation.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Commitment: Watch "The Letter" and have discussions on Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Commitment: Have an ecological Stations of the Cross.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Form a Peace and Justice Committee.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Commitment: Reestablish a BUILD team.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team and Communications Team

Commitment: Work with interfaith groups on Care for Creation, as well as the city's various offices of sustainability and community support.

Timeframe: This will take place over the next year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team

Commitment: Become more aware of housing issues and solutions in the Lexington area.

Timeframe: This comprehensive housing awareness program will take place over the next 3-5 years.

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Team

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Dcn. Steve Hester

Team Members: Williams Atkinson, Bill Stoops, Mary Lou White, Tony Rocca Nova, Ryan Turpin, Mick Seither, Laura Hester

Holy Spirit Parish/Newman Center of the University of Kentucky
320 Rose Lane Lexington, KY 40508

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” (Laudato Si’, 160)

The Holy Spirit Parish Newman Center of the University of Kentucky recognizes that our interconnectedness makes Care for Creation a practical and spiritual imperative. We understand that environmental harm disproportionately affects marginalized communities, exacerbating existing injustices and inequities and that our planet belongs to all and is meant for all. We recognize our collective responsibility for the actions or inactions that cause damage to our Common Home and our neighbors, and we commit to leading an ecological conversion for positive change within our community. Guided by hope, perseverance, creativity, and action, we aim to foster a more just society where all of God’s Creation thrives.

Together, the Holy Spirit Parish Newman Center cares for Creation by creating opportunities for work and opportunities for wonder that lead to a sustainable and thriving planet for those who come after us. We commit to making Care for Creation a part of our parish identity and to engage in local, state, and federal efforts to protect our Common Home.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Nick McDowell

Team Members: Fr. Anthony McLaughlin, Susanne Arnold, Maria Bane, Ian Colten. Angela Minella, Art Mize, Njahi Mwangala, Cynthia Smith, Kevin Steele, Diane Timmons

We commit to the following efforts to embrace these goals as a parish:

Abbreviations: LSA – Laudato Si’ Action, NC – Holy Spirit Parish Newman Center.

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Abbreviations: LSA – Laudato Si Action, NC – Holy Spirit Parish Newman Center

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth						
Action	Responsible Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success	Shared with Parish	Laudato Si Strategic Goal
Elevate the Laudato Si Action (LSA) Team to a Newman Center (NC) committee, with a Chair, Co-Chair, and charter.	Fr. Anthony Parish Council	New Action	2025	LSA Committee formed	Bulletin and website	Ecological Conversion Prophetic Advocacy
Advise the NC Building Committee on ways to maximize sustainability of new building (begun Fall 2024). Review of the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce heat and cooling loss • Efficient HVAC and other energy timer equipment • Climate conscious building materials including “cool roof” to reflect sunlight and absorb less solar energy. • Ventilation • Permeable surfaces • Native landscaping • Preservation of tree canopy • Geothermal and Solar initiatives • Automation systems for scheduling and control of HVAC • 100% LED fixtures • Hand dryers • Water bottle fillers 	LSA Team NC Building Committee	New Action HIGH PRIORITY	2025 - 2027	Sustainable building plans reviewed Suggestions from LSA Team send to Building Committee for consideration Application for grants to assist with permeable pavers	Bulletin and building committee publicity	Full Sustainability
Consideration of adding a LSA Team member to the Building Committee	Fr. Anthony	New Action	2025	Member added	Building Comm.	Ecological Conversion
Investigate collaboration with UK-based composting program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create composting collection system for NC • Include composting option for food waste and compostable products for all NC events • Leverage UK composting resources 	Diane Timmons Art Mize	New Investigation	2026	LSA Team determines best option and NC composting program is developed	Bulletin Website	Full Sustainability
Promote bike riding (ex: Newman Community Bicycle Rides; Bike rentals program) (began in	Kevin Steele	Completed/ Ongoing (new	2025 and annually	Evidence of bikes and usage	Bulletin Social media	Full Sustainability

2019)		building)			Tip of the Week	
Encourage walking/carpooling and ride sharing for events at NC, on campus or in the community for all parishioners (began in 2023)	Student leaders	Completed / Ongoing	2025 and annually	Student leaders report at staff meeting	Bulletin Website Word of mouth	Full Sustainability
Increase electrification of lawn equipment (have electric mower, weed eater since 2023)	Jim Musgove	Completed/ Ongoing	2025 and annually	Evidence electric equipment in use	Highlight on social media	Full Sustainability
Coordinate parish actions to reduce and clean up litter such as: Town Branch Watershed Creek Sweep/ Keep Lexington Beautiful, trash clean-up on student hikes such as Cumberland Falls State Park (ongoing since 2000).	Kevin Steele, Maria Bane Callahan Perry Nathan Lancaster Anne Marie Doxtader	Ongoing/ Annual	2025 and annually	Attendance at scheduled events	Bulletin Website Narthex	Ecological Conversion Prophetic Advocacy Full Sustainability
Spring Break Mission Trips focused on Laudato Si Goals (ongoing since 2004).	Kevin Steele	Ongoing/ Annual	2025 and annually	Attendance on Spring Break Trips	Bulletin Website Narthex Social media	Ecological Conversion Full Sustainability Prophetic Advocacy
Participate in community reforestation efforts to improve tree canopy (ex: Laudato Si tree planting, Reforest the Bluegrass, Trees Lexington, etc.) Ongoing since 2024	Kevin Steele Maria Bane	New Action	2025 and annually	NC participation in events	Bulletin Website Narthex	Full Sustainability
Create an annual survey for parish and staff on Laudato Si Actions and gather data from action item leaders	Nick McDowell	New Action	2025 2027	Survey occurs	LSA Team annual evaluation	Ecological Conversion
Develop meeting schedule for LSA Team and other ministry leaders and staff at least biannually	Nick McDowell	New Action	2025, and annually	Meetings occur	Staff meeting LSA Team meetings	Ecological Conversion
Hold an annual retreat including staff and LSA Team to address to promote integration of Laudato Si initiatives into all areas of the parish	Fr. Anthony Nick McDowell Maria Bane	New Action	2025 and biannually	Retreat occurs annually	Staff meeting	Ecological Conversion
Explore ways to highlight Laudato Si projects on the property to alert our community of our efforts	Diane Timmons	New Investigation	2025	Signs present in yard	Signs Social media	Ecological Conversion

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

Action	Responsible Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success	Shared with Parish	Laudato Si Strategic Goal
Newman Center sponsored Habitat for Humanity project (ongoing since 2010 Opening Day for NC build is 10/12/24)	Ryan Hughes Kevin Steele NC Habitat for Humanity team	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Home built annually NC volunteers	Pictures in Narthex Website Bulletin Announced at mass	Ecological Conversion Prophetic Advocacy
Provide opportunities to support charities through second collections (ongoing since 1960):	Office Staff Diocese of Lexington	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Evidence of second collections focused on the poor	Volunteers Bulletin Announced at mass	Prophetic Advocacy
• Catholic Action Center						
• Catholic Charities						
• Catholic Relief Services,						
• Catholic Campaign for Human Development						
Update and revise the Support Services section of our website and provide numbers served, funds raised, etc.	Leah Smith LSA Team	New Action	2025	Revised section of the website written by LSA Team; shared with Leah	Website	Prophetic Advocacy
Participate in the UK Sustainability Program Thrift Shop Pop-Up by seeking donations to promote reusing clothing	Beth Graham Student Leaders	New Action	Spring 2025	Donations from parish	Bulletin Social media	Full Sustainability
Support BUILD priorities focused on the poor (began 2000):	Katherine Goetz Lynn English	Ongoing	2025 and annually	BUILD annual report	Mass Bulletin Narthex Social media	Ecological Conversion Prophetic Advocacy
• Affordable housing						
• Healthcare for uninsured						
• Code enforcement in trailer parks						
• Ex-offender reentry						
• Public Transportation						
Rice Bowl participation during Lent (2000 to present)	Parish Office	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Donations from parish	Bulletin Narthex	Prophetic Advocacy
Fasting boxes to help Eastern KY and increase parish emergency funds for the needy (began 2024)	Parish Office Pastor	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Donations from parish	Bulletin	Ecological Conversion Full Sustainability Prophetic

Refugee ministries to support displaced persons (began in 2016)	Nancy Herring Sr. Ellen NC refugee ministry team	Ongoing / New Investigation	2025 and annually	Refugees served	Bulletin Website	Prophetic Advocacy
Communicate with Catholic Conference of Kentucky political issues and advocacy that are relevant to Laudato Si principles (ex: writing campaign, Catholics at the Capitol)	Susanne Arnold Scott Porter Aaron Hall	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Parish made aware of issues	Bulletin Website	Full Prophetic Advocacy
Reinitiate the NC Spaghetti Dinner- those who stay to do dishes/ clean up eat free!	Ian Colten Kevin Steele Parish volunteers	Ongoing / New Action	2025 and annually	Evidence of Spaghetti Dinner restart	Website Narthex Social media	Full Sustainability
Giving Tree initiative at Christmas to donate items to the needy (began in 2010)	Parish Office	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Christmas items donated	Bulletin	Full Sustainability Prophetic Advocacy
Warm Up America – knits clothing for the needy (began in 2010)	Pat Dillon	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Knitted clothing donated	Sign-Up Sunday	Full Sustainability
Prayers for the poor (focused petitions) (began 1960, when the NC was formed as the first parish in the U.S. established specifically for the needs of Catholic students at a secular university)	Petition writers	New Initiative	2025 and annually	Petitions	Mass	Ecological Conversion
Goal 3: Ecological Economics						
Action	Responsible Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success	Shared with Parish	Laudato Si Strategic Goal
Have Appalachian Science Group conduct an Energy Audit	Jim Musgove Ian Colten LSA Team	New Action	2025 2030 and then every ten years	Compared to baseline, set goals for reducing and maintaining reduced energy	Annual evaluation from LSA team	Full Sustainability

				consumption		
Create an inventory for intentional deconstruction of NC spaces scheduled for demolition	Building committee, LSA team, all parish staff	New Action HIGH PRIORITY	Inventory by January or February 2025	Inventory created and sent to Omni	Bulletin Volunteer offering	Ecological Conversion Full Sustainability Prophetic Advocacy
• Save items to donate and/or reuse						
• Appropriate disposal						
• Recycle						
Develop a vendors list to improve sustainably produced items for parish events such as:	Ian Colten Office staff student ministry staff, FOCUS ministers	Ongoing / New Action	2025 and annually	Line item available on budget	Bulletin Email	Full Sustainability
• Locally produced						
• Fair Trade Products						
• Green products						
• Compostable/ recyclable						
Example events:						
• Appreciation Dinner						
• Fellowship Sundays						
• Spaghetti Dinner						
• K Week						
Engage Diocesan grant writer to assist with payment of these initiatives (ex: permeable pavers, etc.).	Susanne Arnold LSA Team	New Action/ New Investigation	2025 and annually	Apply for ≥ 1 grant	Grant success in bulletin	Full Sustainability
Include Laudato Si as a line item in the annual budget, for the “most needed” sustainability item for the year as determined by the LSA Team	Fr. Anthony and Finance Council	New Action HIGH PRIORITY	2025 budget	Existence of LS line item	Finance Council informed	Full Sustainability
Support businesses that are sustainably focused (i.e., members of Green Check)	Parish Office Parish with support of LSA Team	New Action	2026	Evidence of engagement	Preferred businesses to office Tip of the Week	Full Sustainability Ecological Conversion
Become a Green Check Certified Parish	Nick McDowell LSA Team Parish Office	New Action	2025 and annually	Achieving Green Check Certified	Bulletin, website	Full Sustainability
Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles						
Action	Responsible Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success	Shared with Parish	Laudato Si Strategic Goal
Form a Building Subcommittee including members with appropriate expertise focused on retrofit of existing NC spaces to reduce energy	LSA Team Chair of Building	New investigation/ New Action	2025 for subcommittee forming	Formation of subcommittee	Bulletin board	Ecological Conversion Full

	Committee	HIGH PRIORITY	2025 and ongoing	Rolling timeline for repair or replacement as indicated with each element	Results of periodic energy audit	Progress reports shared with parish	Sustainability
and water consumption as repairs/ replacements are needed:							
• Low flow toilets & sinks (2025-26)							
• Hand dryers instead of paper towels (2025 purchases)							
• Energy star appliances (ongoing new purchases)							
• 100% LED lightbulbs (2024-2025)							
• Motion sensors for lighting (2025)							
• Building automation system (planned)							
• High efficiency condensing boiler							
• High efficiency chiller							
• High efficiency package rooftop units							
• Water fountains/ bottle fillers (planned)							
• Heating/cooling set points, use of fans, etc.							
Develop a NC endowment for funding Laudato Si initiatives	Development Officer Finance Council	New Action HIGH PRIORITY	2025 and annually	Endowment exists	Bulletin Website	Full Sustainability	
Reduce single-use items for Parish events and daily operations:	Parish Office and LSA team	New Action HIGH PRIORITY	2025 and annually	Line item in budget	Bulletin Staff meeting Educate teams		
• Use and wash dishes for events < 50 people							
• Purchase compostable/ recyclable cutlery/ plates/ cups/ napkins for events > 50 people							
• Encourage use of reusable water bottles and bottle fillers							
Purchase commercial dishwasher for kitchen space	Susanne Arnold	New Action HIGH PRIORITY	2025	Presence of new dishwasher	Bulletin		
Improve consistency of recycling and composting	Sr. EllenLSA Team	New Action HIGH PRIORITY	2025 and ongoing	Evidence of appropriate recycling	Bulletin Events evaluated for success Audit by LSA Team	Ecological Conversion Full Sustainability	
• Increase recycling receptacles							
• Improve consistent labeling/ signage							
• Improve accessibility at parish events							
• Staff parish events with volunteers to help manage waste/ compost/ recycling							
Form a new gardening team to operationalize planned sustainable and native landscaping, pollinator plants, rainwater harvesting and elimination of pesticides/fertilizers	Diane Timmons Art Mize	New Action	2026	Landscape plan for building	Bulletin, Pictures drawings in Narthex	Ecological Conversion Full Sustainability	
Improve sustainability of office supplies through:	Parish Office	Ongoing	2025 and ongoing	New recycling containers in	Parish staff meeting	Full Sustainability	
• Purchase office supplies made from natural							

			office	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> or recyclable materials Limit length of documents Distribute items electronically where possible Refill or recycle ink cartridges, recycle electronics 				
Increase the number of recycling containers throughout the church	Office Staff LSA Team	New Action	2025 and annually	Evidence of increased recycling containers
Battery recycling (ongoing since Oct 2023)	Nick McDowell and live-streaming team	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Ongoing
Engage with cleaning contractor to replace chemical cleaning products with eco-friendly alternatives (where possible)	LSA Team Cleaning Contractor Jim Musgove	New Action	2025-2026	Transition to green cleaning products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glass cleaner Soaps and detergents Chemical cleaners 				
Focus on reduction of food waste	Parish student ministry	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Decreased waste in kitchen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donate event leftovers to CAC, students, parishioners with system to identify them as available Avoid over-buying Encourage potluck style events where people take home what they brought or send leftovers home with participants Reduce number of processed foods purchased/ provided Provide sustainable to go boxes 	NC staff FOCUS ministers			Availability of sustainable to go boxes
Send NC used candles to smaller parishes to be reused (ongoing since 2020)	Peggy Saunier	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Use by other parishes
Consider developing a swap list to share trade items amongst parishioners	Cynthia Smith	New Investigation	2025 and annually	<p>Parish staff meeting Bulletin</p> <p>Full Sustainability Prophetic Advocacy</p> <p>Full Sustainability</p>

Goal 5: Ecological Education						
Action	Responsible Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success	Shared with Parish	Laudato Si Strategic Goal
NC Tree Walk around our church property	Kevin Steele	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Number of participants	Bulletin, social media, email	Ecological Conversion
Post a Care for Creation Tip of the Week (began summer 2024) and a mechanism for personal accountability via individual pledges to improve sustainability	Susanne Arnold Jim Musgove	Completed HIGH PRIORITY	2025 and annually	Presence of Tip of the Week	Bulletin chalk board in lobby; QR code to Google doc	Ecological Conversion Full Sustainability
Incorporate justice and care for our common home into faith formation programs (youth, adults, RCIA, students, etc.) at least annually	Art Mize Kevin Steele Sr. Ellen, CCD teachers, Student leaders	New Action	Spring 2025	Adult ed schedule, Evidence of curriculum for Laudato Si in CCD	Via educational events	Ecological Conversion Prophetic Advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Diocesan Laudato Si Commission speaker • Request relevant Distinguished Speaker from Newman Foundation, Inc. • Include Care for Creation in CCD curriculum and adult ed • Invite UK's Sustainable Office on Recycling <p>CCD high school students will adopt in a locally, underserved community or cause</p>	Sr. Ellen and CCD teachers	New Action	2025 and annually	Evidence of adoption of a cause by students	Website, Narthex, Bulletin	Ecological Conversion Prophetic Advocacy
Petitions written by CCD students quarterly to address Laudato Si goals	Sr. Ellen and teachers	New Action	2025 and annually	Each class writes one petition annually	Masses	Ecological Conversion

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

Action	Responsible Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success	Shared with Parish	Laudato Si Strategic Goal
Music selections addressing Care of Creation for prelude/ POG at all masses (completed Sept. 1-Oct. 4, 2024)	Mary Weber Bane and music ministers	Ongoing / New Action	Sept 1-Oct 4, 2025, and annually	At least 1 CoC selection at each mass	Mass	Ecological Conversion
Add specific Care of Creation prayers of the faithful (completed Sept 1-Oct 4, 2024)	Petition writers and Mary Weber Bane	Ongoing / New Action	Sept 1-Oct 4, 2025, and annually	Inclusion of at least one CoC petition at mass	Mass	Ecological Conversion
Hold an Earth Day Mass	Parish Office Calendar; Pastor/ priest	Ongoing	Earth Day: April 22, 2025, and annually	Mass occurs	Bulletin Mass email	Ecological Conversion
Prayers for Care of Creation available in lobby	Mary Weber Bane; Susanne Arnold	Ongoing	Sept 1 – Oct 4, 2025 and annually	Prayer(s) distributed to parish	Printed prayers in Nartherx	Ecological Conversion
Incorporate outdoor spaces into liturgy (ex: Easter Vigil fire, Palm Sunday processional, Midnight Mass fire and lighting of candles)	Mary Weber Bane, Pastor/ priest	Completed / Ongoing	Palm Sunday Easter Vigil Midnight Mass (annual)	Some portion of the liturgy takes place outdoors	Participation during mass	Ecological Conversion
Blessing of pets (outdoors on Newman Center lawn or courtyard)	Pastor/ priest	Ongoing	On or around Feast of Saint Francis (Oct 4) annually	Blessing takes place	Mass Bulletin email Social media	Full Sustainability Prophetic Advocacy
Special Collection for Homeless Animal Fund of the Catholic Action Center	Nick McDowell Cynthia Smith	New Action	2026 and annually	Collection distributed to CAC	Bulletin Mass	Ecological Conversion
Bless and/or offer outdoor prayer experiences (ex: garden, use of existing statues and/or benches to create spaces for contemplation outdoors)	Art & Environment Committee Individuals involved in landscaping	Ongoing / New Action	2025 and annually	Outdoor prayer experiences exist	Social media, email newsletter, visibility outside	Ecological Conversion Full Sustainability
Include homilies on Care for Creation and ecological justice at least every quarter	Pastor/ priests	Ongoing / New Action	2025 and annually	3 homilies per year that address Laudat Si	Sunday mass	Ecological Conversion
Seek LSA volunteers on Sign Up Sunday	Maria Bane	New Action HIGH PRIORITY	2025 and annually			Ecological Conversion

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment						
Action	Responsible Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success	Shared with Parish	Laudato Si Strategic Goal
Join Lexington's Adopt A Park Program	Kevin Steele, Nick McDowell	New Action	Spring 2025	A park is adopted	Narthex Website Bulletin	Ecological Conversion Full
Participate in Lexington's BUILD, an interfaith social justice organization, which promotes issues like public transportation, care for underserved communities	BUILD representative (Lynn English)	Ongoing	2025 and annually	Nehemiah Action attendance Priority Actions that coincide with Laudato Si goals	Announcement parish email, individual communication by BUILD representatives	Ecological Conversion Full Sustainability Prophetic Advocacy
Re-initiate NC Social Justice Committee	Fr. Anthony Seek social justice chair	New Action	2025 and annually	Social Justice Committee Occurs	Bulletin Website	Ecological Conversion
Use the UK Sustainability Strategic Plan to guide NC alignment with UK campus	LSA team	New Investigation	Ongoing	LSA team reviews the strategic plan	Website	Full Sustainability
Coordinate with Congolese Farmers' Market to provide farm share and pick up opportunities at NC	Ian Colten; Nancy Herring, Congolese Ministry, Congolese Community	New Action HIGH PRIORITY	Spring 2025	Number of farm share participants	Social media, emails, bulletin board	Ecological Conversion
Participate in Blue Mission Group, promoting service projects and sustainability education to support Latin American families to get clean, fresh water	Anna Babin Sam Kolar	New Action / Investigation	2026	Increased NC participation in Blue Mission	Bulletin Website	Ecological Conversion Full Sustainability Prophetic Advocacy

Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Church and School

601 Hill N Dale Rd Lexington, KY 40503

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

God reveals His love for us in creation. He calls us to love one another, and we can demonstrate that love through our care for the environment and our community. We seek to build a parish that is aware of the needs in our community, thoughtful in our use of resources, and loving in our actions toward all of God's creation.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Turn off light sources when not in use. Our Care for Creation Committee will work with the Facilities Committee this fall to identify light sources that are not on automatic timers. The Care for Creation Committee will make bilingual signs to remind parishioners to turn off lights when not in use.

Commitment: Utilize EPA's Energy Star ratings when replacing or buying new appliances. Our Facilities Committee will continue to incorporate this criteria in any new purchases.

Commitment: Continue to track our energy consumption. Our Facilities Committee is in charge of this effort and meets regularly to review the data and determine where energy consumption could be reduced.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Host guest speakers to educate our parish about local environmental justice opportunities. Our Care for Creation Committee will invite a guest speaker to our parish during the Advent season to promote education about environmental justice.

Commitment: To develop our Parish Social Concerns Committee. Our parish recently established this new committee to evaluate how our parish cares for those in need and to develop programs to assist with these needs. Representatives from our Care for Creation Committee will meet with this committee during the fall to discuss opportunities for support and collaboration.

Commitment: Continue to promote Rice Bowl participation during Lent. Our Pastoral team will feature the weekly CRS Rice Bowl Videos during the Lenten Season before Mass to encourage Rice Bowl participation.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Buy fair trade coffee and take an inventory of other food & drink items we regularly purchase to ensure we are using fair trade products whenever possible. Our Little Mountain School Coffee sales team will continue to organize coffee sales after Mass once a

month to support the Little Mountain School in Guatemala. A Care for Creation subcommittee will conduct a survey this winter with parish staff to identify current food & drink purchases for events. The sub-committee will then research available fair trade products that could be used for these events and provide the information to parish staff and event organizers.

Commitment: Take an inventory of our current cleaning products, office supplies, and kitchen items and identify where we could switch to purchasing “green products”. A Care for Creation Sustainability subcommittee will be appointed this spring to survey parish and school staff about current cleaning products and office supplies. The sub-committee will then research green alternatives to the current products and office supplies and submit a proposal to the staff for purchasing green products.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Reduce single-use items at our parish & school events, including paper, plastics, and Styrofoam. We will begin with an inventory of the current use and develop a plan to gradually reduce consumption over the next five years. This spring, the Care for Creation Sustainability subcommittee will work with our parish and school finance teams to identify annual purchases of single-use items. The subcommittee will then research reusable alternatives to these products and draft a proposal for school and parish staff to gradually reduce single-use items over the next five years.

Commitment: Develop a recycling program for the parish. We will create educational materials and signs to assist people with recycling while on parish and school grounds. We will also create and provide resources for families to increase recycling at home. Our Care for Creation Committee will confirm which items we can recycle through our parish. This winter, a subcommittee will work in collaboration with our school environmental club to create bilingual recycling education signs for our parish and school campus. One week during Lent, our Care for Creation Committee will staff a table after Mass with education materials for parishioners to improve recycling at home.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will continue to incorporate Care for Creation themes in our parish school science and religion curriculum, and we will seek ways to expand that curriculum. At the end of the school year, our parish school science and religion teams will meet to discuss current activities that promote Care for Creation in their curriculum and, using the goals of Laudato Si’ as a guideline, will identify additional areas where Care for Creation themes can be incorporated into the curriculum.

Commitment: We will survey our current faith formation programs to learn how they currently teach Care for Creation and environmental justice. We will then find/develop resources that they can use to fill in any gaps in their current curriculum. During the summer, a Care for Creation subcommittee will meet with parish and school staff in charge of faith formation to learn how

they currently incorporate Care for Creation and environmental justice in their curriculum. Together, they will set a goal for increasing Care for Creation themes in the curriculum and identify educational resources.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will highlight Care for Creation in a variety of formats, through our parish Flocknote, bulletin, and various ministries at the church. This fall, a Care for Creation Communications subcommittee will be appointed to develop a communications calendar for our ministry. We will then share this calendar with our clergy and communications staff for approval.

Commitment: We will continue to host an annual Pet Blessing for St. Francis' Feast Day.

Commitment: We will develop a proposal with resources for our clergy to incorporate Care for Creation themes in their homilies on a more regular basis, particularly around the Season of Creation, Earth Day, and Laudato Si' Week. This fall, our Care for Creation Communications subcommittee will identify weekends for the next liturgical year when it would be beneficial to highlight the goals of Laudato Si' in our homilies at Mass. The subcommittee will then identify resources to assist with homily preparation and create a proposal for the clergy. The clergy will then decide which weekends they would like to commit to incorporate themes from Laudato Si' in their homilies.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will continue to grow and expand our BUILD team at the parish, with a special emphasis on growing our Spanish-speaking BUILD team to ensure the entire parish is represented in our work for justice. Our clergy and BUILD Team Members will continue to work with BUILD staff to expand participation in the BUILD ministry and attendance at the Nehemiah Action in 2025.

Commitment: Parish and school will work together to expand our current Earth Day Celebrations. This February, the school staff who assist with planning Earth Day Celebrations will meet with members of the parish Care for Creation committee to share their plans for Earth Day. Together, they will discuss ways to incorporate the parish into the school Earth Day celebrations. These joint activities will be implemented for Earth Day 2025.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Kit Donohue

Team Members: Peg Gabriel, Fr. Miguel Alvizures, Beth O'Donnell, Kabby Akers, Becky Brown, Martha Casher, Peggy King, Chris Thiel, Lise Roemmele

Pax Christi
4001 Victoria Way Lexington, KY 40515

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

We strive to care for our common home, promote environmental stewardship, and foster a spirit of solidarity with all creation. Through education, practical actions, and prayer, we seek to inspire each person to embrace a lifestyle of sustainability, compassion, and justice according to their own talents, situations, and experiences.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Install additional Motion Sensor lighting in facilities not already installed.

Timeframe: On-going & continuing

Commitment: Install LED lighting throughout facilities as needed.

Timeframe: On-going as have already started

Person or Group Responsible: Office personnel

Commitment: Maintain the sensors on the water around Peace Garden.

Timeframe: On-going & continuing

Commitment: Construct a composting site.

Timeframe: In fall and winter

Person or Group Responsible: Passive pile that requires minimum oversight by a parish volunteer (Some minimum work will be needed to educate and periodically monitor to ensure it is being used correctly.)

Commitment: Do a litter pickup in the neighborhood.

Timeframe: Spring or summer 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Various groups participate and organized by the Care of Creation team.

Commitment: Continue to hold annual Yard Sale which encourages reuse and recycling of materials.

Timeframe: Ongoing and continuing

Person or Group Responsible: All parishioners and the Yard Sale Committee

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue support for Build-A-Bed Project.

Timeframe: Each Fall

Person or Group Responsible: Various groups are involved with Men's Group coordination.

Commitment: Continue support for food drives for God's Pantry and Catholic Action Center.
Timeframe: Various events throughout the year, but primarily in Lent and Advent
Person or Group Responsible: All parishioners

Commitment: Continue support for Habitat for Humanity.
Timeframe: In August and September
Person or Group Responsible: All parishioners

Commitment: Promote participation in the Appalachian Immersion Program in 2025.
Timeframe: Winter and spring 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation Team getting the announcement ready

Commitment: Develop a list of volunteer activities which parishioners can volunteer for throughout the community and at church.
Timeframe: Winter 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation Team.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to support local environmentally conscious businesses and restaurants (e.g., Grimes Chicken, DV8 Kitchen, Good Foods Co-Op, etc.).
Timeframe: Ongoing and continuing
Person or Group Responsible: All groups with input from Financial Officer to encourage this practice.

Commitment: Begin purchasing green products for the kitchen.
Timeframe: Fall, winter 2024
Person or Group Responsible: All groups and office staff.

Commitment: In fall 2024, eight raised beds will be installed on the church grounds for families to adopt and use for planting of food. Food can be used for the family and/or others—8 families or individuals.
Timeframe: Spring 2025—planting of beds
Person or Group Responsible: Selection will be by the office staff and Care of Creation team.

Commitment: Promote local Farmers Markets and Co-ops.
Timeframe: Winter 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation team will research availability and develop the list for inclusion in the bulletin and on the website.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Recycling.
Timeframe: Ongoing and continuing

Person or Group Responsible: All groups and parishioners

Commitment: Eliminate the use of single-use plastics; no more purchasing of water bottles.

Commitment: Install 2 fountains in upper and lower level to fill reusable water bottles.

Timeframe: Fall 2024 and throughout the upcoming year

Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation team and office staff

Commitment: No longer purchase Styrofoam products.

Timeframe: Fall 2024

Person or Group Responsible: All groups and office staff

Commitment: Investigate the feasibility of instituting an electronics recycling day at church.

Timeframe: Spring and summer 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation team along with Parish Council

Commitment: Support the Diocesan effort to access the installation of Solar Panels and review their possibility at Pax Christi.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation Team

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Develop educational programs to increase commitment to recycling in the parish along with other Care of Creation topics by using bulletin, website, emails and Facebook page.

Timeframe: Winter 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation team, Parish Council, Social Committee and other groups along with staff

Commitment: Encourage reading and discussion of Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum.

Timeframe: Winter 2025 and rest of 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation Team to initiate and other groups to assist

Commitment: Father Pat to host talks on the Laudato Si' parish plan.

Timeframe: Winter 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Father Pat and Care of Creation team

Commitment: Support and foster educational activities on the Care of Creation for youth and their families at three different programs/events throughout the coming year.

Timeframe: Fall 2024 through Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Faithwalk coordinator, Youth Director, Care of Creation team, parent volunteers

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue the Animal Blessings on Feast of St. Francis.

Timeframe: Ongoing and continuing

Person or Group Responsible: Parish deacons

Commitment: Encourage use of the Rosary Walk and Peace Garden for prayer.

Timeframe: Ongoing and Winter 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation team and Peace Garden group

Commitment: Walking Group: Some women have already begun this activity but would like to expand this to include all parishioners.

Timeframe: Ongoing and continuing

Person or Group Responsible: Women's Spirituality Group and all parishioners, staff

Commitment: Care of Creation weekend to include music, homily, outdoor Mass and activities (Rosary Walk and Labyrinth are possible activities) which highlight care of creation.

Timeline: Spring & summer 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation Team

Goal 7 Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Care of Creation team to grow, meet and be active.

Commitment: Designate another Laudato Si' Tree on the parish grounds to encourage parish awareness and participation in Care of Creation initiatives.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation Team

Commitment: Replace some diseased and dead trees with a species more suited to our environment.

Timeframe: Fall 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Property committee and staff

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Bax McClure

Team Members: Martha Gehringer, Tamara Fitch, Katie Timmerman, Dick Taulbee, Francie Bauer and Bax McClure

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and School
1730 Summerhill Drive Lexington, KY 40515

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Care for creation is important because we are all part of creation; therefore, care for creation is part of the unity of the Catholic Church. As a parish our focus is to reduce waste and to make our campus more vibrant with living things.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue the parish butterfly/pollinator garden.

Person or Group Responsible: Seton Catholic School and Landscaping Committee

Commitment: Expand parish composting program by increasing our composting capacity, parishioners', students', and teachers' knowledge of how to compost.

Timeframe: 2025: Build a structure to increase composting capacity and teach students/teachers how to compost. After the composting structure is built start efforts to compost school organic waste. 2026: Expand efforts to teach parishioners how to compost organic waste with classes and information on the parish website. 2027: Expand to parish-wide composting effort to compost all organic waste that parishioners can bring from their homes.

Person or Group Responsible: Isabel Mera

Commitment: Continue parish efforts to put more trees and plants that are drought tolerant, non-invasive, and easy to maintain on the campus.

Person or Group Responsible: Landscaping Committee

Commitment: Continue parish efforts for gardens around the campus.

Person or Group Responsible: Seton Catholic School, Setonites, Landscaping Committee

Commitment: Continue efforts to maintain the rain barrel for watering the butterfly/pollinator garden.

Person or Group Responsible: Seton Catholic School, Landscaping Committee

Commitment: Continue efforts for the parish vegetable garden.

Person or Group Responsible: Seton Catholic School

Commitment: Continue efforts for the parish water retention area.

Person or Group Responsible: Landscaping Committee

Commitment: Continue efforts for plants to improve drainage and reduce run off.

Person or Group Responsible: Landscaping Committee

Commitment: Continue efforts to remove the concrete patio behind Father Charles's house and replace with paving stones to increase water absorption and reduce runoff.

Person or Group Responsible: Landscaping Committee

Commitment: Continue efforts to install motion detectors for lighting.

Timeframe: Install should be completed in 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Grounds Keeping

Commitment: Continue maintenance with water bottle fillers in parish and school.

Person or Group Responsible: School and Grounds Keeping

Commitment: Continue efforts to replace lights with LED bulbs.

Person or Group Responsible: Grounds Keeping

Commitment: Continue efforts to use power strips in school and parish.

Person or Group Responsible: Grounds Keeping

Commitment: Efforts with litter removal on the parish campus.

Person or Group Responsible: Grounds Keeping

Commitment: Change HVAC system in school to more environmentally friendly alternative; already done in parish.

Timeframe: 2025: Install new HVAC system for Seton Catholic School

Person or Group Responsible: Grounds Keeping

Commitment: Start a community garden for parishioners/elderly.

Timeline: 2024: Start planning where to establish gardens and advertise to parishioners. Spring

2025: Establish gardens

Person or Group Responsible: Shaun Stice

Commitment: Start an after-school gardening club for elementary school kids to learn the basics of how to garden.

Timeline: 2024: Contact school for details of how to do this. Contact person to teach children about gardening. 2025: Start the gardening club for elementary school children. 2026: Expand the program as needed

Person or Group Responsible: Isabel Mera

Commitment: Create a community litter removal group.

Timeline: 2025: Contact parish groups to assess any barriers and promote the group. 2026:

Advertise and meet as a group once a month to pick up litter around the community. As we continue efforts to recycle and compost, we will increase our ability to recycle the litter we collect

Person or Group Responsible: Jonathon Holland

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue efforts of the food pantry to reach out to parishioners and neighbors of Seton to provide food to the needy.

Person or Group Responsible: St. Vincent DePaul group

Commitment: Continue to promote Rice Bowl participation during Lent.

Person or Group Responsible: Father Charles Howell

Commitment: Continue efforts of the Walking with Moms group to recycle children/baby clothes and tend to the needs of families with small children.

Person or Group Responsible: Walking with Moms group

Commitment: Promote organizations that recycle/reuse furniture and household items.

Timeline: 2024: Research organizations. 2025: Put items in parish bulletin and signage on parish bulletin boards.

Person or Group Responsible: Jonathon Holland

Commitment: Continue to promote ecological environmental justice in school.

Person or Group Responsible: Kim Carter

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue efforts to buy fair trade coffee.

Person or Group Responsible: Tim Schosser

Commitment: Create a program for Seton Catholic School to have compostable lunch materials.

Timeline: 2024: Contact cafeteria personnel and the diocese for details about funds and procedures. 2025: Continue efforts for how to overcome barriers. 2026: Have all compostable/reusable materials for the cafeteria at Seton School.

Person or Group Responsible: Tim Schosser

Commitment: Continue to purchase environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Person or Group Responsible: Grounds Keeping

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue efforts to reduce food waste by sending leftovers home with participants or Catholic Action Center.

Person or Group Responsible: Knights of Columbus and Evangelization Committee

Commitment: Continue efforts to maintain water fountains in parish hall and school.

Person or Group Responsible: Seton Catholic School and Grounds Keeping

Commitment: Replace single-use plastics with reusable/compostable/recyclable materials at parish and school events.

Timeline: 2024: Communicate with parish leaders regarding problems and costs with switching to reusable materials/compostable materials. 2025 and 2026: Continue efforts to afford materials

and replace existing materials. 2027: Replace all materials with reusable/compostable/recyclable materials at parish and school events.

Person or Group Responsible: Jonathon Holland

Commitment: Continue parish recycling.

Person or Group Responsible: Grounds Keeping

Commitment: Continue parish electronics recycling.

Person or Group Responsible: Grounds Keeping

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue efforts to teach children about environmental issues through school butterfly/pollinator garden, vegetable garden, and composting.

Person or Group Responsible: Seton Catholic School

Commitment: Continue field trips to learn about ecological justice.

Person or Group Responsible: Seton Catholic School

Commitment: Website and bulletin communication about recycling and composting effort.

Person or Group Responsible: Jonathon Holland

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue upkeep of outdoor Stations of the Cross.

Person or Group Responsible: Landscaping Committee, Eagle Scouts

Commitment: Continue upkeep of outdoor prayer space of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Person or Group Responsible: Landscaping Committee, Eagle Scouts

Commitment: Continue efforts to bless pets.

Person or Group Responsible: Father Charles Howell

Commitment: Continue outdoor holiday decorations.

Person or Group Responsible: Landscaping Committee

Commitment: Continue outdoor year-round spiritual decorations.

Person or Group Responsible: Landscaping Committee

Commitment: Continue maintenance of outdoor meditation/prayer spaces.

Person or Group Responsible: Landscaping Committee

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue parish participation in BUILD.

Person or Group Responsible: Father Charles Howell

Commitment: Continue Nehemiah Action efforts.

Person or Group Responsible: Julie Coleman

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Jonathon Holland

Team Members: David Hancock, Isabel Mera, Tim Schosser, Shaun Stice, James West

St. Peter Church
145 Barr Street Lexington, KY 40507

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

We of St. Peter Catholic Church acknowledge God's call to us in Genesis to care for His creation. We recognize that in many ways we as the human race have failed in that endeavor over the ages. We stand now to answer that call to the best of our abilities, to serve and protect all of creation through loving actions within our parish, our community, our country, and our world—our common home.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Install programmable controls on all HVAC systems.

Timeframe: June 2028

Commitment: Evaluate options for providing efficient HVAC in the WPC.

Timeframe: June 2027

Commitment: Install energy efficient doors and windows where possible (taking historic preservation into consideration).

Timeframe: June 2028

Commitment: Install weather stripping, insulation, caulking, etc. as needed (like in "historic" items).

Timeframe: December 2025. Some caulking & weather stripping installed

Commitments: Install energy efficient lighting and equipment where possible (i.e. instantaneous water, low flow toilets, LED lighting, etc.).

Timeframe: December 2030. Energy-efficient boilers installed in church (2022). Began installing LED lighting in rectory (2022).

Commitment: Establish regular campus clean-up events to pick up trash and debris on the campus and surrounding area.

Timeframe: December 2024

Commitment: Maintain landscaping and garden areas around the campus, including the use of native plants and ecologically considerate methods.

Timeframe: December 2024. Gardens/beds maintained regularly and mulched annually.

Began upgrading garden areas with a variety of plants in 2022.

Commitment: Establish a policy for replacing appliances with energy-efficient units when the need arises.

Timeframe: December 2030. Replaced appliances in rectory with energy-efficient models in 2019.

Commitment: Minimize electrical usage by turning off lights, etc. when not in use (consider use of power strips, motion detectors, and timers where appropriate).

Timeframe: December 2024. Related parish bulletin articles have been initiated (July 2024).

Commitment: Provide education on equipment, safety, hazards, efficiency, and environmental concerns to those involved in any maintenance duties.

Timeframe: December 2024. Training initiated (July 2024).

Commitment: Designate an oversight group to annually evaluate conditions (including energy audit) and future needs.

Timeframe: June 2025

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: In conjunction with other local entities/ churches, determine the needs of the people of the surrounding community (i.e. homelessness, food insecurity, elderly) to develop a plan for serving those needs identified (physical and spiritual).

Timeframe: June 2028

Commitment: Revitalize the St. Vincent DePaul Program.

Timeframe: June 2025

Commitment: Encourage participation in charitable activities and organizations such as Catholic Action Center, Catholic Relief Services, Lenten Rice Bowls, etc.

Timeframe: December 2024. Currently established as part of regular giving campaigns.

Commitment: Designate a parish committee to encourage, plan, direct, and/or oversee peace and justice activities within the parish (examples: Earth Day activities, regular Laudato Si' social media posts, clean waterways, etc.).

Timeframe: December 2024

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Establish a policy of supporting local businesses, ethical wages, fair trade, and commitments to sustainability.

Timeframe: March 2025

Commitment: Establish a policy of buying "green products" and using reusable, rather than disposable, products whenever possible (i.e. office supplies, cleaning products, and kitchen/serving items).

Timeframe: March 2025

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Establish a recycling program (paper, plastic, cardboard, glass, electronics), as prescribed by LFUCG, in all buildings on the campus.
Timeframe: December 2024. Program has been established (July 2024).

Commitment: Establish a policy of buying "green products" and using reusable, rather than disposable, products whenever possible (i.e. office supplies, cleaning products, and kitchen items).

Timeframe: December 2024

Commitment: Encourage the use of water fountains and reusable water bottles whenever possible rather than plastic disposable bottles.

Timeframe: December 2024

Commitment: Reduce food waste wherever possible (i.e. donate leftovers to local shelters).

Timeframe: December 2024. Current practice.

Commitment: Consider the purchase of refurbished, recycled products whenever possible.

Timeframe: December 2024. Current practice for some items & will be extended.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Evaluate current education programs (children, adults, and special events) and incorporate environmental, justice, care of our common home, Laudato Si', topics into the programs.

Timeframe: June 2025

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Create/maintain an outdoor prayer space.

Timeframe: December 2024. Prayer garden currently located on campus.

Commitment: Include Care of Creation intentions in the Prayers of the Faithful at Masses.

Timeframe: December 2024

Commitment: Establish regular activities to celebrate creation and to involve the community outside the parish (examples: St. Francis Day animal blessings, blessings of gardens, outdoor prayer events, seasonal praise events, etc.).

Timeframe: June 2025

Commitment: Include Care for Creation thoughts within homilies where applicable.

Timeframe: December 2024

Commitment: Designate a parish committee to encourage, plan, direct, and/or oversee peace and justice activities within the parish (examples: Earth Day activities, regular Laudato Si' social media posts, clean waterways, etc.).

Timeframe: December 2024

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Participate in BUILD and/or other faith-based community action activities.

Timeframe: December 2024. Currently participating.

Commitment: Designate a parish committee to encourage, plan, direct, and/or oversee peace and justice activities within the parish (examples: Earth Day activities, regular Laudato Si' social media posts, clean waterways, etc.).

Timeframe: December 2024

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Mary Beth McCormac, co-coordinator, Linda Rice, co-coordinator

Team Members: Fr. Peter Joseph, Cindy McDonald, Rod Stearn

St. Peter Claver
485 West 4th Street Lexington, KY 40508

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

The parish of St. Peter Claver is committed to caring for creation, listening to the cry of the poor, being mindful of ecological economy, adopting a sustainable lifestyle, and forming our parish around ecological awareness to become ever more mindful of how God is in all things as we strive to promote community resilience through our work on peace and justice.

It should be noted that the physical facility of the parish has an older office building renovated and brought up to code (2014), a newer education facility (2015) and a brand-new sanctuary (2023).

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Currently we are transitioning all light bulbs and fixtures to LED; we are at 90% complete.

Commitment: All electronics are plugged into power strips.

Commitment: When new appliances are purchased, EPA Energy Star ratings will be a consideration.

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Council/Deacon James Weathers

Commitment: Programmable thermostats in use. Timers/motion sensors for lighting in use.

Commitment: Energy Audit of the entire facility, done annually, and report is given to Catholic Mutual Insurance.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Ongoing collaboration/participation in BUILD efforts.

Commitment: Volunteers from SPC will continue to assist at St. Paul's food pantry and lunchtime sandwich ministry.

Commitment: Participation in Lenten Operation Rice Bowl project, support of annual appeal for Catholic Charities and Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Commitment: Promote participation in "Catholics at the Capitol".

Commitment: Invite parish participation in the Appalachian Immersion Experience.

Commitment: Deacon James will continue to Chair of the Black Church Coalition, which is an ecumenical and diverse ministry of churches who meet monthly and help with outreach needs within the community (i.e. rent, utilities, and some medical).

Commitment: Continue to host a Sickle Cell Anemia Blood Drive.
Timeframe: Annually in September

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Purchasing locally produced and prepared food when possible.

Commitment: Assessing the purchase of "green products": cleaning products, office supplies and kitchen items when they need to be replaced.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: All leftovers from parish functions are sent home with participants or taken to the Catholic Action Center.

Commitment: Explore the use of reusable coffee filters, cups, dishes, silverware. Issue is ability to clean products with current dishwasher setup.

Commitment: Electronics and paper from parish are recycled, through LUFC shred days and recycle center on Versailles Rd.

Commitment: Dish and cleaning towels used instead of paper.

Commitment: Recycling for bottles and cans available (Herbies)- need parish education.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Invite priest and deacons to include Care for Creation in homilies.

Commitment: Currently peace and justice and care for our common home is incorporated into our faith formation programs.

Timeframe: 2025 Earth Day activities

Person or Group Responsible: Nita Clarke

Commitment: Plan to host a watch party of "The Letter" with a group discussion.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Kathy Mattone

Commitment: Intentional parish education about recycling of plastic bottles and cans.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Include Care for Creation intentions in Prayers of the Faithful at Mass - October 4th (Feast of St. Francis) or in the spring around Earth Day.

Person or Group Responsible: Deacon James Weathers.

Commitment: Share information about ecological spirituality in Flock Notes and bulletin at least once a quarter.

Person or Group Responsible: Kathy Mattone.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

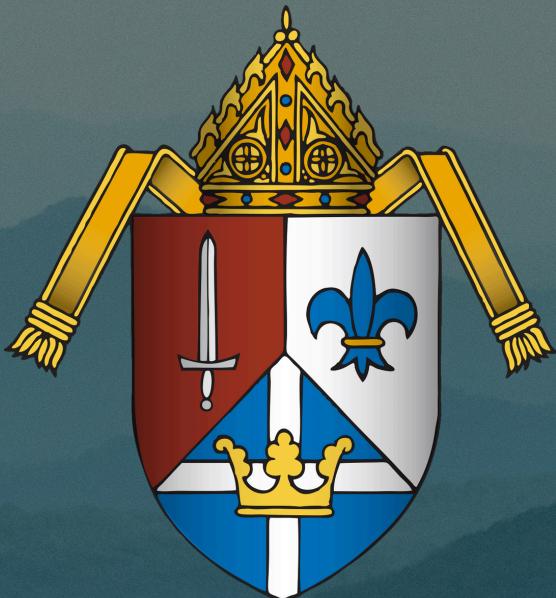
Commitment: Continue to participate in BUILD.

Commitment: Incorporate Laudato Si' teaching into formation, parish activities to build awareness.

Commitment: Start a peace and justice/social action committee or Laudato Si' Team as a part of parish council along with Cheryl Bogarty and members of this committee. New pastor should be made aware of existing outreach committees and invited to join.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Team Members: Deacon James Weathers, Greg Gerton, Kathy Mattone



BLUEGRASS WEST DEANERY

St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
St. Sylvester, Ottenheim
Good Shepherd, Frankfort
Sts. Francis and John, Georgetown
St. Andrew, Harrodsburg
St. Leo, Versailles
St. Luke, Nicholasville
St. Mary, Perryville
Sts. Peter and Paul, Danville
St. William, Lancaster
Dean: Fr. John Lijana

St. Lawrence
120 N Gatewood Lawrenceburg, KY 40342

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

The 2019 St. Lawrence Pastoral Plan calls the members of St. Lawrence to bring to life its mission.

(Parish Mission Statement: As Catholic disciples of Jesus Christ and His Church, we respond to Our Lord's invitation to be faithful in prayer, celebrate the Sacraments, deepen our faith through lifelong formation, serve those in need, and invite others to the fullness of the Catholic faith.)

Each member is called to be a Catholic disciple of Jesus Christ by building community, serving those in need and living the Catholic Faith.

Genesis is the foundational document for our responsibility to care for creation. In Genesis, we see that God is in all of creation. In Genesis 1:26, God said "Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of the heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth." In Genesis 2:15 Yahweh God took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden to cultivate and take care of it.

And so, it is out of gratitude and thanksgiving to the Creator who has blessed us with the world and all its natural resources that we embrace the responsibility of caring for His gift of creation. As members of St. Lawrence who are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to care for creation as Jesus would, ensuring that all the people of the world will have the resources they need to thrive.

As members of St. Lawrence Catholic Church, we are especially called to follow the example of our patron saint, St. Lawrence. As such we are called to be responsible caretakers of the resources and talents that our Lord has bestowed on us. We are called to reach out to help our parish members and all our community neighbors. We are called as Christians to be a loving example of Jesus Christ by our actions, by our lives, and by encouraging and helping others to do the same. We must be a shining example of Love, Hope and Charity. By these actions we will be responsible stewards of creation and the blessings of our Lord, Jesus.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Continued Commitments

Commitment: Rectory renovation included new, energy efficient windows, lighting, fans, double cellulose shades, low flush toilet, low flow shower head, new storm door and a steel insulated back door.

Commitment: Gabriel Hall has been renovated with new Pergo-type easy maintenance flooring, LED lighting, renovated powder rooms.

Commitment: Main church building has been fitted with 3 (3 of 7) new, energy efficient HVAC units and NEST thermostats.

Commitment: Motion sensor light switches have been installed in the bathrooms in the church and Family Life Center (FLC).

Commitment: Weed wacker is battery operated rather than gas.

Commitment: St. Lawrence does not use chemical fertilizers or pesticides; use safe, eco-friendly bug spray as necessary.

Commitment: Lightbulbs are being replaced with LED bulbs; this is an on-going process.

Commitment: Office electronics are plugged into power strips.

Commitment: Office, church and rectory gardens are replete with pollinator perennials; maintenance is done by parishioners.

Commitment: EPA's energy star ratings are considered when buying new HVAC systems and appliances.

Commitment: We conduct an informal energy audit monthly by reviewing energy and water consumption and comparing it to past months/years. The parish has shown considerable improvement with the recent installation of more energy efficient HVAC systems, lighting, thermostats, and more careful use of water.

Commitment: Installed photosensitive outdoor LED lighting.

Commitment: New pavilion was built with green features including instant on hot water and mini-split HVAC unit.

Timeframe: Continuing initiatives

Persons or Group Responsible: Parish staff/Plant and Property Committee/Mowing and Landscaping Team

New Commitments

Commitment: Replace toilets with low flow toilets as needed.

Commitment: Continue to add programmable thermostats whenever possible.

Commitment: Continue to replace light bulbs to LED as needed.

Commitment: Change the lights in the main church; install dimmers and timers.

Timeframe: Continuation of existing parish practice

Person or group responsible: Parish staff/ Plant and Property Team/Maintenance

Commitment: Review our current recycling program re-educate parishioners how to recycle at church.

Timeframe: Continuation of existing parish practice

Person or Group Responsible: Bill Pfalzer/Anna Courtney

Commitment: Spring cleanup of church grounds.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Tony Silvernail, Kevin Basham, Denis King

Commitment: Have a class to teach parishioners how to safely can and freeze food.

Timeframe: October 2024-August 2025

Person or Group Responsible: John Casper

Commitment: Cut grass higher to decrease weeds and improve health of grass.

Timeframe: Immediate implementation

Person or Group Responsible: Grounds/Mowing Team

Commitment: Look into window film or shades for Blanford Hall.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff/ Plant and Property Team/ Maintenance

Commitment: Look into building a playground for our children.

Timeframe: November 2024-March 2025

Person or group Responsible: Parish staff/ Denis King

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Continued Commitments

Commitment: St. Lawrence supports the Open Hands Community Food Pantry: Hold parish-wide annual food drives. Supporting the Food Pantry annual Burgoa basket fundraiser, individual parishioners volunteer weekly. Providing a meal once a month for Food Pantry patrons (St. Lawrence Food Pantry Ministry). Collect food monthly to use to prepare our meals and to donate directly to Open Hands.

Timeframe: Continuing initiative. Monthly

Person or Group Responsible: Food Pantry Ministry: Lisa Cann, Andrea Dull

Commitment: Annual baby bottle collection fundraiser for Avenues for Women: Provide baby bottles to Parishioners to make donations to Avenue for Women.

Timeframe: Continuing initiative; annually May-June

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff, Lisa Cann

Commitment: Support the Diaper Ministry held at Lawrenceburg Methodist Church. Encourage parishioners to donate diapers to support the Anderson County Diaper Ministry. Encourage volunteers help for the bimonthly distribution of diapers.

Timeframe: Continuing initiative, ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Vanna Armstrong, Lisa Cann, Andrea Dull

Commitment: Provide \$200/month to the Light Center for individuals in need. LIGHT Center Corporation, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, is a clearing center for those in need in Anderson County supported by the local churches and organizations. It provides the following services: assistance with substance abuse issues, basic budget training completed, clothing that has been donated, personal care items donated, special circumstance, veteran financial assistance.

Timeframe: Continuing initiative, monthly donation

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff

Commitment: Donate \$1000+ annually to Anderson United Annual Clinics; supply 30 volunteers that help staff the clinic (about 10% of the 300 volunteers need to staff the clinics). It is a consortium of Christian Churches and local businesses that provide a 1-day annual clinic to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people in Anderson County: medical screenings (eye, hearing, blood pressure, blood sugar, family practice visit, prescription review, etc.), chiropractic, dental care, physical therapy, food pantry, clothing closet, lunch, personal care (haircuts, family photos), prayer, transportation.

Timeframe: Continuing practice; January through April annually

Person or Group Responsible: Andrea Dull, Jeff Wedding

Commitment: Support the Bishop's Annual Appeal and all second collections that support charity programs and education through parish envelopes.

Timeframe: Fall 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff/parishioners

Commitment: Office administrator is authorized to give a parishioner in need up to \$50; the pastor may give more money based on need and his discretion.

Timeframe: Continuing practice

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff

Commitment: Parish provides resource information for individuals to access food, clothing, monetary assistance, housing.

Timeframe: Continuing practice and as needed

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff

Commitment: St. Lawrence supports and encourages participation in the annual Lenten Rice Bowl collection opportunity.

Timeframe: Continuing practice, annually during Lent

Person or Group Responsible: Parishioners, Parish staff

New Commitments

Commitment: Be more intentional about looking within the parish for ways to reach out to our own parishioners in need.

Timeframe: Immediate implementation

Person or Group Responsible: Outreach Committee, Parish Staff

Commitment: Look into a parish wide initiative to donate new and gently used shoes to WaterStep to help fund safe drinking water projects all over the world. WaterStep, a nonprofit organization based in Louisville, Kentucky, accepts shoe donations to fund safe drinking water projects in developing countries (see Goal 7).

Timeframe: Fall 2024 and ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Lisa Cann, Andrea Dull

Commitment: Organize a cleanup of the new Cedarbrook Rails to Trails Walking Trail: Opportunity to engage the older youth in a Care for Creation experience, family service project (https://www.pmg-kyl.com/the_anderson_news/cedar-brook-rails-to-trails-now-clear-path_to-healthy-activity/article_62533_lbc-6470-5343-8621-624d4225441d.html).

Timeframe: March or April 2025 and perhaps in the fall of 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Annette Riddle

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Continued Commitments:

Commitment: St. Lawrence sells Fr. Miguel's fair-trade coffee as a fundraiser for GEO.

Timeframe: Continuing practice

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Miguel gets the coffee to St. Lawrence; it is available for sale in the office.

Commitment: St. Lawrence encourages the support of our local parishioner owned businesses.

Timeframe: Continuing practice

Person or Group Responsible: Word of mouth

Commitment: St. Lawrence volunteers work on a parishioner-owned vineyard as a fundraiser for the church, providing a reliable and consistent workforce.

Timeframe: As needed: Spring through fall annually

Person or Group Responsible: Annette Riddle

Commitment: St. Lawrence uses "green cleaning products" in the church and office as much as practical.

Timeframe: Continuing practice

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff makes purchases of items

Commitment: Some parishioners bring the abundance of their produce harvest to Open Hands Food Pantry to share with others.

Timeframe: Seasonal

Person or Group Responsible: Parishioners

New Commitments

Commitment: Encourage parishioners to buy locally produced and prepared foods by providing names of parishioners and local businesses/farmer's markets that produce and prepare food and other goods for sale, are committed to sustainability.

Timeframe: Develop list during the fall and winter

Person or Group Responsible: Denis King/Andrea Dull/John Casper

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Continued Commitments

Commitment: St. Lawrence has water fountains in the church and family life room (FLR). The FLR water fountain has a water bottle filling station.

Commitment: The church office uses mugs rather than disposable cups.

Commitment: Minimize copying and reprinting when possible; reuse paper if possible; recycle paper waste.

Commitment: Leftover food from parish functions and food pantry meals is given away.

Commitment: Plastic shopping bags are donated to Open Hands Community Food Pantry for reuse or are recycled.

Commitment: Electronics and printer cartridges are recycled.

Timeframe: All commitments above are continuing initiatives

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff, parishioners

New Commitments

Commitment: The parish does not have the capability of using plates, glasses and silverware that need to be washed; we are looking into replacing Styrofoam with compostable plates and bowls, paper cups, compostable flatware.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Lisa Cann, Anna Courtney, Andrea Dull

Commitment: Consider asking parishioners to bring their own mug for use on Sunday for coffee; ask parishioners to bring their own water bottles to parish events (i.e. picnic) to decrease the use of disposable cups.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Bulletin announcements/Flocknote/Parish staff/Ministry leaders

Commitment: Educate the parishioners about our recycling program and encourage greater compliance. The parish established a recycling program about 7 years ago. Review our current recycling program; re-educate parishioners how to recycle at church.

Timeframe: Continuation of existing parish practice

Person or Group Responsible: Bill Pfalzer/ Anna Courtney

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: List all the County Extension classes that are offered in the winter to educate people (Anderson, Woodford, Franklin County).

Timeframe: Publish in bulletin and on the website as appropriate

Person or Group Responsible: Denis King

Commitment: Incorporate environmental faith formation lessons into CCD program. Laudato Si' video for Elementary students (An animated brief about Laudato Si' for children. It is a very brief but an excellent overview.).

Timeframe: October 2024 - April 2025, as appropriate

Person or Group Responsible: Robin Basham (RE Coordinator), RE teachers

Commitment: Develop youth group environmental education activities (see Goal 3). Organize and lead a clean-up of the new Cedarbrook Rails to Trails Walking Trail. Opportunity to engage the older youth in a Care for Creation experience, family service project ([https://www.pmg-ky1.com/the anderson news/cedar-brook-trails-now-clear path-to-healthy-activity/a1iicle-62533 lbc-6470-5343-8621-624d4225441d.html](https://www.pmg-ky1.com/the-anderson-news/cedar-brook-trails-now-clear-path-to-healthy-activity/a1iicle-62533-lbc-6470-5343-8621-624d4225441d.html)).

Timeframe: March or April 2025 and perhaps in the fall of 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Annette Riddle/Youth Group leader/ Young Adult leader

Commitment: Read and discuss Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum as part of adult faith formation.

Timeframe: Spring/summer 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Mike Armstrong/Fr. Steve Roberts

Commitment: Educate parishioners about local, state and federal resources (see Goal 7).

Kentucky's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides America's farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground, not only helping the environment but agricultural operations too

(<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/kentucky>).

Timeframe: As appropriate publish on the church website

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Staff

Commitment: Encourage families and individuals to take care of the church gardens and grounds.

Timeframe: March - November 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Tony Silvernail

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Blessing of the Animals.

Timeframe: Annually in October, traditionally the first Sunday in October (Feast of St Francis)

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor/Deacons

Commitment: Create an outdoor prayer space by putting a bench(s) in the garden area on the Gatewood side of the church, making it an intentional place to stop and pray.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Donna House, Tony Silvernail

Commitment: Ask the Liturgy Committee to consider ways to highlight Care of Creation: Prayers of the Faithful, inclusion in homilies as appropriate, development of outdoor prayer experiences, blessing of the church gardens, use church website, bulletin and bulletin boards to highlight Care of Creation and Laudato Si' themes and goals.

Timeframe: As appropriate

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff/Ministry leaders

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Parish participation in Anderson United (see Goal 2).

Commitment: Flocknote - encourage 100% participation.

Timeframe: Immediate adoption

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff/parishioners

Commitment: Bulletin announcements regarding Laudato Si'.

Timeframe: On going

Person or Group Responsible: Anna Courtney

Commitment: Potential Earth Day Event: Clean up walking trail (see Goal 2 and Goal 5).

Timeframe: Fall 2024 and spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Annette Riddle

Commitment: Make our parishioners aware of state and national conservations programs (See Goal 5) <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/kentucky> State programs and initiatives: Kentucky NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. NRCS provides funding opportunities for agricultural producers and other landowners through these programs.

Timeframe: As appropriate

Person or Group Responsible: Publish in bulletin and on website

Commitment: WaterStep, a nonprofit organization based in Louisville, Kentucky, accepts shoe donations to fund safe drinking water projects in developing countries (see Goal 2).

Timeframe: Current

Person or Group Responsible: Lisa Cann, Andrea Dull

Commitment: Develop a Care for Creation Team (after parish studies Laudato Si') (See Goal 5).

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Andrea Dull (interim), Fr. Steve Roberts will coordinate with the present parish structure

Team Members (June-September 2024): Lisa Cann, John Casper, Den Chris Cecil, Anna Courtney, Andrea Dull, Donna House, Denis King, Jeanette Pfalzer, Bill Pfalzer, Annette Riddle, Fr. Steve Roberts, Tony Silvernail

St. Sylvester
100 KY Hwy. 1948 Waynesburg, KY 40489
Mailing address: 224 Lexington Street Lancaster, KY 40444

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Conduct an energy audit through InterCounty Coop within the next six months.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Encourage parishioners to participate in Catholics at the Capitol in January.

Commitment: Promote the Appalachian immersion program through the bulletin.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Recycle aluminum cans from parish potluck. We need to have a separate garbage can for this purpose.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Purchase recycled paper products for future potlucks.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Ask the diocesan Laudato Si' Commission for information about ecological education to be included in our bulletin.

Commitment: Encourage the inclusion of the issue of environmental justice in our religious education curriculum.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Clean-up/repaint the statue of Mary in our cemetery.

Commitment: Fr. John can include Laudato Si' in his homilies when appropriate.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Need to create a team to follow through on recycling efforts.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. John List

Team Members: Mike Schuler, Andy Bratcher and Carrie Baugh Parish

Good Shepherd Church and School

70 Shepherd Way Frankfort, KY 40601

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Good Shepherd is called to care for creation and be good stewards of our common home, the Earth.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Compost program: This program would consist of composting all the food waste from the school cafeteria and utilizing the resulting soil in the gardens of the campus. Franklin County solid waste office offered free composters in 2024; we are hopeful they will again next summer.

Timeframe: Fall semester of 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Unknown but would likely involve the school cafeteria manager, maintenance, and volunteers.

Commitment: Add more reflective film on windows: This project will involve soliciting bids and analysis of the effectiveness of reflective film at reducing energy consumption. If the installation is deemed effective, then we would contract to have the film installed.

Timeframe: Unknown due to budgetary considerations

Person or Group Responsible: Facilities manager and the school security committee

Commitment: Idle reduction program for school pick up and drop off: This project involves communicating with school parents about the environmental benefit of turning off their cars while idling, especially while waiting in line (sometimes for hours) to pick up their children after school. The Division of Air Quality might be able to assist with signs.

Timeframe: Could be as soon as the Spring semester of 2025

Person or Group Responsible: The school principal or designee would be responsible for this activity

*Other goals not yet fully developed: Conduct an energy audit

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Start a helping hands group to assist parishioners: This group would be available for home and yard chores to help ailing parishioners. Activities could be driving to appointments, light cleaning, and light yard work. This program is conceptual and needs a champion to see it to fruition.

Commitment: Continue supporting St. Vincent de Paul Society: Good Shepherd Parish supports the St. Vincent De Paul Society- Good Shepherd Conference by having a collection after Mass one Sunday per month, collecting food donations and clothing at the parish for distribution to the

needy, participating in a giving tree for Christmas gifts to the needy, and parishioners are the primary officers and volunteers for the society, food pantry, and thrift shop.

Timeframe: This program is ongoing.

Person or Group Responsible: The St. Vincent De Paul Society- Good Shepherd Conference (Stephanie Sims, President) will remain responsible for this program.

Commitment: Continue serving lunches several times a month at Kings Daughters Apartments: Good Shepherd Parish prepares and serves lunch at the low-income apartments in South Frankfort. Teams serve three Saturdays each month.

Timeframe: This program is ongoing.

Person or Group Responsible: The existing team leaders will continue to organize this ministry.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue purchasing biodegradable plates etc. when possible: This existing program is an effort by the facilities manager to purchase green products such as compostable plates for parish events. This does not extend to the school cafeteria, but we will look for ways that it could.

Timeframe: This is an ongoing effort.

Person or Group Responsible: The facilities manager, and the cafeteria manager will be encouraged to support this effort.

Commitment: Hold a Share-a-Ride Sunday: This program would encourage parishioners to share rides to Mass together to reduce the amount of gasoline used for travel. It would also encourage social interaction among the parishioners. It would include promoting the idea at Mass and in the bulletin and other school and parish communications.

Timeframe: Unknown

Person or Group Responsible: Unknown

Commitment: Buy local produce (or grow it) for school cafeteria: This program would involve contacting local food producers to determine the feasibility of using their produce in the school. It will also require direction from the diocesan school superintendent as to the legality and the effect the program may have on government funding for school lunches.

Timeframe: Unknown

Person or Group Responsible: Unknown

*Other goals not yet fully developed: Support local businesses with ethical ways.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Reduce disposable, single-use utensils, plates, cups, etc. This program involves encouraging all parish functions and staff to use "real" cups, plates, and utensils instead of disposable. This would reduce waste to the landfill and the need to manufacture the products.

This project is in line with the Franklin County proposal to ban single-use plastics and Styrofoam.

Timeframe: This project could be initiated this fall with consideration to the proposal being given to the school principal and parish staff.

Person or Group Responsible: Unknown

Commitment: Have more trash cans and recycle bins outside. This initiative would combat trash from outside groups that rent our soccer fields. Trash is sometimes left behind. Additional trash and recycle bins (lidded?) could be placed around the fields. There may be grant funding or other from the Franklin County Solid Waste Department or the Division of Waste Management.

Timeframe: Unknown

Person or Group Responsible: Unknown

*Other goals not yet fully developed: Promote recycling in the parish; have a produce swap; build a community or school garden; use less paper in the classrooms

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Promote the concept of Laudato Si' in the parish. This element is a regular spot in the church bulletin, once a month, discussing Laudato Si' and ways to live it. We will also post the same information on social media.

Timeframe: Begin January 2025

Person or Group Responsible: The Laudato Si' Action Committee will prepare these blurbs; the parish office manager will ensure that they are published.

*Other goals/ideas not yet fully developed: Read and discuss Laudato Si' in parish and school; more visuals about ecological education; host a speaker on Care of Creation themes; care for creation in school science and religion curriculum; create terrariums for classrooms; more education time outdoors; have environmental speakers (air quality, KAEE); environmental trips

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: More prayer experiences outdoors. We have a good start, with several processions into Mass such as on Palm Sunday and during Holy Week. We could come up with more activities in cooperation with Liturgy Committee.

Timeframe: Begin during Lent 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Liturgy Committee

Commitment: Earth Day blessing with outdoor Mass, outdoor Rosary. This activity would require special permission.

Timeframe: April 22, 2025, Tuesday 8:15 am Mass

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor and the school Mass planning committee for that week

*Other goals/ideas not yet fully developed: Bless gardens; have a harvest blessing

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Participate in Reforest KY as a parish. This is an annual community event to raise awareness about environmental themes. We could wear parish t-shirts that were sold as part of the picnic, August 2024, or other Good Shepherd logo wear.

Timeframe: April 2025, date to be determined

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' action team and others to be recruited

Commitment: Plant more trees on campus. Use Arbor Day or Forestry Dept. seedlings (sometimes given away at Earth Day celebrations)

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: TBD

Laudato Si' Action Team

Members: Deacon Bob Amato, Mary Beth Robson, Father John Lijana.

**Sts. Francis and John
St. John School**
800 Cincinnati Road Georgetown, KY 40324

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Our parish commits to addressing the care for creation as a gift from God. As good stewards, we must be committed to protecting this gift and being advocates for its care. With inspiration from our faith, direction from our leadership, and participation from our parishioners, we can achieve measurable success in sustainability of our resources and in care of our fellow man.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Establish a Care for Creation Team to prioritize and monitor the progress of addressing not only this action plan but also the future activities of the parish related to building, resource consumption and conservation, and outreach activities.

Timeframe: This team will be formed in 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: The Pastor is responsible for the team formation and structure.

Commitment: The parish will continue to include our prayers for peace, justice, and blessings to the less fortunate as part of our weekly Mass intentions.

Timeframe: This will continue through the 2024-2025 year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Pastor and deacons will be responsible for maintaining the prayer intentions at Sunday Masses.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continuing our parish programs to help the less fortunate in our local community, including supporting the Amen House, the Not Alone Pregnancy Center, and various charities that support the homeless or underserved.

Timeframe: This will continue during our 2024-2025 year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Pastor and the parish committees organizing this support will be responsible.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: The Care for Creation Team will explore in 2025 ways to address this goal in the parish.

Timeframe: This will occur during 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: The Pastor and the Care for Creation Team will be responsible.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: The pastor will include a homily on the connectedness of sustainable lifestyles and living out what God has called us to do and to be on this Earth.

Timeframe: This homily will occur during the Advent Season (2024) and again during the Lenten Season (2025) to address as many of the parish families as possible.

Person or Group Responsible: This involves the Pastor and the weekend Masses.

Commitment: The parish will continue to increase energy efficiency on campus by using more efficient lighting, improving insulation, and installing more efficient heating/cooling systems as applicable.

Timeframe: This will continue through the 2024-2025 year.

Person or Group Responsible: The Parish and School leadership is responsible for this goal.

Commitment: The school will continue to improve the sustainable use of resources on campus by decreasing usage of disposable water bottles and increasing recycling efforts.

Timeframe: This will continue through the 2024-2025 year.

Person or Group Responsible: The school leadership is responsible for this goal.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Recycling efforts or education topics will be advertised in the bulletin including any local programs available to parishioners.

Timeframe: This will occur in 2024-2025.

Person or Group Responsible: The Parish communication team will be responsible.

Commitment: The school will continue to educate its students on sustainable practices and partner with our families in teaching the values of recycling or reusing, the ways to minimize our resource footprint, and the obligations that our faith teaches us in taking care of our fellow man.

Timeframe: These lessons will occur during the 2024-2025 school year.

Person or Group Responsible: St. John School, and the principal will be responsible.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Lessons in our catechism will include the importance of being good stewards of the gifts that God has given to us.

Timeframe: This will continue during our 2024-2025 catechist year.

Person or Group Responsible: Include St. John School, our CCD program, our OCIA program, and our Confirmation classes.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Tasking our outreach organizations and committees to explore the next stages of our parish growth and impact on the Georgetown community.

Timeframe: The pastor will address the organizations and committees in the first quarter of 2025 to begin the assessment process. Organizations and committees responsible include our list of service and outreach groups.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Linh Nguyen, Pastor

Team Members: Fr. Linh Nguyen, Pastor; Brent Mayer, Principal, St. John School

St. Andrew
1125 Danville Rd Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Laudato Si' Statement

"We the members of the St. Andrew Parish in Harrodsburg, Kentucky are a Roman Catholic faith community of diverse people. We unite in prayer and works of charity to strengthen and share our faith. As local members of the Body of Christ, we are called together, as a loving family. By loving and serving God, each other and people throughout the community and the world, we speak the "good news" by our words and actions."

We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ by building community, serving those in need and living out our Catholic faith. Scripture tells us that "God made the heavens and the earth, and it was good" (Genesis 1:1-31).

In Genesis 2:15, God placed Adam into the paradise of the Garden of Eden with a job to do. "God had created a world which included work needing to be done; He created man with a mission to do that work." Creation is a means of providing for humanity and the rest of what God has made, and humanity has been given both dominion and stewardship over creation. (Not dominion alone!) It is understood that these roles and responsibilities are given so that creation can fulfil its purpose of providing for all humanity now and into the future. "Our use of the earth must be designed to conserve and renew it rather than to deplete and destroy it." (World Vision's Biblical Understanding of How We Relate to Creation)

The "bottom line" is that everyone is called to respond to the Care of Creation: Whether that is in the form of helping the poor in our local communities, our country, or foreign countries that we may or may not ever visit, and the people that call these foreign countries their home.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth:

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Eliminate the use of Styrofoam completely.

Timeframe: Will start this immediately

Person or Group Responsible: Any committee chair, group or individual that would need to use glasses, plates, saucers, or bowls at any function at the parish

Commitment: Even though we have reprogrammable thermostats we need to utilize that function on a consistent basis.

Timeframe: This will start immediately.

Person or Group Responsible: Staff or member of the maintenance committee

Commitment: We will replace thermostats that don't work properly with a programmable one.

Timeframe: This will be an ongoing process.

Person or Group Responsible: Member of the maintenance committee

Commitment: When we have the need to replace heating and/or air conditioning units or appliances we will purchase ones with EPA's energy star rating. We also need to ensure that heating and air conditioning units are programmable for peak times.

Timeframe: This will be an ongoing process as needed.

Person or Group Responsible: Staff & maintenance committee members

Commitment: We need to make sure that all water faucets are turned off in bathrooms and parish hall after all masses and events. (None should be left dripping.)

Timeframe: This should start immediately.

Person or Group Responsible: Ministers of hospitality or appointed person

Commitment: Add motion sensor lights in all bathrooms.

Timeframe: This will start as soon as possible.

Person or Group Responsible: Member of maintenance committee

Commitment: Educate our parishioners on the benefits of recycling and why this is so important. Encourage them to start recycling at home and teach their children of the importance. Provide a list of what items are recyclable at home and the local recycle center and the surrounding centers if they do not live in Mercer County.

Timeframe: Will start as soon as possible. We will put in the bulletin, on our webpage and Facebook and will set aside a time in our formation classes to educate our children.

Person or Group Responsible: CRE and catechists

Commitment: Look at the possibility of planting flower beds with more pollinating flowers on parish grounds.

Timeframe: Will start in the appropriate season for planting in this planting zone.

Person or Group Responsible: Pat Biggs

Commitment: One of our parishioners has offered to talk to our 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in the formation classes, and give them sunflower seeds to plant. She will talk to them and explain how valuable they are as pollinators and birds, bees and God's creation. She suggested making it a contest and when they bring in pictures in the fall a prize/prizes will be given out.

Timeframe: Will start when it is appropriate for the planting seasons.

Person or Group Responsible: Coordinator of Religious Education & Pat Biggs

Commitment: Determine if there is an interest within the parish to start a raised bed garden for vegetables or flowers. We would need to investigate and see if a parishioner would be willing to serve as a Volunteer Community Garden Coordinator and develop program

Person or Group Responsible: Unknown

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Work with other local civic groups that organize clean up days at Herrington Lake and other waterways in the county. We will start this after finding out more information

from a group that works extensively in these areas, i.e. when are clean ups scheduled, are there age restrictions on volunteers, etc.

Timeframe: Will start in 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Going to reach out to one of our parishioners that lives on the lake. She volunteers in this project already.

Commitment: Locate people who are knowledgeable about ecological issues and are willing to come and speak on various topics to members of the parish. Advertise and invite members of the community. Work with our youth to help them understand that we should not be a "Throw Away Society" and all of us are called to be good stewards of our environment.

Timeframe: We will plan on starting this in the spring of 2025. This will give the planning team time to suggest topics, find speakers, etc.

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Planning Team

Commitment: Encourage people to keep up with the Catholic Conference of Kentucky and stay informed on what is occurring in the political world. This could be accomplished by placing an insert in the bulletin to make people aware of items of interest to members of the Catholic faith.

Timeframe: This can start immediately.

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor, Office Staff and Mary Jane Trimble

Commitment: We will contact the leader of the Habitat for Humanity group in Harrodsburg and see if they have plans for the next construction project and obtain more information that we can share with our parishioners.

Timeframe: This will start this immediately.

Person or Group Responsible: Mary Jane Trimble

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following new initiatives:

Commitment: Pay more attention to the products and services that we purchase. Focus our efforts on buying locally produced food and purchase "green products" when we can.

Commitment: We can investigate purchasing & selling Fr. Miguel's fair trade coffee as a fundraiser for GEO.

Commitment: Research businesses in our community that have a commitment to sustainability and promote these businesses when possible. We have a few parishioners that are very committed to sustainability, and we could make the parish members aware of this and ask them to support these families in their efforts.

Timeframe: This could be started immediately.

Person or Group Responsible: Office staff in charge of purchasing

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: At one time, we were introduced to a person that took plastic bags and wove them into mats for the homeless. We have since found out how to make them and could make them here if we could people that would be interested in trying. This would help the homeless and would put the plastic to good use rather than fill up the landfills. Will check with members that do crafts for the parish to see the level of interest.

Person or Group Responsible: Members of the service committee and/or craft bazaar committee

Commitment: Provide all members of the parish and groups that gather and make use of the facility with information that would make them aware of our recycling program so they can recycle at their events that would help in our recycling endeavors, i.e. recycle bins need to be identified and indicate what should be placed or not placed in them.

Timeframe: This should start as soon as we get the message out to the various heads of the different groups that use the gathering space or any other part of the building.

Person or Group Responsible: Committee chairs for each group, youth group leader, etc.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Preview "The Letter" with the pastor and the Coordinator of Religious Education program and see if we can incorporate a viewing and discussion in our formation programs (youth, adult, OCIA, etc.).

Timeframe: Discretion of the Pastor and CRE

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor & CRE

Commitment: Speak with the Pastoral & Finance Council members and encourage them to assist in promoting the Laudato Si' program and goals.

Timeframe: Discretion of the Pastor & Council Chairs

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Edwin, pastor

Commitment: Check into getting speakers to talk about Care of Creation themes, and we could incorporate them into parish life and our daily life at homes and workplace.

Timeframe: 1st of the year 2025 so we line up speakers in early spring of 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Committee members

Commitment: Encourage members to read the Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum documents.

Timeframe: This should start immediately.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Edwin, pastor

Commitment: Talk more about our blessings and why we should live our lives showing that we appreciate the blessings we have received from our Heavenly Father. Yes, we have people who are homeless, struggling to have enough food to eat, and members of our community that are struggling to purchase necessary medicine in our communities, but that only emphasizes our

responsibility to care for all and everything in God's creation. These topics should be brought up in homilies, meetings, discussion groups, etc., wherever and whenever appropriate.

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor and every member in the parish

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Some have expressed interest in having an outside Mass periodically. On All Souls Day, an outside mass is celebrated at Nicholas Cemetery, located in Mercer County. Those in attendance say, "that it is so peaceful and beautiful and gives you a real opportunity to appreciate God's creation." We would need to talk to the pastor and the parish council.

Person or Group Responsible: If approved by Fr. Edwin and Pastoral Council, we could start as a representative is selected

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Need to continue to spread the message of the Care for Creation Team, recruit more members to serve on this team and the Laudato Si' Committee. Continue to recruit more members of the parish to get involved.

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor and current members of the Laudato Si' Action Team

Commitment: Explore what the various civic groups and city & county governments, other church groups, etc. are doing in the community that we could join and make a bigger difference in the community. This would also help build community within our town and parish.

Timeframe: This should start immediately.

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Committee

Commitment: Utilize all our means of communication to reach out to parish and the community.

Timeframe: This will start immediately.

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor, Staff Members, Laudato Si' Action Team, and all leadership positions in the parish

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Mary Jane Trimble

Team Members: Rev. Edwin Netlas, CMF, Shelagh Aretakis, Patricia Biggs, Karen Chadwick, Mary Kay Mayo, Sara Sue Niemann, Mary Jane Trimble, (Joy Potter - Representing St. Mary Mission, 307 S. Buell St, Perryville, KY 4046)

St. Leo Church and School
295 Huntertown Road Versailles, KY 40383

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

We, the family of Saint Leo parish, believe God's creation is a blessing for all of us. Our Catholic faith teaches good stewardship, honoring life, and caring for the earth and all its inhabitants. We seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide our actions in living out the ideals of Laudato Si'.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Set-up a seed sharing box, like the library lending box, at the entrance to the parking lot.

Commitment: Collecting seeds in September and October from the St. Isidore Community Garden and the pollinator flower garden at St. Leo.

Commitment: Building a seed-sharing box for April of 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: Chris Musgrave is leading and teaching the process of collecting seeds. Rosie Fedorchuk is helping to lead the construction of the seed sharing box with the Secular Franciscans.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: World Day of Prayer: Thanksgiving Food Baskets for those in need in Woodford County (November 16, 2024).

Commitment: Continue to promote on-going giving to the St. Leo Service Committee to help those in need of assistance with rent and monthly utility bills.

Commitment: For St. Leo to give quarterly donations to the Woodford County food pantry to help support families in need.

Commitment: Investigate feasibility of youth and young adults to bake goods to sell monthly with proceeds to support missions and parishes in other countries.

Commitment: A sleeping bag drive for the Catholic Action Center in Lexington by December. Person or Group Responsible: Rosie Fedorchuk

Commitment: Promote Catholics at the Capitol with the Catholic Conference of Kentucky in February 2025.

Commitment: Create a page on the parish website to help connect people to resources to reduce their cost of living by September 2025 (Service Committee).

Commitment: Promote the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in November 2025 and the Rice Bowl participation during Lent of 2025.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Review and discuss the feasibility of using Little Mountain Coffee for parish events and groups.

Timeframe: January 2025.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Further reduce food waste by investigating the use of compost pile or composter or partnering with local farmers to use food waste for their pigs' feed.

Timeframe: February 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Chris Musgrave

Commitment: Continue to reduce use of Styrofoam or plastic products for parish events.

Commitment: Seek ways to reduce paper use in parish and school offices and classrooms.

Commitment: Promote the elimination of plastic shopping bags by developing reusable shopping bags with the parish/school logo that can be sold and used with grocery shopping.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Develop bulletin reminders about Laudato Si'.

Timeframe: January 2025

Person or Group Responsible: St. Leo Action Team Members

Commitment: Share with parishioners their recycling options for paper, glass, plastic, medications, batteries, oil, paint, and chemicals.

Person or Group Responsible: St. Leo Action Team Members

Commitment: Host an art show to educate families and students about the goals of Laudato Si' in the parish and the school.

Timeframe: September 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Rosie Fedorchuk

Commitment: Provide information about farmers' markets in the area.

Person or Group Responsible: St. Leo Action Team Members

Commitment: Partner with the Woodford County Extension Office for activities to teach parishioners and St. Leo School Students about canning, gardening, and green cleaning.

Commitment: Partner with the U.S.D.A. Conservation District (in the same building as Woodford County Extension) to learn about soil and water conservation.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: In the centennial year anniversary of St. Leo being its own parish (2024), a new set of outdoor Stations of the Cross will be installed in front of the parish church so that the faithful may meditate on Christ's passion.

Timeframe: October 19-20, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Luke Gayou Eagle Scout Project

Commitment: Annual blessing of foaling barns.

Timeframe: January to February 2025

Commitment: Blessing of the Parish St. Isidore Community Garden on the feast day of St. Mark.

Timeframe: April 25, 2025

Commitment: Rogations Days. See Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers. We are invited to pray, give thanks to God and to see "nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness" (Laudato Si, 12).

Timeframe: May 26-May 28

Commitment: Annual blessing of yearlings in July 2025.

Commitment: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (September 1, 2025)

Commitment: Blessing of Seeds (September 8, 2025): See Book of Blessings Order for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time.

Commitment: Ember Days (September 17, 19, & 20) See Book of Blessings on the Occasion of Thanksgiving for the Harvest. During these days, we are asked to fast, remember our obligation to steward the earth, and regain harmony between humanity and creation. "...Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself" and these three relationships have been broken, this rupture is sin (Laudato Si', 66).

Commitment: Annual blessing of pets on St. Francis' Feast Day (October 4, 2025).

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: To share with parishioners the spirituality of ecological awareness by highlighting some of the reflections and writings of the late Fr. Albert Fritsch, SJ on his website: <http://www.earthhealing.info>.

Timeframe: January 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Chris Clay

Commitment: To coordinate St. Leo Laudato Si' Action Committee working with the parish, school, and finance council to have on-going collaboration on the care of creation and faithful stewardship of parish and school facilities.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Chris Clay

Team Members: Tracy Borth, Chris Musgrave, Gary Lindle, Janie Lindle, Rosie Fedorchuk, Herb Petitjean

St. Luke
304 South Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

The earth is an incredible gift from God to His people. It provides all that is needed to live a healthy and productive life. By caring for the earth now, future generations will continue to thrive and grow on this earth, we call home.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue the current efforts of energy efficiency by doing the following: reseal windows and doors as needed, use LED bulbs, use sensor lights as needed, replace filters in a timely fashion. The HVAC system was recently replaced in the rectory with individual temperature controls for the Priest's residence and church office.

Person or Group Responsible: The maintenance person will oversee the current efforts.

Commitment: Replace the current heating system in the Church. As the renovations continue Parish Council and Finance Council will work together to secure the necessary funds.

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor, presidents of the Parish and Finance Councils.

Commitment: Begin to phase in perennial flowers, heat resistant and plants native to Kentucky to reduce water usage and plant waste. The current lawn care company will begin to utilize perennial flowers and plants in the 2025 spring planting of the flower beds.

Person or Group Responsible: The property committee will work with the lawn care service company to determine the amount of change per year based on the cost per flower bed.

Commitment: Eliminate or reduce chemical fertilizers and pesticides that are used on the church grounds. The maintenance person and lawn care company will utilize 50% or more natural fertilizers and pesticides. There will be a 10% increase or better each year to reach 100% natural fertilizers or pesticides by 2030.

Person or Group Responsible: The property committee will monitor the number of chemical fertilizers and pesticides used.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue the current efforts to provide food for those in our community by doing the following: The Women's Group collects breakfast food items for a local middle school each month and delivers those items to the school. The church supports the Jessamine County Food Pantry, Homeless Shelter, Bluegrass Community Action Center and Salvation Army through quarterly donations. Women's Group and Knights of Columbus provide a monthly meal for the local Homeless Shelter. The Knights of Columbus provide turkeys during Thanksgiving to our local Food Pantry and promote the 40 cans in 40 days. K of C provides funds for women's groups, women's shelters, women's free medical centers and the Right to Life program annually. K of C annually provides coats for kids. K of C provides humanitarian aid to veterans locally

with quality-of-life efforts, visits and assistance. Monthly collection of money that is used to support community members in need. The church provides an emergency fund for parishioners in need.

Commitment: Continue and increase the Church's efforts to promote the right to life and pro-life activities among the parishioners and the local community: K of C provides funds for women's groups, women's shelters, women's free medical centers and the Right to Life program annually. K of C and Saint Luke funded a Safe Haven Baby Box in a local fire station. Members of the Knights of Columbus will continue to maintain the headstone for the babies lost to abortion and yearly place white crosses in the church yard to signify the number of aborted babies. Each month information about Right to Life will be provided by a member of Right to Life to be included in the bulletin. Continue to promote the state and national March for Life by encouraging donations to support those that would like to participate. Hold information sessions by members of the Right to Life after Masses or evenings twice a year to inform church members of the current pro-life situation starting in 2025.

Commitment: Provide information to the parish through the church bulletin, Facebook, posters and website about ongoing local environmental programs and clean waterway projects.

Timeframe: Begin adding information about local projects starting in January 2025 to the church's various means of communication.

Person or Group Responsible: The church staff will seek a volunteer(s) to send appropriate information to the church office manager for distribution.

Commitment: The Youth Group Leadership will encourage students to participate in the Rice Bowl Program during Lent as a competition among students or groups of students.

Person or Group Responsible: The Director of Religious Education will provide Rice Bowls, information and incentives to the youth group leader and collect money to be given to the church office manager.

Commitment: Elementary religion teachers will encourage students to participate in the Rice Bowl Program during Lent as a competition among students or groups of students.

Person or Group Responsible: The Director of Religious Education will provide Rice Bowls, information and incentives to the teachers and collect money to be given to the church office manager.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue and increase the use of natural or green cleaning products in the parish buildings, beginning with 50% of the cleaning products will be natural by January 2025.

Timeframe: There will be a 10% increase or better each year to reach 100% by 2030.

Person or Group Responsible: Maintenance person will order natural cleaning products. The current cleaning company will order similar products.

Commitment: Encourage the Women's Group, Knights of Columbus and any other church groups that provide meals for others to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, when in season, from local producers. Also, consider buying locally prepared foods to help the local businesses. Timeframe: The above groups will assess the current amount of local food purchased and increase by 10% each year.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Recycle and reduce waste by continuing to grow the current recycled plastic bottles used in church functions.

Person or Group Responsible: The Women's Group is providing a specific labeled trash can to collect plastic bottles. The church secretary will contact the local waste management system to pick up recyclables on a regular basis.

Commitment: Encourage students to provide their own water bottles and set up a water station for refills. This practice will reduce the number of plastic bottles.

Timeframe: January 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Director of Religious Education and Youth Group Leader will begin this initiative January 2025 with student groups. The DRE and Youth Group Leader will send information home to families. The Parish Council will work with the Finance Council to provide funds for the water station.

Commitment: Expand the current recycling program to include paper and cardboard.

Person or Group Responsible: The maintenance person will provide a specific labeled trash can to collect paper and cardboard. The church office manager will contact the local waste management system to pick up recyclables, including paper, on a regular basis by January 2025.

Commitment: Reduce the use of plastic cutlery by using the current supply of regular utensils in the church kitchen.

Timeframe: All groups will utilize regular flatware for functions that include meals that are served in the church by June 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: The leader of the group will be responsible for providing and cleaning the used flatware.

Commitment: Reduce the use of Styrofoam and paper dinnerware by purchasing more recyclable paper products or utilizing reusable dinnerware. Groups will work together to research other options for carry-out meals to reduce the use of Styrofoam containers.

Person or Group Responsible: Individual groups' leadership will be responsible to reduce non-recyclable waste by 2026.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Provide opportunities for small groups to watch "The Letter - A Message for our Earth" and discuss how we can improve the environment.

Timeframe: Small group meetings will begin in 2025 at various times and locations.
Person or Group Responsible: Jacqueline Shukla

Commitment: Purchase materials to be added to the church library in the Adoration Chapel that provide guidance and resources for the vision of Laudato Si'.

Person or Group Responsible: The St. Luke Laudato Si' group will make recommendations for the library to the Pastor. The office manager will order the materials.

Commitment: Vacation Bible School will include a section on the Care for Creation.

Person or Group Responsible: The DRE and VBS staff will develop or purchase curriculum to use during VBS to focus on the ways students and their families can care for God's creation. The DRE will be responsible for purchasing the VBS materials.

Commitment: The Youth Group Leader will provide a speaker during the school year to address the concerns of Laudato Si'.

Person or Group Responsible: The DRE and YGL will work together to secure a speaker in April 2025. This activity will become an annual event.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to host an animal blessing on the Feast of St. Francis on October 4th. The Pastor will bless pets after the daily Mass or Sunday Masses each year. Parishioners will be notified of this information through the bulletin and Facebook prior to the blessing.

Person or Group Responsible: Office manager will be responsible to share the date and time of the event.

Commitment: Continue holding the annual Public Square Rosary in the front of the church on the third Saturday in October from 12:00-2:00. Parishioners will have an opportunity to show their love for the Blessed Mother by publicly praying the Rosary. Leaders and members from different organizations in the church will lead a Rosary for each of the mysteries.

Timeframe: 3rd Saturday in October

Person or Group Responsible: The Rosary group is responsible for setting up and securing Rosary leaders.

Commitment: Continue the liturgical procession with the Sacred Host after the 10:00 Mass on Corpus Christi. Parishioners will follow the pastor, deacons, and altar persons as they walk around a city block singing and praying.

Person or Group Responsible: Several groups are responsible for the logistics of the procession, including the Knights of Columbus, the Women's Group and the Pastoral leadership.

Commitment: Include Care for Creation information in the bulletin, announcements and social media once a month.

Timeframe: Start in 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Members of the committee that worked on the Laudato Si' Action Plan will be responsible for providing Care for Creation information.

Commitment: Create a courtyard in the renovations of the Church grounds to provide a place to pray and meditate. There are several statues on the grounds of the church, but it is difficult to concentrate on prayer due to the location of the church on a very busy road. Many parishioners utilize the Adoration Chapel as an additional prayer space.

Person or Group Responsible: The planning committee will include a courtyard space in the renovations.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue the work of the Laudato Si' committee by creating the Care for Creation Team. The Care for Creation team will work with church leadership to evaluate the progress of the goals and review the goals as necessary.

Person or Group Responsible: Members of the current Laudato Si' committee will invite other church members to join the group. An organizing meeting will be scheduled in January 2025.

Commitment: Address peace and justice/ social issues by the creation of a committee focusing on these concerns. The church has several members of the congregation interested in this topic and the leadership of Parish Council will work with them to start the group.

Timeframe: The peace and justice/social issues committee will begin its work in Spring 2025.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Margie Maloney

Laudato Si' Action Team Members: Joan Deane, Jacqueline Shukla, Deborah Owen

St. Mary
307 S Buell St. Perryville, KY 40468

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

We are a small faith filled community. We unite in prayer and works of charity to strengthen and share our faith. As local members of the Body of Christ, we are called together, as a loving family. By loving and serving God, each other and people throughout the community and the world, we speak the "good news" by our words and actions.

We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ by building community, serving those in need and living out our Catholic faith.

**We are a small parish of about 21 families. We have Mass once a week on Saturday evenings and Holy Days. Parents of children send their children to Formation classes to St. Andrew parish in Harrodsburg or Sts. Peter & Paul in Danville, KY. The parish uses a town hall format for all decision making and submit them to the pastor for approval. Most of the actions that we have committed to fall under Goal 1 of the 7 categories of the Laudato Si' Action Plan.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following new initiatives:

Commitment: Update thermostat to programmable "smart" version.

Commitment: Plant trees at strategic locations to optimize cooling. This will also serve to beautify grounds and improve natural surroundings.

Commitment: Organize monthly trash pick-up day.

Commitment: Parishioners immediately consented to bringing our own plates, utensils and cups from home to use at our upcoming parish picnic.

Commitment: Parishioners agree to either donate or collaborate on acquiring washable and reusable dishes, utensils and cups for future use at parish functions.

Commitment: Will caulk and seal the windows.

Commitment: Will add window film to improve insulation.

Commitment: Will install window stripping around the doors.

Commitment: Create a contemplative garden in our small yard space using pollinator plants and a water catchment system to utilize rainwater to water the plants.

Commitment: Will replace burned out light bulbs with LED bulbs as needed.

Timeframe: All above commitments will start as soon as possible.

Person or Group Responsible: All members

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following new initiatives:

Commitment: Collect and donate food items to local food pantry.

Timeframe: Will start immediately

Person or Group Responsible: All members will participate in this.

Goal 5: Ecological Education:

We commit to the following new initiatives:

Commitment: Will be informed of educational opportunities at St. Andrew.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality:

We commit to the following new initiatives:

Commitment: Prayer groups formed or commit to pray daily.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment:

We commit to the following new initiatives:

Commitment: Research what other groups in the community are doing and see if the parish can join and assist in any way.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Joy Potter

Team Members: Rev. Edwin Netlas, CMF, Joy Potter, Shelagh Aretakis, Patricia Biggs, Karen Chadwick, Mary Kay Mayo, Sara Sue Niemann, Mary Jane Trimble

Sts. Peter and Paul
117 West Main St. Danville, KY 40422

Laudato Si' Statement

Earth is a gift from God and is in our care. We are called to stewardship of the resources that have been entrusted to us by God. We believe that in caring for the resources of the earth, we will mitigate the harm done to the planet by human wastefulness as well as assure adequate resources for future generations. And in the end the question before us is really “Why NOT care?”

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to replace all parish lighting with LED bulbs as they fail.

Timeframe: Evaluate all current lighting fixtures in 2025 Q1 and replace as needed.

Person or Group Responsible: Parish custodian

Commitment: Adjust thermostats in the church and in the Catholic Center 2 degrees higher in summer and 2 degrees lower in winter. Continue stepwise if there are no issues.

Timeframe: Immediately (October 2024) begin to reset all programmable thermostats. Monitor through winter 2024-25 and modify setting each month if no issues. Monitor through summer 2025 and modify setting each month if no issues.

Person or Group Responsible: Parish custodian

Commitment: Have a professional energy audit performed that will assess sealing/caulking, insulation, lighting, heating/cooling, etc. Request proposals for improvement as part of the audit. Timeframe: Engage a reputable vendor for a complete energy audit (Kentucky Utilities can recommend) and contract this by the end of 2024. Develop a detailed plan, timeline, and cost proposal for implementing energy efficiency improvements by the end of Q1, 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: Building and Grounds with Laudato Si' committees

Commitment: Develop a plan to change landscaping to include local native plants and pollinator friendly plants area by area and reduce mowing and use of chemicals.

Timeframe: Evaluate all areas around the property as it affects mowing, irrigation, and chemical use. Develop a team to look at this holistically by the end of 2024. Develop a plan with staged implementation through 2025 and cost proposal by end of Q1, 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: Committee to be established

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue our parish's ministry to those in need, especially the homeless.

Timeframe: Continue through 2024-2025.

Person or Group Responsible: Joyce Zinner (Amen Corner) and Debbie Thurnell/Cliff Dunne (Meals and Homeless Ministry)

Commitment: Expand our parish homeless outreach efforts to include more parishioners and extend our reach.

Timeframe: Develop a plan for information sharing by the end of the year. Publish to the parish in Q1, 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: Debbie Thurnell/Cliff Dunne

Commitment: Environmental education.

Timeframe: Develop plan for modules to be taught in 2025-2026.

Person or Group Responsible: Lynda Manon with Laudato Si' Committee

Commitment: Support the forgotten population in the prison. Prepare information and personal stories to share with the parish (perhaps around Stewardship theme).

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Danny/Patricia Finch

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Increase support for local businesses. Publish a directory of parishioner-owned businesses as well as local businesses that support our parish and our outreach activities.

Timeframe: Develop directory by end of Q1, 2025 and publish to parish.

Person or Group Responsible: Cindy Underwood

Commitment: Increase support for local farmers. Invite farmers to join Laudato Si' committee (Nolans, Hulls, Germanns).

Timeframe: Extend invitation to join committee by end of 2024. Plan for Harvest Table through 2025 growing season. Publish ways to access local produce to the entire parish by Q2, 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Committee (Nolet)

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue Amen Corner. Continue with the present structure and goals.

Person or Group Responsible: Joyce Zinner and Amen Corner Committee

Commitment: Establish a plan for kitchenware conversion.

Timeframe: In the short term, switch all kitchen products from plastic or Styrofoam to more reusable and/or compostable materials. Encourage people to bring their own dishes and to-go containers for community events. In the longer term, use the kitchen renovation project to include an industrial dishwasher to allow using existing plates and silverware at parish events. Establish a plan for the short term (by end of 2024) and long term (by end of Q3, 2025).

Person or Group Responsible: Cliff Dunne

Commitment: Encourage more parishioners to participate in recycling.

Timeframe: Develop information handouts to the parish and include information in the bulletin by the end of 2024. Investigate guest speakers who can come to talk about recycling and composting. Plan to be included in the education series in 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: Stephanie Williams and Lynda Manon

Commitment: Encourage use of reusable water bottles.

Timeframe: Get quotes on replacing/updating water fountains with water-bottle filling stations by end of 2024. Get quotes on parish branded reusable water bottles as a 2025 parish give away (or sale) item. Develop plan to deploy in 2025.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Danny and Stephanie Williams

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Promote ecological education components in 2025. Start a Laudato Si' Study Group or include as a topic/section in Adult Education using the diocesan guide. Include Laudato Si' along with Catholic social teaching in CCD and teen curriculum.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Stephanie Williams and Lynda Manon

Commitment: Investigate whether the Scouts have materials on ecological education that could be used with the broader parish.

Person or Group Responsible: Steve Ellis

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Expand the annual Blessing of Animals to include more components and broaden involvement. Ask people to bring pet food and other pet items to contribute to a local animal shelter. Have a nature expo or other educational component for our CCD kids and the parish in general on the Feast of St. Francis.

Timeframe: Plan for both 2024 and 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Danny and Stephanie Williams

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue our parish collaboration with the city of Danville, Boyle County, and other local churches in supporting our homeless population.

Person or Group Responsible: Debbie Thurnell

Commitment: Encourage parish involvement in annual Earth Day activities. Host a parish table and share information. Boyle County hosts an annual Earth Day event. Promote this to the parish at large and encourage participation. Seek out parishioners who can share at a SSP&P table.

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Committee

Commitment: Share ideas with other churches in Danville and with other Catholic churches in our Deanery. Support and learn from each other.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Danny to establish contact with the Danville Ministerial Association (if it is active) and with the Deanery to share ideas.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Dan Nolet

Team Members: Dan Nolet, Fr. Danny Schwendeman, Stephanie Williams, Teresa Nolet, Eve Rock, Peter Rock, Linda Dunne, Lauren Manninen, Patricia Finch, Das Flowers.

St. William
224 Lexington Street Lancaster, KY 40444

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Install LED bulbs as new ones are needed.

Commitment: Conduct an energy audit through Kentucky Utilities within the next six months. Parish secretary will call KU to inquire about how to proceed.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Encourage parishioners to participate in Catholics at the Capitol in January.

Commitment: Promote the Appalachian Immersion program through the bulletin.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Investigate fair trade coffee for our Sunday coffee and donuts.

Person or Group Responsible: Beth Brown

Commitment: Promote other parishes' fair trade events, like the Peachcraft sale at the Newman Center.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Promote buying fair trade products in the bulletin.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Ask the diocesan Laudato Si' Commission for information about ecological education to be included in our bulletin.

Commitment: Put a link to "The Letter" on our parish Facebook page.

Person or Group Responsible: Deacon Dennis Dever

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: At the ecumenical potluck include a "Care for Creation" theme.

Timeframe: September 29

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. John read St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures as the opening prayer.

Commitment: Investigate having a bench placed in front of the Rosary Garden to encourage people to stop and pray there.

Person or Group Responsible: Deacon Dennis will try to find a bench.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

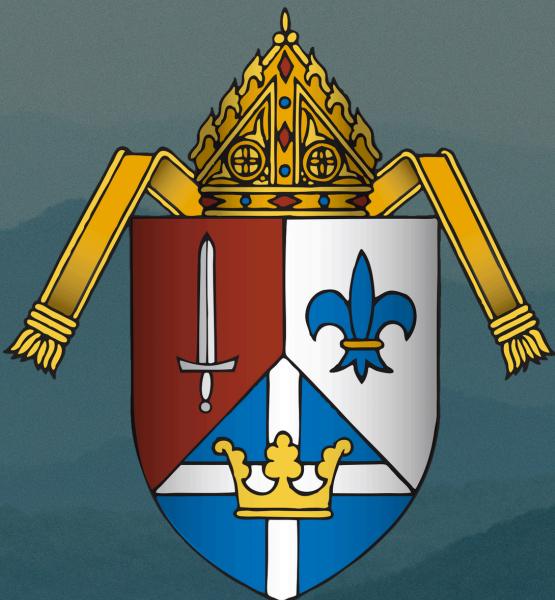
Commitment: Have a can for recycling in the parish hall so that recyclables can be transported to recycling facility in Lincoln County.

Person or Group Responsible: Kathy Kluesener

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. John List

Team Members: Fr. John List, Tony Kluesener, Beth Brown and Danny



MOUNTAIN WEST DEANERY

St. Clare, Berea
Our Lady of Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Williamsburg
St. Boniface Mission, Jellico, Tenn.
Sacred Heart, Corbin
St. Ann, Manchester
St. Gregory, Barbourville
St. Mildred, Somerset
Good Shepherd, Whitley City
St. Paul, McKee
St. Peter, Monticello
St. William, London
St. Julian, Middlesboro
St. Anthony, Pineville
Dean: Fr. Damian Anumba, MSSCC

St. Clare
622 Chestnut Street Berea, KY 40403

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

It is good to take care of the nature that surrounds us because it improves our quality of life and preserves it for future generations to enjoy.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: For every meeting that involves food we use ceramic tableware (we don't use disposables). We are now trying to replace the use of bottled water in plastic bottles; for this we use jugs with water purifiers.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: The parish works with other religious groups on Room in the Inn, which provides a week's worth of shelter for homeless people in the winter. We also work with a soup kitchen that provides the homeless with a hot dinner, hygiene items and breakfast food.

Person or Group Responsible: Dennis Jacobs

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: The parish now mows lawn.

Person or Group Responsible: Brian Russel and William Segret

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Once a month we will pray a Laudato Si' prayer before the start of Sunday Mass.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Julia Mays

Team Members: Julia Mays, Fr. Alfredo Basualdo

Our Lady of Mount Vernon
55 Crawford Ln Mount Vernon, KY 40456

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

It is good to take care of the nature that surrounds us because it improves our quality of life and preserves it for future generations to enjoy.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitments: Now we mow the property's lawns and take care of the gardens.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: In coordination with the Mt Vernon Food Bank, we distribute food and personal hygiene items to the homeless.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: At the family level we try to introduce the use of ecologically acceptable items such as deodorants, laundry detergent, etc.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Once a month we will pray a Laudato Si' prayer before the start of Sunday Mass.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Stella Young

Action Team Members: Stella Young, Fr. Alfredo Basualdo

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Boniface

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 76 West Sycamore Street Williamsburg, KY 40769
Saint Boniface: 98 Catholic Avenue Jellico, TN 37762

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Out of sheer love God created us and the world in which we live. We are at the summit of God's creation having been made in His very likeness and image, and all the works of His hand are good and blessed because He made them. We are bound by duty to care, to the best of our abilities and circumstances of time and place, for all that he has entrusted to us. Remembering that the life of the Spirit must live alongside and with worldly realities, we endeavor to:

DISCOVER God in All things "from the beauty of creation to the sighs and groans of the sick and afflicted in our community."

ENCOURAGE the conservation of all resources and promote sobriety in their use, always discerning between the nice-to-have and the necessary.

DEFEND all human life from conception to natural death, and in a larger sense, all life on earth.

REMEMBER the nobility of caring for creation even through little daily actions.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue turning off light sources and electronics when not in use or needed (use timers and motion detectors).

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or group responsible: Parish Staff

Commitment: Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs as they burn out.

Timeframe: By October 4, 2025

Person or group responsible: Committee

Commitment: Continue the use of programmable thermostats to reduce heating or cooling when not in use. Change the summer and winter maintenance temperatures by +2° summer and -2° winter.

Timeframe: November 1, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Maintenance Committee

Commitment: Continue the distribution of unused produce from the food pantry to local farmers to feed their livestock.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Outreach Coordinator

Commitment: Continue to save all cardboard boxes and use them to distribute food to senior citizens on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

Timeframe: October 4, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Outreach Coordinator, Parish Staff

Commitment: Participate in a minimum of one litter removal day in the local community and/or arrange a litter removal day for our street.

Timeframe: Starting October 4, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: TBD

Commitment: Use an organic weed killer where possible.

Timeframe: July 1, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Maintenance Committee

Commitment: Utilize EPA's ENERGY STAR ratings when replacing or buying new appliances.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Staff, Maintenance Committee, Parish Pastoral Council

Commitment: Seal or caulk around windows and door frames.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Maintenance Committee

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to maintain a food pantry and distribute food to senior citizens on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Outreach Coordinator

Commitment: Continue to maintain an emergency fund to help individuals with energy, water, and other bills.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Outreach Coordinator

Commitment: Promote Rice Bowl participation during Lent and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection on World Day of the Poor.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor

Commitment: Support charity programs to help and assist vulnerable persons, such as Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development by encouraging increased generosity in appropriate second collections at Mass.

Timeframe: Immediately

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor

Commitment: Investigate the Appalachian Immersion Experience with the Laudato Si' Commission and determine appropriate participation.

Timeframe: 4 October 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor et.al., TBD

Commitment: Investigate local clean the waterways project or other environmental projects that may be available and determine appropriate participation level.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor, Pastoral Council, delegated individuals

Commitment: Investigate Catholics at the Capitol with the Catholic Conference of Kentucky and/or other forms of political advocacy and determine appropriate participation level.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Person or group responsible: Pastor, Pastoral Council, delegated individuals

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Pastor's continued use of the hybrid automobile, provided by his order.

Timeframe: October 4, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor

Commitment: Buy locally produced and prepared food whenever possible.

Timeframe: July 1, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff

Commitment: Purchase "green products," including cleaning products, office supplies, and kitchen items when possible and practical.

Timeframe: July 1, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Staff

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to publish our bulletin electronically and encourage electronic titling to save paper.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Staff

Commitment: Where and whenever possible and practical: reduce or eliminate the use of plastic shopping bags, single use plastics, and Styrofoam; recycle electronics.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Staff

Commitment: Where and whenever possible and practical: purchase office supplies made from natural or recyclable materials and use reusable or unbleached coffee filters.

Timeframe: October 4, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Staff

Commitment: Reduce food waste by sending all left over foods to the needy, homeless shelter, or home with participants.

Timeframe: October 4, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Staff

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Watch “The Letter” and have a group discussion.

Timeframe: June 3, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish LS Action Team

Commitment: Read and discuss Laudato Si’ and Laudate Deum.

Timeframe: June 3, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish LS Action Team

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Individually we each seek to “discover God in all things.”

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Every individual

Commitment: Host an animal blessing on the Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 4).

Timeframe: October 31, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor

Commitment: Include Care for Creation intentions to the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor

Commitment: Offer prayer experiences outdoors, walking Rosaries, and outdoor Stations of the Cross during Lent and Easter.

Timeframe: 30 June 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor

Commitment: Bless gardens or natural prayer spaces at the parish.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor

Commitment: Highlight Care for Creation in bulletin announcements.

Timeframe: June 30, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor & Parish Staff

Commitment: Plan an outdoor prayer space

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor, Pastoral Council, Maintenance Committee

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the fullness of Truth found in the Catholic Church.

Timeframe: Immediately

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor and parishioners

Commitment: Collaborate with ecumenical and interfaith groups on Care for Creation initiatives as locally available.

Timeframe: October 4, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor or his delegate

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Joseph McNaughton

Team Members: Joseph McNaughton, Jerry Nowack, Danny Jankowski, Lynda Mills, Amanda Hall

Sacred Heart
703 Masters Street Corbin, KY 40701

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Our mission is to foster a spirituality that responds to God's call for us to take up and care for all of creation.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Meditation/Pollinator Garden.

Timeframe: Goal of 2-3 years

Person or Group Responsible: Youth Group

Commitment: Replace all lights with LED (hall/gym).

Timeframe: Goal 3-5 years

Person or Group Responsible: Church Maintenance

Commitment: Change to programmable thermostats.

Timeframe: Goal 2 years

Person or Group Responsible: Tom Stone

Commitment: Participate in litter removal days.

Timeframe: Goal 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Vicki Sawyers

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Increase Rice Bowl Participation.

Timeframe: Goal 2 years

Person or Group Responsible: CCD

Commitment: Promote Catholics in the Capitol.

Timeframe: Goal 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Deacon Kevin

Commitment: Groups to participate in Appalachian Immersion Trips.

Timeframe: Goal 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Candace Wilson

Commitment: Food Giveaway frequency increase to every month.

Timeframe: Goal 2 years

Person or Group Responsible: Angela Sosa, Allison Jones, Karen Fields

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Switch to green products.

Timeframe: Goal 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Church secretary

Commitment: Possible switch to fair trade coffee.

Timeframe: Goal 2-3 years

Person or Group Responsible: Church secretary

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Giving up single use plastics.

Timeframe: Goal 6 months to 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Parishioners

Commitment: Using a pan of rinse water when doing dishes.

Timeframe: Goal 6 months

Person or Group Responsible: Fish fry

Commitment: QR code for Bulletin.

Timeframe: Goal 1-3 years

Person or Group Responsible: Church office

Commitment: Installation of water fountains with water bottle refill station.

Timeframe: Goal 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Finance Council

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Add a Laudato Si' teaching into the bulletin.

Timeframe: Goal 6 months

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Committee

Commitment: Incorporate a Laudato Si' teaching into homilies.

Timeframe: Goal 6 months

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Priest and Deacons

Commitment: Youth Group excursion to Boone's Ridge.

Timeframe: Goal 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Katie Wise and Candace Wilson

Commitment: Watch “The Letter” as a parish.

Timeframe: Goal 6 months to 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si’ Committee

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Host Season of Creation events.

Timeframe: Goal 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si’ Committee

Commitment: Create an outdoor Stations of the Cross.

Timeframe: Goal 3 years

Person or Group Responsible: Youth Group

Commitment: Social Media encouraging/linking the parish to care for creation.

Timeframe: Goal 6 months to 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si’ Committee

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Foster relationships with ecumenical and interfaith groups to collaborate in the care for creation.

Timeframe: Goal 1-2 years

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Priest and Deacons

Commitment: Participate in PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desired Environment)

cleanup.

Timeframe: Goal 1 year

Person or Group Responsible: Vicki Sawyers

Commitment: Cleanup Cumberland River.

Timeframe: Goal 3-5 years

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si’ Committee and David Ledford

Laudato Si’ Action Team

Coordinator: Candace Wilson

Team Members: Deacon Kevin Meece, Vicki Sawyers, Matthew Smith, Clarie Standifer

St. Ann
222 Town Branch Road Manchester, KY 40962

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Replace toilets with low flow toilets. One has been replaced. Two need to be replaced.

Timeframe: No time frame has been given.

Person or Group Responsible: Property Committee

Commitment: Caulk around doors. Caulking needs to be replaced around all doors.

Timeframe: No time frame has been given.

Person or Group Responsible: Property Committee

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Strengthen policy for outreach. We will expand our outreach committee and see how we can better help our community.

Timeframe: Will have meeting in next few months

Person or Group Responsible: Outreach Committee

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Wash dishes instead of using plastics.

Timeframe: Immediately

Person or Group Responsible: All parishioners

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Explore a recycle program. Continuation of this program and promote more recycling.

Timeframe: Within six months

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' members will organize and all parishioners will participate.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Work with the Clay County Extension Office to provide educational programs for our parishioners.

Timeframe: Within one year

Person or Group Responsible: Has not yet been determined

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Create a Monarch Waystation to provide resources for monarch to produce successive generations and sustain migration.

Timeframe: Spring of 2025 or 2026

Person or Group Responsible: Jim Sizemore

Commitment: A Kentucky Forest Stewardship Plan was completed in April of 2020 on the 36 acres of forestland on which St. Ann Mission sits. We will revisit the recommendations made in this plan and work with the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) to implement these recommendations and to be designated as a Stewardship Forest.

Timeframe: Has not yet been determined

Person or Group Responsible: Has not yet been determined

Commitment: Explore installing outdoor Stations of the Cross at Saint Ann Mission.

Timeframe: Has not yet been determined

Person or Group Responsible: Has not yet been determined

Commitment: Host an annual animal blessing on the Feast of Saint Francis, October 4.

Timeframe: October 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Has not yet been determined

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Organize and participate in Earth Day Activities.

Timeframe: Implement for Earth Day 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Committee

Commitment: Reduce area of mowing.

Timeframe: Spring 2026

Person or Group Responsible: Property Committee and Laudato Si' Committee

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Sr. Susan Ruedy

Team Members: Sr. Susan Ruedy, Leslie Sizemore, Jimmie Sizemore, Deann Allen, Fr. Mani George, MC

St. Gregory
329 Sycamore Drive Barbourville, KY 40906

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Caring for creation is important because it is scripturally sanctioned (i.e. Genesis etc.) and we all only have one planet. We believe that we are called by God to be stewards and care for the world. Additionally, caring for the lived-in world makes us better people and better Christians. As the wonderful hymn reminds us: "You will know they are Christians by their love."

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: By the Feast of the Baptism of Our Blessed Lord (January 12, 2025), we commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish: Purchasing lower energy power strips, continue replacing LED lighting, buying a countertop composter, continue purchasing energy efficient appliances for parish use, purchasing programmable thermostats to more effectively conserve energy use. We will also conduct an energy audit.

Person or Group Responsible: David Greene

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue providing food baskets throughout the year to needy families in our area.

Timeframe: Next will be Thanksgiving and the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Blessed Lord (Dec. 25, 2024).

Commitment: By the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle (Feb. 22, 2025), we commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish: Collaborate with St. Julian and OLPH on their existing food drives, work with local Protestant churches to help them in their food distribution efforts, brainstorm new ways to implement these goals in effective ways that meet the needs of people in ways we have not considered and bring those before our pastor for his consideration.

Person or Group Responsible: The whole team

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Expanding on the fact that most parishioners grow their own food and/or participate in our local farmers' market. By the Feast of the Baptism of Our Blessed Lord (January 12, 2025), we commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish: Educating parishioners on the necessity of "green products" in our CCD and Adult Education classes, improving our use of "green products."

Person or Group Responsible: The whole team

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continuing our efforts to have zero food waste and maintain the protocols that we have in place to ensure that we waste little to nothing.

Timeframe: Immediate

Person or Group Responsible: David Greene

Commitment: Maintaining our water bottle station to encourage everyone to use refilling and reusable water canisters, not plastic disposable options.

Timeframe: Immediate

Person or Group Responsible: David Greene

Commitment: Eliminate the use of Styrofoam.

Timeframe: Immediate

Person or Group Responsible: David Greene

Commitment: Purchase and use cloth dish towels as much as possible.

Timeframe: Immediate

Person or Group Responsible: David Greene

Commitment: Replace plastic/paper with biodegradable options for parish functions.

Timeframe: Immediate

Person or Group Responsible: David Greene

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: By the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle (Feb. 22, 2025), we commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish: Rolling our classes, demonstrations, and collaborative OJT, working with our faith formation classes and broader parish family, to increase both the awareness and practice of the goals of Laudato Si'.

Person or Group Responsible: The whole team

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: By the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Blessed Lord (Dec. 25, 2024), we commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish: Maintaining and improving our outdoor prayer garden and Stations of the Cross and promoting its use to the whole community, regardless of church affiliation.

Commitment: By the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Blessed Lord (Dec. 25, 2024), we commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish: Exploring the rich Benedictine charism and well of knowledge to deepen our spiritual commitment to the lived world around us.

Dr. Pearson will explore these themes in informal collaboration with other Oblates of St. Meinrad and bring those insights back to the parish.

Person or Group Responsible: Joseph Pearson

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: By the Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord (April 20, 2025), we commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish: Continuing our efforts to feed local underserved people at no cost to them, saving them gas as well as money.

Commitment: By the Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord (April 20, 2025), we commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish: We will participate in Earth Day activities with our CCD and Adult Education programs with other churches and charitable groups interested in this sort of advocacy. We will also restore and expand our community gardens and organize more local food drives.

Person or Group Responsible: Karen & Charles Miracle

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Dr. Joseph Pearson

Team Members: Joseph & Erica Pearson, David Greene, Karen & Charles Miracle

Saint Mildred & Good Shepherd

Saint Mildred: 203 Central Ave Somerset, KY 42501,
Good Shepherd: 130 N Main Street Whitley City, KY 42635

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

God makes us the caregivers of the Earth.

"Blessed them, and said, "Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food, and it was done" (Genesis 1: 28-30).

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Compost. This will be an ongoing project within the parish, as we educate and get better participation. Reuse cutlery (cups, plates, utensils) at parish events as feasible. If not feasible, the goal is to use compostable material. At non parish events we will encourage the use of environmentally friendly products.

Timeframe: Implementation September 30, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: The leader of the group putting on the event

Commitment: Discern the following actions: Planting of trees and flowers, exploring renewable energy, community garden, energy reduction and motion control shut offs.

Timeframe: January 2025 meeting

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Team

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue the following outreach: Clothing center, God's food pantry (Pulaski Co), food pantry at Good Shepherd and St. Mildred, community support to the poor (utilities, finding shelter, transportation), spiritual support, supporting Care Center at Good Shepherd. Lend facilities to recovery groups like Sky Hope, AA.

Commitment: Continue supporting Rice Bowl, Mission Speakers, and ongoing parish donations.

Person or Group Responsible: Mary Guffey and parish

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Buy needed services, supplies and equipment locally first before sourcing outside the community.

Timeframe: This is an ongoing practice.

Person or Group Responsible: Finance committee and parish

Commitments: We are working toward purchasing all green products, this will be a slow transition to use items we have in stock.

Timeframe: March 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Finance committee and parish

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: For parish activities and events, we will not use plastic whenever feasible, always using green plastic products.

Commitment: Social committee supports Laudato Si' with movies, sharing of education information such as "The Letter".

Timeframe: January 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Finance and parish leaders

Commitment: Youth group has been leading the parish in recycling and installing bins and trash cans. As a parish we need much improvement. Plans to educate, religion classes, parish groups, posting signage.

Timeframe: February 2025

Person or Group Responsible: All group leaders and parish

Commitment: Install water fountain bottle filler.

Timeframe: December 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Knights of Columbus

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Education on care for creation: CCD and OCIA, add books to the library on justice and care for creation, watch "The Letter" Friday movie night, host speakers, special days.

Timeframe: January 2025 scheduled dates and speakers

Person or Group Responsible: Social Committee, Justice group, Laudato Si' group

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to have the blessing of the animals on Saint Francis Day, October 4, annually.

Commitment: We have an outdoor prayer area (Columbarium, Mother Mary, picnic shelter).

Commitment: Earth Day April activities annually.

Commitment: Add more prayer for Creation, information, education, blessing. This can be done at Mass, Coffee Call, CCD, OCIA, Youth Group, pray groups, bible study.

Timeframe: September 30, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: All groups and the parish

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Ongoing Peace and Justice group, and Social Committee within the parish.

Commitment: We are planning to work with local environmental community groups (lake cleanup, Earth Day event).

Timeframe: September 30, 2024

Commitment: Adopt a Highway.

Timeframe: TBD

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Committee, CCD, Youth Group, and the parish

Laudato Si' Action Team

Team Members: Peggy Acey, Sandy Berenberg, Charles Shenk, Karen Rowe, Mary Guffey, Fr. Carlos Martinez.

St. Paul
469 Main Street McKee, KY 40447

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

It is good to take care of the nature that surrounds us because it improves our quality of life and preserves it for future generations to enjoy.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: The parish always uses disposable tableware, which is why we are planning to buy an eco-friendly dishwasher.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: The parish has a long history of serving the poor. We have a business that sells second-hand clothing and household items. We work with the local food bank (we are founding partners). We have special programs (back to school, Christmas). We host missionary groups that do relief work for those in need. We are improving our relationship with the Jackson County Jail.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: All parish facilities are insulated and have energy-efficient lighting.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Once a month we will say a Laudato Si' prayer before Mass.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: John Marks

Team Members: John Marks, Judy Schmitt, Fr. Alfredo Basualdo

St. Peter
1139 Highway #3106 Monticello, KY 42633

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

We, the people of St. Peter's Parish in Monticello, strive to make this geographical area that we call home, a better place where we and our children's children can experience the beauty of God's creation. Through our efforts, both individually and collectively as a parish community, we actively promote Care for Creation for we are all called to be caretakers of God's handiwork.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Support community's/city's effort in maintaining a clean and healthy environment by volunteering to help in cleanups such as Cumberland Lake clean up and roadside clean up organized by the city/county.

Timeframe: Both Cumberland Lake clean up and Roadside clean up in Wayne County are done once a year.

Person or Group Responsible: Team

Commitment: Make sure that the trees and other plants in our church's vicinity are well taken care of. We will also consider planting more trees and pollinator plants around the church. Our parishioners are encouraged to do the same in the place where they live.

Timeframe: Since we don't have a parish council to take on the possibility of planting more trees, we will initiate this conversation by including it in our Sunday bulletin beginning in November 2024.

Person or Group Responsible: PLD

Commitment: Changed light bulbs in the church to LEDs; basement light bulbs will follow.

Timeframe: Within the first half of the year 2025

Person or Group Responsible: PLD and Finance Council

Commitment: We will conduct an energy audit.

Timeframe: Within the first half of the year 2025

Person or Group Responsible: PLD

Commitment: We will consider installing solar panels on the property.

Timeframe: At least 20 months from January of 2025 (timeframe covers an in-depth understanding of its long-term benefits and/or projected savings, and grant applications)

Person or Group Responsible: PLD and Finance Council

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Give donation to the Hope Center to support its outreach program.

Timeframe: Every Month

Person or Group Responsible: PLD

Commitment: PLD helps pack lunch at The House of Blessings – a soup kitchen in Monticello. To encourage parishioners to participate in this all-important ministry, details about it are posted in the Sunday Bulletin.

Timeframe: Once a week for two hours (Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday)

Person or Group Responsible: PLD

Commitment: Conduct a Christmas giving program called “Giving Tree”, through the sponsorship of Pax Christi in Lexington, to give joy to kids who least expect to receive Christmas gifts due to poverty.

Timeframe: Every December

Person or Group Responsible: PLD and Fraya Munsee

Commitment: Promote and support the Rice Bowl project every Lent.

Timeframe: During Lenten Season

Person or Group Responsible: PLD

Commitment: Giving financial assistance (that is within our capacity) to anyone who asks for help without considering their religious beliefs, ethnicity, etc.; is usually done to assist in meeting current needs such as paying off rents, water bills, or electric bills.

Timeframe: As opportunity presents itself

Person or Group Responsible: PLD and Finance Council

Commitment: Minister to prisoners (both Spanish and English-speaking groups).

Timeframe: Beginning November 2024, every Friday

Person or Group Responsible: PLD and the Team

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Will be replacing our current ceiling fans to reversible ones.

Timeframe: Between now and the end of the year

Person or Group Responsible: PLD and Finance Council

Commitment: Will be considering different options to make the church’s windows more energy efficient.

Timeframe: At least 20 months from January of 2025 (timeframe includes company search and grant applications)

Person or Group Responsible: the PLD and the Finance Council

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Reduce food waste by packing the leftover foods for parishioners to take home (during gatherings such as parish picnic).

Timeframe: Continue

Person or Group Responsible: The Team

Commitment: Make sure that both sides of the paper are utilized when printing materials for community use.

Timeframe: Continue

Person or Group Responsible: PLD

Commitment: We have been using 30% recycled copy paper for our Sunday bulletin.

Timeframe: Continue

Person or Group Responsible: PLD

Commitment: We will utilize reusable coffee filters.

Timeframe: As soon as the paper filters we currently have are used up

Person or Group Responsible: The PLD and Vangie Rutherford

Commitment: Will be using “all” compostable utensils and tableware during gatherings.

Timeframe: As soon as the remaining items we currently have are used up

Person or Group Responsible: PLD and the Team

Commitment: Will continue doing what we have already been doing at the church: segregate various recyclables and non-recyclables; encourage parishioners to do the same at their respective homes.

Timeframe: Continue

Person or Group Responsible: The Team

Commitment: Will start using reusable grocery bags when shopping for the church to help eliminate the use of plastic bags; encourage parishioners to do the same.

Timeframe: Immediately

Person or Group Responsible: The PLD and Vangie Rutherford

Commitment: Will start using refillable water dispenser.

Timeframe: As soon as we find a company that delivers jug refills in our area

Person or Group Responsible: PLD

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Incorporated Care for Creation into our Vacation Bible School this year, the title of which was: “What a Wonderful World!”

Timeframe: Continue

Person or Group Responsible: The PLD and CCD teachers/volunteers

Commitment: Will incorporate Care for Creation into the various faith formations in our parish.

Timeframe: Beginning next year

Person or Group Responsible: The PLD and the CCD teachers/volunteers

Commitment: Make “Walking in Nature” a part of our parish life.

Timeframe: As soon as this month

Person or Group Responsible: The PLD and the Team

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Will ask our Sacramental Ministers to include Care for Creation themes in their homilies, and our Deacon to do the same at our Communion Service.

Timeframe: Once a month, beginning in November 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Carlos Martinez, Fr. Ben Horn, and Deacon Tom

Commitment: Will include Care for Creation intention/s to the Prayer of the Faithful at Sunday Masses.

Timeframe: Once a month, beginning in November 2024

Person or Group Responsible: The PLD

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Have formed a strong and dedicated Care for Creation Team.

Timeframe: Continue implementing the Laudato Si’ parish action plan as a team

Person or Group Responsible: The PLD and Team

Commitment: Will share and teach others the importance of Care for Creation by posting photos of parishioners “walking the walk” of Laudato Si’ on our parish website.

Timeframe: As soon as our parish website is ready

Person or Group Responsible: The PLD and the Team

Laudato Si’ Action Team

Coordinator: Pedro Ruiz

Team Members: Beth Brewerton, Wevina Eramis, Juan Gomez, Domingo Gonzalez, Brayan Morales, Guadalupe Ruiz, Omaira Ruiz, Deacon Thomas Wagner, Vilma Wash

St. William
521 W 5th St. London, KY 40741

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

St. William is committed to glorifying Christ through obedience to the command of the Gospel to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. This includes honoring God's Creation in stewardship of natural resources and valuing human life and all that is necessary to sustain it.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Engage in energy use efficiency by continuing to utilize LED or CFL lighting, "automated" switching for commonly used areas such as bathrooms, sacristies, and meeting rooms.

Commitment: Continue to regulate cooling and heating for less run-time.

Commitment: Encourage parishioners to make similar changes in their personal lives.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to support the local pregnancy help center (Laurel Life Center) with monetary and volunteer time.

Commitment: Continue to keep a stocked "blessing box" on parish grounds that is supplied by parishioners for the low-income and homeless in the London area.

Commitment: Continue to provide "outreach" care for low-income families in the London & Laurel County area in assistance with utility bills, temporary housing.

Commitment: Encourage participation in stocking "blessing box" and donation of money and time to outreach programs.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to utilize ceramic plates, glasses, and steel/aluminum cutlery to wash rather than throw away soiled paper or Styrofoam.

Commitment: Continue to utilize parish "Hospitality Committee" and other parish volunteers when planning social meals.

Commitment: Continue to utilize donations from local charity organizations to use products that are already existing and to encourage more donations rather than wasting of said products.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to recycle paper products such as cardboard boxes, printed forms and bulletins; glass containers such as bottles used for sacramental wine.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: The parish has hosted Fr. Dueweke and will schedule another session in the future.

Commitment: Encourage parishioners in personal use of reusable items such as metal or rigid plastic drinking containers and food storage containers.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to respect human life by supporting the local pregnancy help center and outreach to the poor.

Commitment: Continue to host the blessing of animals on either memorial of St. Francis, St. Katerina Tekakwitha, or other saint associated with the Holy Gospel of Christ and Creation to bring awareness of the inclusion of the respect for Creation in the Catholic Faith.

Commitment: Draw attention to the St. Francis prayer garden outside the church building.

Commitment: Continue to include prayers in the General Intercessions during the “Season of Creation” and anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si’ focusing on respect for Creation and the “groaning” (Rom 8:19) of the earth to be redeemed by Christ.

Commitment: Utilize readings from Laudato Si’ in homilies and prayer gatherings.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to utilize the parish web page, Facebook, and bulletin to promote and encourage devotion to Christ Jesus in the respect for Creation utilizing teachings from the Holy Father Pope Francis.

Laudato Si’ Action Team

Coordinator: Deacon Kevin Black

St. Julian and St. Anthony

St. Julian: 118 E Chester Ave. Middlesboro, KY 40965

St. Anthony: 314 W Virginia Ave. Pineville, KY 40977

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Care for Creation is important to our parish community because we want to protect our common home and the people who live here. God gave us one earth to live on; therefore, we need to protect it and provide for the poor in our local community.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Weather stripping the exterior doors.

Timeframe: By December 1

Person or Group Responsible: Property Committee will help.

Commitment: To replace the lightbulbs in the three most used rooms/office to LEDs, then keep the lightbulbs that are still usable from those rooms to replace others as they go out. In the future to only buy LEDs.

Timeframe: By December 1

Person or Group Responsible: Russ (the janitor) will help with this project.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this, goal as a parish:

Commitment: By having a hygiene drive in October (annually from now on) and will report how many items are donated. We will donate these items to the Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) in Middlesboro, KY.

Commitment: Announcing KU WinterCare in the bulletin to encourage parishioners to donate to help the poor in October and November.

Commitment: Continuing to visit nursing homes in our community.

Person or Group Responsible: Devin at St. Anthony

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: To replace cleaning products as we run out to "green products", and we will start this now and continue until we have all "green products".

Person or Group Responsible: The Care for Creation Team

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: By the end of October, we will put up posters of what can be recycled by the recycling bins in the Parish Hall.

Person or Group Responsible: The Care for Creation Team

Commitment: By the end of October, we will put out a box for plastics that can be recycled through Kroger.

Person or Group Responsible: The Care for Creation Team

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: On November 10th, we are having a showing of "The Letter" at St. Julian.

Person or Group Responsible: The Care for Creation Team

Commitment: To implement the Care for Creation Themes into our CCD lessons; we have already started this in our Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade class and plan on continuing to.

Person or Group Responsible: Elizabeth Otto

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Input a Laudato Si' section of the bulletin with a different fact, event or practical tip to practice at home each week.

Timeframe: By the end of October.

Commitment: To have a blessing of the grotto.

Timeframe: October

Commitment: To add a Care for Creation intention to the Prayer of the Faithful.

Timeframe: By the end of October.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: To post on the parish Facebook page a different fact, event or practical tip to practice at home each week.

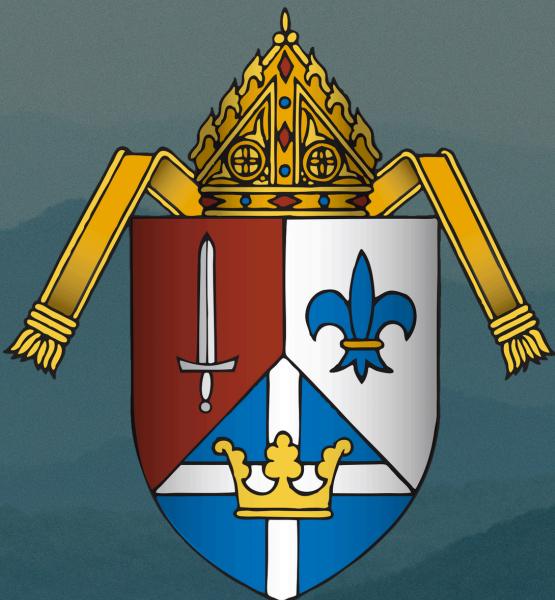
Timeframe: By the end of November

Person or Group Responsible: Ben will help with this.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Parish Coordinator: Fr. Prashanth Lobo and Elizabeth Otto

Team Members: Elizabeth Otto, Carolyn O'Boyle, Barb Arch and Claudia Kammer



BIG SANDY/LICKING DEANERY

Prince of Peace, West Liberty
Holy Family, Ashland
St. Lawrence, Greenup
St. Francis of Assisi, Pikeville
St. George, Jenkins
St. Jude, Louisa
St. Luke, Salyersville
St. Martha, Prestonsburg
St. Michael, Paintsville
Sts. John and Elizabeth, Grayson
Dean: Fr. Rob Adams

Prince of Peace
163 Pine Acres Lane West Liberty, KY

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Caring for Creation is important to the parish community of Prince of Peace in West Liberty, KY. Our Creator God calls us to be in a loving relationship with God, all creation, and all people. We are called to be faithful stewards of God's creation, taking care of all the gifts that God has given.

All is connected! If we don't take care of our world – each piece – a chain of effects happens. We see this happening in our world today. We want to do our part to preserve God's creation for future generations.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: The parish has installed three smart thermostats and put new weather stripping on the front doors to reduce energy.

Commitment: Continue to replace lightbulbs with LED bulbs as they need replacement.

Timeframe: Throughout 2024-2025

Person or Group Responsible: Mary and Bart Bryant

Commitment: Conduct an energy audit for the parish.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Bart Bryant

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Continue to have a monthly collection to assist two local food pantries.

Commitment: Participate in the national collections for CRS, CCHD, and Rice Bowl to assist vulnerable persons.

Commitment: Increase the parish emergency funds to help individuals with utility needs through a fundraiser.

Timeframe: Summer 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Mary Bryant

Commitment: Increase awareness of community projects such as cleanup campaigns and other environmental projects.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Father Marc Bentley, pastor

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Educate the parish about fair trade products and begin to use them.

Timeframe: Early in 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

Commitment: Investigate the use of earth-friendly products (green products), office supplies, kitchen items, and paper products.

Timeframe: April 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

Commitment: Buy locally to support farmers and businesses.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor, Bookkeeper, Finance Council

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Our parish has discontinued the use of plastic ware and paper plates.

Commitment: Continue to use a percolator for coffee instead of paper filters.

Commitment: Continue to collect aluminum cans for the local Methodist youth group.

Commitment: Begin a recycling project in our parish.

Timeframe: Early 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Margie Mouch, Mary and Bart Bryant

Commitment: Purchase a water cooler for the parish to help lessen the use of bottled water.

Timeframe: December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Father Marc Bentley, pastor

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Include Care for Creation in the religious education programs.

Timeframe: November 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Andrew Bolin

Commitment: Watch "The Letter" and have a group discussion.

Timeframe: Advent 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team, Andrew Bolin, Father Marc Bentley, pastor

Commitment: Establish a way to share information about Care for Creation with parish members and the community.

Timeframe: Early 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

Commitment: Purchase parish copies of Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum.

Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Father Marc Bentley, pastor

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Continue to include Care of Creation intentions in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Timeframe: 2024 through 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Father Marc Bentley, pastor

Commitment: Host a pet blessing near the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi.

Timeframe: Late September/early October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Father Marc Bentley, pastor

Commitment: Educate the parish about using live plants and flowers to enhance our liturgical space throughout the Church year.

Timeframe: Advent 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Father Marc Bentley, pastor

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal.

Commitment: Make "Care for Creation" a standing agenda item at Parish Town Hall meetings.

Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Father Marc Bentley, pastor

Commitment: Collaborate with the Diocese and inter-faith groups on Care for Creation initiatives.

Timeframe: Ongoing 2024-2025

Person or Group Responsible: Father Marc Bentley, pastor, and Laudato Si' Action Team

Commitment: Connect with the local community and groups working on environmental justice issues.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

Holy Family Church and School and St. Lawrence

Holy Family Church and School: 900 Winchester Ave Ashland, KY 41101
St. Lawrence Mission: 500 Laurel St. Greenup, KY 41144

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Because of the wonderful interconnectedness of all God's creation as people with our planet, we commit ourselves to being actively engaged in social issues that affect our environment and to take responsibility for protecting our part of the world by raising awareness of the various areas outlined in Laudato Si' and exploring creative and concrete ways of caring for our common home on a local level.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Replacement of all lightbulbs with LED bulbs. LED bulbs were put into all light fixtures in 2019. Continual monitoring of lights and light fixtures.

Person or Group Responsible: Maintenance and grounds people

Commitment: Turning off light sources when not needed. This is an ongoing task of educating all people who use our buildings.

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff

Commitment: Purchase appliances based on EPA's Energy Star Ratings. Already using the rating scale with appliances.

Timeframe: On-going use of rating scale as appliances are replaced

Person or Group Responsible: Parish staff

Commitment: Sealing and caulking around windows and doors. Recent effects of Hurricane Helene brought to light areas not normally seen that need attention. Already addressing those areas for sealing.

Timeframe: Ongoing maintenance

Person or Group Responsible: Parish personnel

Commitment: Recycling for Electronics. Host a recycling drive of electronic devices at least once a year. Will be coordinated through the school to reach a larger portion of the community population.

Timeframe: Host first recycling day in the spring

Person or Group Responsible: School personnel

Commitment: Hosting Green Days/ World Smile Days. Hosting these days at various times throughout the year to remove litter and clean up spaces.

Timeframe: Considering hosting on the first day during the Season of Creation

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Team

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Strengthening Outreach Efforts: More fully engage our ongoing efforts to assist with vulnerable populations.

Timeframe: The next opportunity of this effort will be in October 2024 to assist relief and recovery from the effects of Hurricane Helene. On-going opportunities will be throughout the year to assist with Safe Harbor, Two Hearts Pregnancy Center, River Cities Harvest, Community Kitchen and Cares office.

Person or Group Responsible: Church and School personnel

Commitment: Reducing Pollution in Community Storm Water. Engagement with city management to reduce pollution in water systems and waterways by keeping leaves and grass clippings off the streets to reduce flooding, bacteria growth in water bodies, as well as pesticides and chemicals in storm water drains.

Timeframe: On-going efforts

Person or Group Responsible: Church and School personnel

Commitment: Better engagement in Rice Bowl. Expand Rice Bowl engagement by hosting a friendly competition between classrooms in the school.

Timeframe: Lent 2025

Person or Group Responsible: School personnel

Commitment: Hosting Laudato Si' Themed Summer Camp for Children. We hosted two Laudato Si' themed camps in summer 2024. Both were well attended.

Timeframe: Plan to offer it in summer 2025 again.

Person or Group Responsible: Summer camp directors

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Intentional Purchasing of Green Products for Parish Activities. Exploring the variety of green products available for use at funeral meals, Knights of Columbus meetings, Parish picnics and potluck, OCIA meetings, etc.

Timeframe: On-going efforts

Person or Group Responsible: Hospitality Group Members

Commitment: Health Fair: Host health fair in the school and feature a homesteader who demonstrates the effects of using locally produced items.

Timeframe: Fall 2024 and on-going

Person or Group Responsible: School personnel

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Recycling for Electronics: Host a recycling drive of electronic devices at least once a year. Will be coordinated through the school to reach a larger portion of the community population.

Timeframe: Host first recycling day in the spring

Person or Group Responsible: School personnel

Commitment: Intentional Purchasing of Green Products for Parish Activities. Exploring the variety of green products available for use at funeral meals, Knights of Columbus meetings, Parish picnics and potluck, OCIA meetings, etc. to reduce/eliminate single use plastics.

Timeframe: On-going efforts

Hospitality Group Members

Commitment: Reducing Meat Consumption: Exploring the possibility of having one meatless day a week in the school cafeteria menu. During Lent meat is not served on Fridays and exploring the possibility of having two meatless days during Lent.

Timeframe: Lent 2025

Person or Group Responsible: School and Cafeteria personnel

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Watch "The Letter" with group discussion to follow. Host a chili supper and movie night to watch the film "The Letter" and engage in conversation.

Timeframe: Winter 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish personnel

Commitment: Care for Creation in the school science and religion curriculum. This is already in place. Faculty are exploring ways to expand engagement with students and families.

Timeframe: Academic year 2024-2025

Person or Group Responsible: School personnel

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Care for Creation Petitions. Intentions for the Care of our Common Home are already included periodically in the weekend Universal Prayer.

Timeframe: On-going

Person or Group Responsible: Church staff

Commitment: Hosting the Blessing of the Animals. The blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis is an annual parish event.

Timeframe: October 8 and on-going

Person or Group Responsible: Church and School personnel

Commitment: Outdoor Prayer Space: The parish has a lovely Marian Garden that is a project for parish gardeners.

Timeframe: On-going

Person or Group Responsible: Gardening Team

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Earth Day Event: Plan and host an Earth Day Event through the school.

Timeframe: April 22, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: School personnel

Commitment: Initiate a Regular Feature for Laudato Si'. Begin a regular feature in the parish bulletin, parish app, and parish social media platforms to highlight aspects of Laudato Si' that form and engage parishioners in caring for our common home.

Timeframe: Fall 2025 and on-going

Person or Group Responsible: Church staff

Laudato Si' Action Team

Team Members: Scott Osborn, Skyler Downs, Peggy Duggan, Liz Trabandt, Fr. Andy Garner

St. Francis of Assisi
137 Bryan St. Pikeville, KY 41501-1656

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

As Catholics committed to loving our neighbor and creation as the place where the Lord meets us in sacramental encounter, we, the members of St. Francis, are committed to caring for creation and our neighbor.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Begin recycling cardboard boxes as these are our biggest contribution to the landfill. We will begin collecting cardboard in a corner of the narthex and Kenny Schmidt has offered to take this to the recycling center.

Timeframe: Effective immediately

Person or Group Responsible: Kenny Schmidt

Commitment: Begin the process of recycling glass bottles. Rusty Justice is exploring ways to recycle glass seeing as there is no way to recycle glass in Pike County. He will work with Jigsaw to begin this process. We will join once we have more information.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Collect food for the Boxes of Love at First Christian Church through the Harry Altman Food Pantry project. We will collect food items and fill at least 10 boxes per month. Lisa Scalf will bring them to First Christian Church. She will also use donations to the pantry to supplement these donations.

Timeframe: Effective immediately

Person or Group Responsible: Lisa Scalf

Commitment: Collect food and Christmas gifts for 25 families. We will collect food and Christmas gifts to give to one month of food and gifts for local families in need.

Person or Group Responsible: Parishioners and Fr. Rob will sort these and distribute them on the third Saturday of Advent.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Use less energy in the heating and cooling of our campus. To accomplish this, we will keep the Church at 67 in the winter and 74 degrees.

Timeframe: Effective immediately

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Rob

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: At small and medium parish functions (less than 50 people), we will use real dishware instead of disposable paper plates and cups.

Timeframe: Effective immediately

Person or Group Responsible: Sandra May

Commitment: Look at the logistics of getting a dishwasher installed in the parish hall.

Person or Group Responsible: Denny Rohrer and Lisa Staff will begin the process of figuring out how to get a dishwasher installed.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will publish information from the Office of Peace and Justice and from Bishop John on our parish website and app.

Timeframe: As soon as possible

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Rob

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will include a petition in the Mass to pray for the preservation of creation.

Timeframe: We will do this once a month.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Rob

Commitment: We will continue our practice of maintaining a beautiful campus to show the beauty and sacramental nature of creation.

Person or Group Responsible: Denny Rohrer, Dale Hamilton, Bob Welch, and Terri Walters

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: St. Francis of Assisi will continue to be represented on the board of United Helping Hands.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Rob

Commitment: St. Francis of Assisi will continue to be represented on the Pike County Flood Relief board.

Person or Group Responsible: Kenny Schmidt

St. George
22 Dotty Ln, PO Box 787 Jenkins, KY 4153

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

God's plan for caring for His creation through our parish community.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Weather sealing doors and windows.

Commitment: Use only recyclable products/reusable products in the parish.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Providing shelter for the poor and needy during extreme weather conditions.

Commitment: Food and warm clothes distributions during the winter seasons.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Replacing current thermostat with a programmable Thermostat.

Commitment: In a course of time replacing energy efficient light bulbs.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Separation of recycling bins in the church and church hall.

Commitment: Transport recycling things to proper places.

Commitment: Use of eco-friendly lifestyle at homes and parish.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Laudato Si' awareness program in the parish.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Promote Parish Laudato Si' Statement: God's plan for caring for His creation through our parish community.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Promote and practice Laudato Si' at parish level and homes.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Prakash Verunkal and Albert Smith

Team Members: Tony Abalor and Joann Baldwin

St. Jude
1121 Meadowbrook Lane Louisa, KY 41230

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Acknowledging God as Creator of all, we recognize that we are not separate from, but a part of, creation. It is together that we give praise and glory to God as we offer "...the fruit of the earth/vine and the work of human hands..." We receive the gift of life and in imitation of our creating God, protect the lives and well-being of all of creation. Care for creation is an important part of caring for others, as all suffer when creation suffers from our misuse and abuse of God's gifts to us. It is the poor who bear more of the consequences of climate change and other man-made environmental damage. "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren..." Though we are a small, aging parish, we commit to do our part in caring for creation.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Conduct an energy audit.

Timeframe: By June 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Maintenance volunteer

Commitment: Continue the use of timers and LED lights. Replace the remaining fluorescent lights to LEDs.

Timeframe: When replacement is needed; ongoing action

Person or Group Responsible: Maintenance volunteer

Commitment: Begin the pollinator garden next spring.

Timeframe: March 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Creation Care Team to oversee

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue our involvement at the local food pantry.

Commitment: Continue our support of pregnant women as well as mothers and children in need and continue our pro-life activities.

Commitment: Continue our support of the charitable works of the church, e.g. Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services, etc.

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Patricia Cataldi

Commitment: Continue to work with the local government and the Fr. Beiting Appalachian Mission Center on meeting the needs of our unhoused population.

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Patricia Cataldi will continue meeting with the local government and the Fr. Beiting Appalachian Mission Center.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue our use of “green products” - compostable plates, cups, etc. and recycling of ink cartridges.

Commitment: Continue to support local caterers and the Farmer’s Market.

Commitment: Encourage local stores to offer more fair trade items and products that are produced ethically and environmentally sustainable.

Timeframe: Concerted and more active effort before the end of the year, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Creation Care Team

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue our effort to eliminate single use plastics by using water pitchers and aluminum cans (for recycling).

Commitment: Encourage the use of the reusable shopping bags which were distributed. Avoid unnecessary printing and unnecessary use of paper. Decrease unnecessary travel, promote the use of Zoom meetings, and on-line courses.

Commitment: Promote regional/deanery level meetings utilizing the TV screens given to each Deanery, promoting a live and on-line hybrid model connection.

Timeframe: Evaluate at the end of June.

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor to present this proposal at a deanery meeting; beginning when the opportunity presents itself.

Commitment: Monitor the use of electricity in lighting, heating and cooling. Explore the possibility of using smaller areas in the church for various functions where possible.

Timeframe: Evaluate these goals in June 2025, by comparing utility bills.

Person or Group Responsible: Pastor and Finance Council

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue the Creation Care Corner in the weekly church bulletin.

Commitment: Encourage more parishioners to become Laudato Si’ animators.

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Patricia will actively try to recruit another parishioner to participate in the training this year (2024-2025).

Commitment: Continue to provide information on how to find eco-friendly products.

Person or Group Responsible: Bulletin editor.

Commitment: Integrate the teachings of Laudato Si' in our CCD Program.
Timeframe: Begin this year and evaluate in June 2025.
Person or Group Responsible: DRE

Commitment: Expand our promotion of the Season of Creation in 2025. Promote opportunities to learn more about environmental issues e.g. educational environmental trip or invite a speaker.
Timeframe: On-going activities to be evaluated each year in June by the Creation Care Team.
Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Patricia Cataldi

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to introduce parishioners to ways of praying with creation during the Season of Creation.
Timeframe: Annually

Commitment: Consider a day of prayer to experience these ways of praying.
Timeframe: Plan for completion: October 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Patricia Cataldi

Commitment: Invite parishioners to join LS prayer groups/circles which are available on-line.
Do this by church and bulletin announcements, as well as by personal invitation.
Timeframe: Evaluate each June.
Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Patricia Cataldi.

Commitment: On occasion, continue to include a LS petition in the Prayer of the Faithful.
Continue to give homilies which foster the spirit of LS.
Timeframe: Evaluate each year in June.
Person or Group Responsible: Pastor

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Start a parish Creation Care Team to replace the Laudato Si' Action Team.
Timeframe: Complete by October 31, 2024
Person or Group Responsible: Pastor and LSAT Coordinator

Commitment: Continue our participation in Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC), Laudato Si' Movement (LSM), Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) and its' Catholic Action Team and Health Action Team. Recruit more members.
Timeframe: Evaluate each June
Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Patricia Cataldi

Commitment: Publicize opportunities to advocate for Congressional legislation that will conserve nature and promote clean energy.

Timeframe: Ongoing action; evaluated each June

Person or Group Responsible: Bulletin editor

Commitment: Write letters to the editor, highlighting local initiatives, especially those by local entrepreneurs.

Timeframe: Evaluate each June

Person or Group Responsible: Creation Care Team

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Sr. Patricia Cataldi, CPS

Team Members: Fr. Michael J. Ramler, Alexis Gels, Mark Kingston, MD

St. Luke
1286 Parkway Drive Salyersville, KY 41465

St. Luke Laudato Si' Statement

Caring for creation through our individual and collective actions is part of our response to the cry of the poor and an expression of our faith. It is an extension of the “sending forth to love and serve the Lord” that is granted us in our celebration of the Mass and participation in the Holy Eucharist.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Recycle those items that are accepted at the local recycling center (#1 and #2 plastic, aluminum cans, cardboard, paper).

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: All

Commitment: Eliminate the use of Styrofoam and paper plates & cups.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: All

Commitment: As much as possible, use paper bags and small boxes for distributing food from the food pantry (not plastic bags).

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Jan

Commitment: Look for donations of paper bags.

Timeframe: As needed

Person or Group Responsible: Jerry

Commitment: Explore the feasibility of providing cloth shopping bags to food pantry customers.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Jerry and Sr. Jan

Commitment: Check on what, if any, chemicals are used by the landscaping service.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Jan

Commitment: Carefully consider the recommendations, expected in October, from the energy assessment conducted in September and develop a multi-year plan for implementation and financing; at a minimum we believe the recommendations will involve insulation, thermostats, lighting, hot water, an assessment of the potential for solar energy and likely more.

Timeframe: Starting in Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: All but Jerry will coordinate

Commitment: Monitor electricity use.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Jerry

Commitment: Learn to moderate electricity demand peaks.

Timeframe: Fall 2024

Commitment: Investigate KY Power renewal energy pricing.

Timeframe: Fall 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Jerry

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Operate the Open Door Ministry – our used clothing store and food pantry.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Connie and Sr. Jan

Commitment: Develop a long-term plan for the ongoing operation of the Open Door (this might involve securing relationships with major donors, expanding our donor base, teaching others about the operations of the outreach programs and keeping parishioners informed about the needs).

Timeframe: Spring 2025 and ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: All

Commitment: Support efforts at establishing a local homeless shelter and regular feedings for those in need of a meal.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Rick, Jerry, Cameron

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will inventory the cleaning supplies and other chemical items used at the church to eliminate harsh chemicals and to see if there are natural alternatives.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Jan and Jerry

Commitment: Transition to sustainable office products.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Jan

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Make meals less meat-centric.

Timeframe: Ongoing
Person or Group Responsible: All

Commitment: Find a source/method of drinking water to eliminate the need for bottled water.
Timeframe: Fall 2024
Person or Group Responsible: Cameron

Commitment: Start using non-disposable coffee filters.
Timeframe: Fall 2024
Person or Group Responsible: Diane

Commitment: Investigate purchasing fair trade coffee.
Timeframe: Fall 2024
Person or Group Responsible: Jerry

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Make copies of Laudato Si' and similar resources available to all.

Commitment: Make sure all receive the weekly St. Martha bulletin, which includes a weekly Laudato Si' reflection/suggested action.
Timeframe: Ongoing
Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Kathleen and Fr. Eric

Commitment: Post the Laudato Si' Goals in a prominent place.
Timeframe: Ongoing
Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Jan

Commitment: Share relevant writing and resources among the Laudato Si' Action Team.
Timeframe: Ongoing
Person or Group Responsible: All

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Add Care for Creation petitions to the Prayer of the Faithful.
Timeframe: Fall 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Jerry and Fr. Eric

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Maintain good working relationships through the Open Door with the county health department, school resource centers and social services.
Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Connie

Commitment: Maintain good relationships through the food pantry and local food stores.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Jan

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Jerry Hardt

Team Members Fr. Eric Anya, Rick Whitley, Cameron Blanton, Sister Jan Barthel, Diane Yoder, Jerry Hardt

St. Martha
60 Martha's Vineyard Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

We believe that all of God's creation is important and that we must be faithful stewards. We believe that Caring for Creation is our responsibility as Catholic Christians as well as following Catholic Social Teachings.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Reducing our consumption of electricity through the following activities, turning off lights when not in use.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: All

Commitment: Replacing all lightbulbs with LED. Using power strips, which are turned off when not in use. Measurable: By comparing our light bills from one year to the next.

Timeframe: On going

Person or Group Responsible: Deresa Slone/Custodian

Commitment: Contacting Terminix to see what our contract consists of and adjusting accordingly.

Timeframe: March 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Deresa Slone/Custodian

Commitment: Replacing Exhaust Fans in the bathroom church hall: Need to get quotes from J & L Electric.

Timeframe June 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Deresa Slone/Custodian

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish by:

Commitment: Martha's Portion and Giving Bags programs. We provide free to: domestic violence victims, disaster victims as well as others referred through mental health and recovery programs. We provide family resource and youth service centers and some other nonprofits with hygiene and cleaning supplies which cannot be purchased with food stamps (SNAP-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Jean Rosys & parishioners

Commitment: We help to provide food items to two food pantries: St. Luke and St. James Episcopal church.

Time frame: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Kathleen, Fr. Eric, and parishioners

Commitment: We participate in the Diocesan Annual Appeal and Campaign for Human Development Collections.

Time frame: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric and Finance Committee

Commitment: We have a committee of Martha's Messengers who send messages of encouragement and prayer to parishioners confined to their homes.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Martha Burchett

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish by:

Commitment: We have been purchasing coffee and filtered water from McClure, a West Virginia Company that employs the disabled.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Deresa Sloane/Custodian

Commitment: We have transitioned from using Styrofoam to using washable plates, etc.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Those committees that have events within the church hall. This is another way for us to create a sense of community by assisting with "dish washing".

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish by:

Commitment: Eliminating our use of single-use plastics within the parish and encourage parishioners to do likewise in their homes.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: All

Commitment: Reuse plastic shopping bags to package purchases from Martha's Portion and package Giving Bags. We reuse boxes to distribute Giving Bag supplies.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Jean Rosys and volunteer parishioners

Commitment: When plastic water bottles, soda cans are brought to St Martha's, we recycle them at the Recycling center in Prestonsburg.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Kathleen and Parishioners (non-reusable boxes are taken to the Recycling Center in Prestonsburg).

Commitment: As families of St. Martha, we will be encouraging each other to recycle at home if not currently doing so.

Timeframe: October 2025

Person or Group Responsible: All

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish by:

Commitment: Holding our Parish Assemblies (1st Sunday of every third month) bulletins for ecological education.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric, Sr. Kathleen, Melissa & Gary Gearheart, Gwen Hall, Finance Committee

Commitment: Continue using the Bulletin for ecological education by inserting prayers and bulletin blurbs on Caring for Creation.

Timeframe: On going

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric, Sr. Kathleen, Gwen Hall

Commitment: Incorporate ecological education into our CCD, RCIA and Bible Study programs.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric & Eileen Kumantu

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish by:

Commitment: Our weekly bulletin contains prayers and bulletin blurbs for Care of Creation.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric, Secretary, Laudato Si' Team

Commitment: The Knights of Columbus are raising money for a natural fence to plant along the creek bed.

Timeframe: October 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Knights of Columbus

Commitment: Re-institute the Blessing of the Animals for the Feast of St. Francis.

Time Frame: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric & Sr. Kathleen

Commitment: We have outdoor Stations of the Cross and an outdoor prayer space that needs to be maintained.

Timeframe: September 2025

Commitment: We have outdoor processions for Palm Sunday, the Easter Vigil and Corpus Christi.

Timeframe: Annually

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric and Parishioners

Commitment: Include care of creation in our Prayers of the Faithful.
Timeframe: October 2024
Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric and Liturgy Team and Parishioners

Commitment: Include care of creation in homilies.
Timeframe: On going
Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish by:

Commitment: Having our Care of Creation Team in place.
Timeframe: Terms of 3 years
Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric and Sr. Kathleen

Commitment: Develop the ability to use Facebook to post our bulletin with its Care of Creation blurbs and prayers.

Commitment: St. Martha's willingness to participate in faith-based community action/prayer services.
Time Frame: Spring of 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Eric and Sr. Kathleen

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Sr. Kathleen Weigand OSB

St. Michael
Our Lady of the Mountains School
720 Washington Ave. Paintsville, KY 41240

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

At St. Michael we recognize that the abundance of God's gifts to us calls us to respond in both gratitude and responsibility. The created world is the first Gospel, revealing to us the love and goodness of God and calling us to relationship with Him. Because we are made in the image and likeness of God, we are called to imitate His tender love for creation, and like Adam and Eve, care for and cultivate the world entrusted to us.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: St. Michael's will strive to respond to the cry of the earth by eliminating our use of harmful chemical herbicides that contain glyphosate and properly dispose of any that is remaining. Additionally, we will work to move toward more efficient LED light bulbs replacing our fluorescent tubes. This transfer will take place incrementally as old lights go bad.

Timeframe: This will take place within the next calendar year.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: St. Michael has a tradition of helping those in Johnson County who need transportation, utilities and food. The care for the poor is something that we intend to continue through direct assistance. Similarly, when there is a particular need for clothing or household items, Fr. Wheeler will collaborate with the Mountain Outlet to ensure those needs are met. Currently it is Fr. Wheeler who responds to requests for assistance.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Wheeler

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Because of the lack of local options in eastern Kentucky it is hard to specifically commit to particular purchasing practices. However, the good of buying local, sustainable and ethically produced products will be pursued as a goal.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We are already leaders in the community in providing options for new consumables with our Mountain Outlet store. This provides people with the ability to donate unneeded items and others to buy quality used clothing and other household needs.

Commitment: In our parish, we have transitioned from single use plastic water bottles in the sacristy to reusable glass bottles and a filtration system.

Commitment: Within the next 6 months we will move to rechargeable batteries for the parish microphone system and any other applicable battery needs that can be identified.

Person or Group Responsible: These initiatives will be accomplished by the staff of the Mountain Outlet and Fr. Wheeler.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: As a part of our religious education both at Our Lady of the Mountains School and in our programs at the parish we will discuss the care for creation as both a part of stewardship that is given to Adam and Eve and as a part of a disciple's response.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Wheeler and catechists have begun and will continue to address these themes as part of the catechetical program.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will celebrate St. Francis' feast day by having a pet blessing that shows an appreciation for the goodness of God's gift to us in the created world. This will be open to both school and parish communities.

Timeframe: The blessings will take place on October 11.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Once we have completed our Parish Laudato Si' plan, we will make it available to the parish and school communities and encourage people to live out a similar spirit of gratitude, stewardship and responsibilities in their own life and in their families.

Timeframe: This will happen by the end of October.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Margaret Riggs

Team Members: Margaret Riggs, Kathy Rubado, Fr. David Wheeler

Sts. John and Elizabeth
799 State Highway 1947 Grayson, KY, USA

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

God made the Earth and everything in it for our use and benefit. It is our responsibility as Christians to be good stewards of the gifts he has given us. Natural resources such as water, land, air and food must be maintained and improved so future generations can benefit from them as well. In doing so, we strengthen our relationship with God and our neighbor.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: The parish has installed smart thermostats in the church and the rectory.

Commitment: Continue to replace lightbulbs with LED bulbs as they need replacement.

Timeframe: Throughout 2024-2025

Person or Group Responsible: Tracy McKenzie

Commitment: Conduct an energy audit for the parish.

Timeframe: Summer 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: We will continue to help those in need in Carter and Elliott counties with our Appalachian Ministry fund.

Timeframe: Perpetual, provided funds are available

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Marc Bentley Ann Duncan

Commitment: Build a "Blessing Box" on our parish plant to assist those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity.

Timeframe: Winter, 2024-2025

Person or Group Responsible: Don Carpenter, Taylor Duncan

Commitment: We will have parish plant clean-up days as needed each spring, summer and fall.

Timeframe: Beginning October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Susan Fogel

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: We will purchase environmentally conscious office products.

Timeframe: Beginning October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Marc Bentley, Ann Duncan

Commitment: We will purchase and serve fair trade coffee at parish events.
Timeframe: Beginning October 2024
Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Marc Bentley, Ann Duncan

Commitment: We will investigate the benefits and efficacy of green cleaning products.
Timeframe: Spring 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: We will purchase water cooler dispensers for the church and parish hall to eliminate the purchase and use of plastic bottled water.
Timeframe: January 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Marc Bentley

Commitment: Purchase reusable coffee filters and discontinue using paper filters.
Timeframe: October 2024
Person or Group Responsible: Susan Fogel

Commitment: Determine the ecological feasibility of using the dishwasher in the church hall as opposed to using compostable plates, cups and utensils.
Timeframe 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Taylor Duncan, Laudato Si' Action Team

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Purchase Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum books.
Timeframe: October 2024
Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Marc Bentley

Commitment: Watch "The Letter" and engage in a group discussion.
Timeframe: Spring 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team; Fr. Marc Bentley

Commitment: Research age-appropriate Care of Creation instruction manuals and activities for CCD students and incorporate them in the classroom curriculum.
Timeframe: Early 2025
Person or Group Responsible: Taunya Carpenter, DRE, Susan Fogel

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Rebuild our Marian Shrine

Timeframe: 2025

Responsibility: Fr. Marc Bentley

Commitment: Hold a Blessing of the Pets

Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Marc Bentley

Commitment: Educate the parish about using live plants and flowers to enhance our liturgical space throughout the Church year and remind parishioners about our stained glass above the altar that represents each season of the calendar year.

Timeframe: Advent 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Marc Bentley

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Make Care for Creation a standing agenda item at Parish Town Hall meetings.

Timeframe: Beginning October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Marc Bentley

Commitment: Collaborate with the Diocese on Care for Creation initiatives.

Timeframe: Ongoing 2024-2025

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Marc Bentley and Laudato Si' Action Team

Commitment: Connect with the local community and groups working on environmental justice issues.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team

Commitment: Hold a parish clean-up day/Earth Day gathering

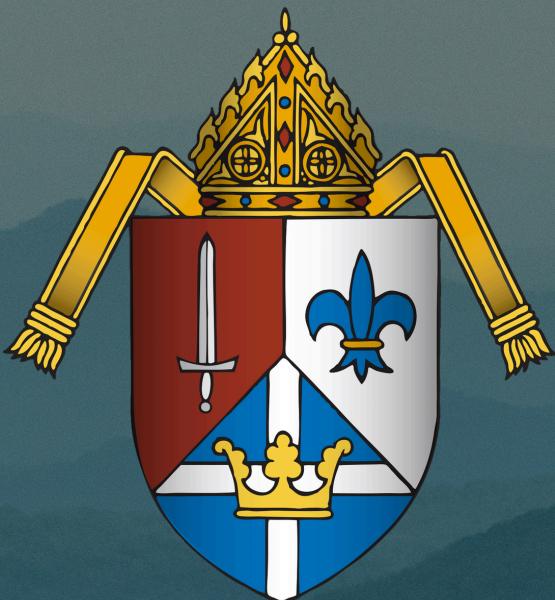
Timeframe: April 19, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Laudato Si' Action Team, parish gardening group

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Marc Bentley

Team Members: Fr. Marc Bentley, Wendy Vance, Susan Fogel, Ann Duncan



BLUEGRASS EAST DEANERY

Annunciation, Paris
Jesus Our Savior, Morehead
St. Joseph, Winchester
St. Julie, Owingsville
St. Mark, Richmond
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Carlisle
St. Patrick, Mount Sterling
Dean: Fr. Tom Farrell

**Annunciation
St. Mary School**
1007 Main St. Paris, KY 40361-1709

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Our faith calls us to recognize the dignity of God's handiwork and to be stewards of creation.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Continue to beautify our outdoor spaces around the church.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: Switch to green cleaning products.

Timeframe: Starting January 2025

Commitment: Purchase energy saving power strips for the office/rectory.

Timeframe: By April 2025

Commitment: Explore planting small pollinator garden at the church.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Commitment: Replace all lights with LEDs.

Timeframe: By April 2025

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Continue our parish outreach to those in need.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: Promote the CCHD Collection.

Timeframe: November each year

Commitment: Promote Catholic Relief Service Rice Bowls.

Timeframe: Lent each year

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Purchase fair trade coffee for use at parish functions.

Timeframe: January 2025

Commitment: Explore buying local foods for parish functions.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Add recycling bins to parish hall and offices.

Timeframe: January 2025

Commitment: Switch to reusable coffee filters.

Timeframe: January 2025

Commitment: Compostable single-use kitchenware.

Timeframe: When current supplies need to be replaced

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Plan at least one faith formation event on Laudato Si' in 2025.

Commitment: Include a Care for Creation message in the bulletin.

Timeframe: Once a Quarter starting in 2025

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Continue to have a pet blessing on the Feast of St. Francis.

Timeframe: October 4 each year

Commitment: Include at Care for Creation intention in the Prayer of the Faithful.

Timeframe: Once a month

Commitment: Fr. Jeff commits to including Care for Creation themes regularly in preaching.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: We will engage parish throughout the year and build a Laudato Si' team of at least three people for this ongoing LS ministry.

Timeframe: By Season of Creation 2025

Commitment: We will promote participation in Catholics at the Capitol 2025.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Jeff Estacio

Jesus Our Savior
315 Battson Ave Morehead, KY 40351

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

We, Jesus Our Savior Parish, is committed to promoting the Care of Creation by being good stewards of all that God has given us. This means showing love and respect not only to our neighbors but also to the Earth itself. Together, we will make choices that reflect our care for the planet and each other, as well as honoring the beauty and resources God has entrusted to us.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will participate with our community recycling program.

Timeframe: Ongoing, at least monthly

Person or Group Responsible: Facilities Coordinator

Commitment: We will replace lightbulbs with LED bulbs.

Timeframe: June 2025

Commitment: When we replace or buy new appliances, we will utilize EPA's Energy Star ratings.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Address the needs of the poor in our community and to explore additional outreach efforts.

Timeframe: January 2026

Person or Group Responsible: Parish community and the Peace and Justice Committee

Commitment: We commit to maintaining our involvement and support for all our current outreach efforts.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: We will continue to support the Rice Bowl during Lent and the Catholic Campaign on World Day of the Poor.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: We will continue to help our community with our Good Samaritan Fund and food vouchers.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will participate in our community recycling program.

Timeframe: Ongoing and to continue monthly

Person or Group Responsible: Facilities Coordinator

Commitment: Obtain a list of environmentally friendly products for the parishioners.

Timeframe: December 2025

Commitment: Use reusable or compostable products for CCD and church events.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: We will discourage the use or purchase of plastic or Styrofoam bottles, plates and utensils.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: We will offer educational classes or gatherings for our adult and children.

Timeframe: December 2025

Person or Group Responsible: CCD Director

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Encourage all to recycle and to use reusable items including shopping bags.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: We will evaluate the need for a water filling station for adults and children.

Timeframe: December 2025

Commitment: We are currently sending electronic weekly bulletins and will work towards decreasing the number of printed copies.

Timeframe: December 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Church staff

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will encourage our community to respect and care for creation by adding information to our Parish bulletin.

Timeframe: Monthly

Person or Group Responsible: This will be the responsibility of the Parish Secretary.

Commitment: We will offer adult gatherings with special speakers.

Timeframe: January 2026

Commitment: We will add speakers to the CCD classes concerning environmental education.
Timeframe: January 2026

Commitment: We will read and discuss Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum.
Timeframe: March 2025

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will continue to host Blessing of the Animals at a special Mass in October.
Timeframe: Annually

Commitment: We will add care for creation intentions to the Prayer of the Faithful and incorporate care for creation themes into the homilies.
Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: We will highlight care for creation information in the bulletin, CCD classes and with the Newman Center.
Timeframe: April 2025

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will create a Care for Creation Team. We will invite parishioners and students from the Newman Center to join the team.
Timeframe: January 2025

Commitment: Our participation with the Peace and Justice Committee will continue.
Timeframe: Ongoing

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Deacon Dan Connell and Monti Lloyd

Team Members: Fr. Ronald Sagum, Deacon Dan Connell, and Monti Lloyd

**St. Joseph
St. Agatha Academy**
248 S. and 244 S. Main St. Winchester, KY 40391

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

In order to provide a livable environment of ourselves, our children, and all future generations, and to fulfill our ministry as custodians of God's Creation, we, the people of St. Joseph's Parish, undertake to live simply, consume responsibly, and do whatever possible to restore the balance of the Earth.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Solar panel coordination: Buy solar panels for the parish and school.

Timeframe: Per Diocese

Person or Group Responsible: Tim Patrick/Diocese

Commitment: Low flow sinks and toilets: Convert 3-4 bathrooms/ sinks to low flow at parish and school.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish (Father Kinney, Jennifer Hollon) and School maintenance (Tatiana, Kathleen)

Commitment: Request energy audit of school/ church: Establish how we can do better with electric consumption. Get permission and funding.

Timeframe: Before end of 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Tim Patrick (coordinator with KU)

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Continue to increase our support of the St. Joseph Conference of SVDP Society: Monthly Collection Foods, etc.

Timeframe: Continue

Person or Group Responsible: Janie Johnston (SAA) and Father Kinney

Commitment: Encourage all parishioners to utilize the Kroger donation program and provide necessary items for the pantry by putting in the bulletin and present at Mass announcements.

Timeframe: November 1, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Father Kinney and Mark Bordace, Jennifer Hollon

Commitment: Explore ways in which the parish can more personally interact with New Beginnings. Make contact and establish relationships.

Timeframe: December 1, 2024; monitor monthly

Person or Group Responsible: Whoever is appointed by SVDP

Commitment: Praying for the needs of the poor at every Sunday Mass. Intentionally adding prayers of the poor at Mass.

Timeframe: November 1; monthly monitor at Creation Care meetings

Person or Group Responsible: Kathie Schweikhart

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Buy Locally Produce and Fair Trade Food: Divert allocated money for coffee/donuts and fellowship foods toward local.

Timeframe: Begin January 1, 2025; monitor monthly

Person or Group Responsible: Jennifer Hollon

Commitment: Purchase Green Products: Replace cleaning supplies, Styrofoam cups, plastic utensils with reusable and green products.

Timeframe: Begin December 1, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Tatiana Hall

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Eliminate single-use plastics.

Timeframe: By the end of 2026

Person or Group Responsible: School and church administration

Commitment: Reduce food waste.

Timeframe: By the end of 2026

Person or Group Responsible: School administration

Commitment: Reduce purchase of new consumer goods.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: School and church administration

Commitment: Reduce meat consumption. Promote regular “meatless” campaigns/ fasting.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Church and school administration

Commitment: Eliminate plastic shopping bags and Styrofoam.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Church and school administration

Commitment: Establish recycling program at parish.

Timeframe: December 1; ongoing at SAA

Person or Group Responsible: Church and school administration

Commitment: Recycle electronics

Timeframe: ASAP

Person or Group Responsible: Church and school administration

Commitment: Reduce paper use.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Church and school administration

Commitment: Maintain water fountains on grounds.

Timeframe: Current

Person or Group Responsible: Church and school maintenance

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Watch “The Letter” and have a group discussion. Host a discussion session post-viewing to reflect on the themes. Record key takeaways and action items from the discussion.

For school and Parish.

Timeframe: By January 1, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Tatiana Hall and Father Kinney

Commitment: Host a speaker on care for creation themes. Find speakers with expertise in ecological issues and faith. Organize events and promote them within the parish. Encourage interactive Q&A sessions to deepen understanding. Same with St. Agatha School.

Timeframe: November 1, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Tatiana Hall, Tim Patrick

Commitment: Organize local environmental educational trips. Provide hands-on learning experiences about local ecosystems. Identify local natural reserves, parks, and conservation projects. Organize trips and promote participation. Include reflective activities to connect the experience with ecological principles. Same for SAA.

Timeframe: November 1, 2024; monitor monthly

Person or Group Responsible: Tatiana Hall, Kathleen Thompson, staff at SAA, Tim Patrick

Commitment: Enhance parish and school libraries. Provide resources for ecological education and action. Acquire books and resources related to Laudato Si’ and ecological education.

Highlight new additions to the library and encourage parishioners and students to read them. For parish and school.

Timeframe: Just begun! Ted gave a donation! ASAP

Person or Group Responsible: Ted, Tatiana

Commitment: Incorporate justice and care for our common home into faith formation programs. Integrate ecological themes into religious education. Integrate themes of justice and care for creation into Faith formation programs and school curriculum. Educate catechists and teachers on incorporating these themes effectively.

Timeframe: ASAP; monitor monthly

Person or Group Responsible: Kathie S., Tatiana Hall

Commitment: Read and discuss Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum. Deepen understanding of the Church's teaching on ecology. Organize reading groups to study these documents. Facilitate discussions to reflect on and apply the teachings. Provide summaries and reflections in parish newsletters and bulletins. Same in school curriculum, especially middle school.

Timeframe: November 1, 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Ted, Tim, Tatiana, Deacon John

Commitment: Include care for creation in parish school science and religion curriculum. Educate students on environmental stewardship from a faith perspective. Work with educators to include ecological themes in science and religion classes. Provide teaching materials and resources that align with Laudato Si' principles. Encourage student projects that promote environmental awareness and action.

Timeframe: Continue; monitor trimesterly

Person or Group Responsible: SAA Staff, Tatiana and Nature Guild, Kathie Schweikhart

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Prayer experience outdoors (Mass and Rosary SAA).

Timeframe: Ongoing at SAA and ASAP at parish

Person or Group Responsible: Father Kinney

Commitment: Hosting a creation care event.

Timeframe: January 2025 science fair

Person or Group Responsible: School administration

Commitment: Animal Blessing.

Timeframe: Ongoing every October

Person or Group Responsible: Father Kinney

Commitment: Develop a garden on parish grounds.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Cory Banta and Volunteers

Commitment: Increase homilies with creation care themes.

Timeframe: Immediate

Person or Group Responsible: Father Kinney and Deacons

Commitment: Parish staff highlight creation care themes.

Timeframe: ASAP

Person or Group Responsible: Church and school staff

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Organize a peace and social justice committee to explore ways in which parish members may become more involved in projects related to social justice.

Timeframe: End of March 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Council president

Commitment: Create a Creation Care Team to organize and monitor progress on this plan.

Timeframe: DONE

Person or Group Responsible: Father Kinney

Commitment: The parish will explore collaboration with ecumenical and interfaith groups, interfaith power and light, and other faith-based groups to assist in organizing creation care activities and events. Get in touch with and collaborate with other groups and announce events like Earth Day, etc.

Timeframe: By June 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Father Kinney Parish Council

Commitment: Earth Day, April 22, 2025, Parish and SAA will plan and execute an ecological event for Earth Day April 22, 2025.

Timeframe: By June 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Creation Care Team and school administration

Commitment: Parish staff will use Flock notes, parish Facebook pages and other social media to educate the parish on the message of Laudato Si'.

Timeframe: January 1, 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Creation Care Team, Kathie, Jennifer

Commitment: Recycling and Composting and Education: SAA will continue and improve its recycling and composting program, will purchase educational materials specific to creation care, will explore possibilities for field trips directly related to Creation Care.

Timeframe: Continue; monitor monthly

Person or Group Responsible: Tatiana Hall and Creation Care Team

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Father James Kinney

Team Members: Ted, Godlaski, Tim Patrick, Tatiana Hall, Mary Virginia Rupert, John Stokes, Nick Comer

St. Julie

77 E. Main St. Owingsville, KY 40360-0382

Laudato Si' Statement

We, the people of St. Julie, recognize that all of creation is a gift from our heavenly Father. We understand our role as Protectors and Shepherds of the land, waters, forests, fauna and Persons. With the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we have formulated these plans to do our part to "...restore all things in Christ, both in heaven and on the earth" (Ephesians 1:10).

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We have planted at our homes and at the church building, flora that attract bees and butterflies. We keep the lawn mowed and the grounds around the church in good order. We do not use pesticides in these areas.

Commitment: We do not have enough land around the church to plant trees, but we are going to plant trees at our homes and in public places.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We see the poverty of the people around us. We feel the anguish of others' suffering. We feel the need to do what we can as a parish to reach out with love, compassion and healing.

Commitment: Members of St. Julie have created a home for the sick and infirmed: we have established a free clinic – New Hope Clinic. The clinic has been seeing patients since October 2000. We are in our 24th year of our Christian ministry of serving the health needs of Bath and surrounding counties.

Commitment: Members of St. Julie have seen the physical needs of the community around us. In the 1980s the members started a clothing store in the basement of the church. A few years after that, with the aid and support of the Glenmary Sisters, we started Christian Social Service Center. CSSC has been following the wisdom of Matthew 25. Caring for the hungry, the needy, the homeless, and those individuals who are suffering due to loss of home or livelihood. In February of 2022, The CSSC lost their building to a massive fire which destroyed everything. At the present time, the building is being rebuilt with assistance of the entire community.

Commitment: One of the Glenmary sisters started a special program (about 1990) for children with special needs. It was called Special Kids Camp. Many of our parish members assisted in that endeavor. It is still going today, and the ministry has been taken over by the community. Today it is called Special Needs Camp of Kentucky, Inc.

Commitment: At least one of our parishioners has had the Appalachian Immersion Experience. We will encourage others to do so also.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Everyone has read Laudato Si' and understands the concept of Ecological Economics. We understand that our common home is more than where we live and how we live. It is a "subsystem" of the human home. We are all one and we are all in this together. We will try to follow the guidelines of Laudato Si' as far as sustainable production and consumption. With each purchase, we will ask ourselves "Do I really need this?" How will my desire to experience comfort and convenience affect those who do not have the barest necessities of life.

Commitment: Some of our members have purchased hybrid vehicles or electric vehicles to help decrease noxious emissions.

Commitment: We will look into the possibility of photo-electric roofing tiles.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will try to reduce our meat consumption and foster the use of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Commitment: We will compost what waste we can and use it on our gardens. We all do not have gardens, but those who do with share their produce with the other members of the church community.

Commitment: We have recycling bins at the church (and many have them at home also) which we will remember to use. We will use washable dishes etc. to decrease the necessity for paper or Styrofoam.

Commitment: We have installed LED bulbs in all the light fixtures in the church. We are planning to do the same in our meeting area in the basement.

Person or Group Responsible: Deacon Bill

Commitment: We have removed our hot water heater and replaced it with an "on demand" wall mounted water heater.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will all read Laudato Si' again and spend more time prayerfully considering it.

Commitment: We are considering having one of us get on the local School Board or at least attend meetings to determine if they are teaching ecological principles.

Commitment: We will have adult education regarding this issue and see if we can get involved more deeply.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We all need to “discover God in all things.” God is the center of all things and in God we (and all creation) live and move and have our being. We will strive to see God’s handiwork in the beauty of the flowers, the glory of the birds riding the winds, the waterfalls, caves, running brooks. Even the worms and the snakes and spiders should lift us up to the beauty of the One who fashioned it all.

Commitment: When we see the sunrise in the East, we will see the light that was made by God when God said “let there be light.” When we see the sunset in the West we will proclaim that God made the day and the night.

Commitment: In the eyes of a child, we will see the eternal beauty of LIFE. We will see the innocence and joy of the child learning to be.

Commitment: We will attempt to realize fully the glory of the human being. We will strive to eliminate the ego, become unattached to things and ebb the desires we feel. We will greet each person with heartfelt love, open-armed acceptance and true joy at the joy of living.

Commitment: We will awaken to the Spirit moving in us in the Liturgical Cycle. We will become attuned to the Kairos that brings us in synchrony with the life of Jesus the Christ. We will follow his footsteps as he walks among the people, healing, forgiving, feeding, touching and loving them.

Commitment: We shall allow the Holy spirit to fill us with her love and grace and lead us on the path to wholeness and utter fulfillment in the light of God’s being and the wonder of God’s grace.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

(Based on the work of Leonardo Boff, “The Cry of the Earth, The Cry of the Poor.”)

Commitment: First, we attempt to honor the reality of the condition of the world today. This should be an experience of compassion, protest, of mercy and of a will to liberating action. We will look at the existential reality of the world of the poor, the marginalized and the unwanted.

Commitment: We will attempt to analyze what are the causes that produce suffering, poverty and anxiety. “Poverty is neither innocent nor natural: it is produced.” (LB)

Commitment: The degradation of the poor is caused by utter poverty and hopelessness, and we will ponder, pray, and contemplate the degradation that prompts God to intervene and initiate a sacramental presence of God’s Self.

Commitment: We will ponder how we, the parishioners of St. Julie Catholic Church, can join with the Spirit to do our part to bring all people to the basics necessary to live a simple life. We will start with our own members, our families, our communities and ultimately the world.

Commitment: We must understand that our duty is “transformative action” and in that action is the radical change of relationships of injustice into relationships that foster greater life and happiness due to living in participation and in a decent quality of life for all.

Commitment: We will celebrate that moment. We will connect with a liberation which is the central message of the savior. For that savior became a political prisoner, was tortured and was nailed to a cross because of the way that he lived his life.

Commitment: We will live our lives as true followers of the Poor One who led us to knowledge through the anointing of the Holy Spirit at our Confirmation. We will speak out for the poorest of the poor. We will honor life at all the stages. We will root out racism, anti-Semitism, prejudice, and Xenophobia.

Commitment: Some may look at us and say that this is unrealistic and doesn't really solve any problems. However, we look at this differently: we see that God became human so that we could see that it is possible for us to transform the world. It is possible for us to bring peace to warring peoples, to bring hope to those in despair, to bring compassion and healing to the sick, troubles, depressed and anxious. These are the things that we long for and hope for and we will never compromise. We will be people of love. We may not do any great things, but we will do small things with great love.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Team Members: B. Grimes, J. Maness, M. Doggett, Sr. Janet SND

St. Mark Church & School
115 Parrish Ave. Richmond, KY 40475

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

As a parish and school, we wish to make measurable progress in the spiritual goals of reverence for life, reverence for creation, and the sustainable use of goods that are created for the enjoyment of the whole human family.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish and school:

Commitment: Continuation of adding LED lighting added to our facility.

Timeframe: Ongoing and 3-year goal of completion

Person or Group Responsible: The church and school

Commitment: Reduction of outdoor irrigation.

Timeframe: To be started immediately

Person or Group Responsible: The church

Commitment: New doors with weather stripping to be installed.

Timeframe: To be started immediately

Person or Group Responsible: The church and school

Commitment: Sealing brick and digging drainage ditches.

Timeframe: To be started immediately

Person or Group Responsible: The church and school

Commitment: Caulking around windows and doors.

Timeframe: 2-year goal of completion

Person or Group Responsible: Building and grounds committee

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish and school:

Commitment: Donations for Hospice snack cart.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Catholic Daughters and the school

Commitment: Madison Homes monetary and supply donations.

Timeframe: Ongoing and increased efforts

Person or Group Responsible: The church

Commitment: Special Collections during offertory.

Timeframe: Ongoing and increased efforts

Person or Group Responsible: The church

Commitment: Add to and revise current list for referrals to assistance organizations.

Timeframe: To be started immediately

Person or Group Responsible: The church secretary

Commitment: Humane Society donations.

Timeframe: New endeavor to begin immediately

Person or Group Responsible: Nancy Crewe

Commitment: Seek out additional service organizations that need assistance.

Timeframe: Ongoing and increased efforts

Person or Group Responsible: The church and school

Commitment: Support Operation Rice Bowl.

Timeframe: Ongoing and increased efforts

Person or Group Responsible: The church and school

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Retaining an eco-friendly cleaning service.

Timeframe: Utilizing Ecomaid's and looking into using more of their services

Person or Group Responsible: The school

Commitment: Purchasing eco-friendly products whenever possible.

Timeframe: Ongoing and increased efforts

Person or Group Responsible: The school

Commitment: Install a dishwasher in the church/school kitchen.

Timeframe: Quotes have been obtained and installation within 3 years

Person or Group Responsible: The school

Commitment: Begin local business list owned by parishioners.

Timeframe: New endeavor

Person or Group Responsible: The church secretary

Commitment: Do research into fair trade coffee for purchase by parish or to sell as support.

Timeframe: New endeavor

Person or Group Responsible: Jamie Ford

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Look at all single use plastics and discern the reduction.

Timeframe: To be started immediately

Person or Group Responsible: The church and school

Commitment: Suggest dates to parish where we can reduce meat consumption.
Timeframe: During Lent and another period during the year
Person or Group Responsible: Parish council

Commitment: Do research into glass collection for transport to Lexington.
Timeframe: To begin immediately
Person or Group Responsible: Jamie Ford

Commitment: Recycling efforts of cardboard and plastics to be increased.
Timeframe: To be started immediately
Person or Group Responsible: The church and school

Commitment: Water fountains with water bottle fillers to be installed.
Timeframe: Ongoing and 2-year goal for completion
Person or Group Responsible: The school

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Educate students on Care of Creation.
Timeframe: Ongoing and increased efforts
Person or Group Responsible: The school and the Scouts

Commitment: Purchase books and other materials for education of students on Care of Creation.
Timeframe: Ongoing and increased efforts
Person or Group Responsible: The school and the Scouts

Commitment: Add Care of Creation education and discussion to Fish Fry nights.
Timeframe: New endeavor to try during Lent 2025 over the course of 6 weeks
Person or Group Responsible: Fish Fry to be hosted by the school and search out individuals to lead discussions

Commitment: Offer information in the back of the church to distribute to church families.
Timeframe: New endeavor
Person or Group Responsible: A member of the Laudato Si' committee at St. Mark will contact Josh Van Cleef

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Host Pet Blessing each year.
Timeframe: Ongoing each year on or near October 4
Person or Group Responsible: The church and school

Commitment: Add Care of Creation Intentions to the Prayer of the Faithful.
Timeframe: New endeavor each week at Mass
Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Tom Farrell

Commitment: Seek interest for installing Outdoor Stations of the Cross and/or Walking Rosary.
Timeframe: New endeavor to begin immediately
Person or Group Responsible: Parish Council

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Add Care of Creation information to the bulletin.
Timeframe: New endeavor to be done quarterly
Person or Group Responsible: The church secretary and the Laudato Si' committee

Commitment: Organize events for Earth Day.
Timeframe: Ongoing and increased efforts
Person or Group Responsible: The school and the Scouts

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Tom Farrell
Team Members: Fr. Tom Farrell, Cathy Cornett, Nancy Crewe, Jamie Ford, Tim Glotzbach, Beth Grant

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
617 East Main St. Carlisle, KY 40311

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Our faith calls us to recognize the dignity of God's handiwork and to be stewards of creation.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Continue to beautify our outdoor spaces around the church.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: Switch to green cleaning products.

Timeframe: Starting January 2025

Commitment: Purchase energy saving power strips for the office/rectory.

Timeframe: By April 2025

Commitment: Explore planting small pollinator garden at the church.

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Commitment: Replace all lights with LEDs.

Timeframe: By April 2025

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Continue our parish outreach to those in need.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: Promote the CCHD Collection.

Timeframe: November each year

Commitment: Promote Catholic Relief Service Rice Bowls.

Timeframe: Lent each year

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Purchase fair trade coffee for use at parish functions.

Timeframe: January 2025

Commitment: Explore buying local foods for parish functions.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Add recycling bins to parish hall and offices.

Timeframe: January 2025

Commitment: Switch to reusable coffee filters.

Timeframe: January 2025

Commitment: Compostable single-use kitchenware.

Timeframe: When current supplies need to be replaced

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Plan at least one faith formation event on Laudato Si' in 2025.

Commitment: Include a Care for Creation message in the bulletin.

Timeframe: Once a Quarter starting in 2025

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Continue to have a pet blessing on the Feast of St. Francis.

Timeframe: October 4 each year

Commitment: Include at Care for Creation intention in the Prayer of the Faithful.

Timeframe: Once a month

Commitment: Fr. Jeff commits to including Care for Creation themes regularly in preaching.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: We will engage parish throughout the year and build a Laudato Si' team of at least three people for this ongoing LS ministry.

Timeframe: By Season of Creation 2025

Commitment: We will promote participation in Catholics at the Capitol 2025.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Jeff Estacio

St. Patrick
139 W Main St. Mount Sterling, KY 40353

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

To care for this world that God created, be thankful for what we have been given, and to learn from/educate others.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Replace all bulbs with LEDs (next is outside lights), communicate efforts with parishioners.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Finance/Maint.

Commitment: Participate in Diocese energy audit and create resulting actions.

Timeframe: TBD

Person or Group Responsible: Josh and diocese

Commitment: Review chemical and pesticide use (MSDS review needed).

Timeframe: Spring 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Maint.

Commitment: Awareness of lighting use, add timers for items often left on.

Timeframe: Review 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Maint.

Commitment: Replace HVAC w/ efficient window units in office and back room.

Timeframe: Review 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Maint.

Commitment: Use programmable thermostats.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Maint.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Rice bowls (Sister Liz), food pantry (Vicki Wenz), baby bottle (from Blessings), flood victims, sterling house.

Commitment: Monthly need drive – put in bulletin – Food Pantry (see Jackie Jones for info).

Timeframe: Monthly ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Laura

Commitment: Get more info on what ministerial association does and communicate.
Person or Group Responsible: Vicki and Sam

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Encourage local farmers market and gardening.

Timeframe: Regularly in bulletin

Person or Group Responsible: Laura

Commitment: Reuse/ recycle candles.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: John Mahler

Commitment: Assess fair trade and local level on consumables.

Timeframe: December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Laura

Commitment: Social media sharing updates- add Instagram.

Timeframe: December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Susan and Laura

Commitment: Donate grocery bags, non-single use, kids organize.

Timeframe: December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Rich Ortiz

Commitment: Church picnic: don't use Styrofoam and water cooler with cups.

Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Laura

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Recycle, print less.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Laura and Liz

Commitment: Donate leftover food (ex. Kiwanis and other events).

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Liz

Commitment: Look into options for electronic recycling (Rumpke? Or Lowes?).

Timeframe: June 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Action Team

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Kids of Religious Ed. lead recycling program of their choice.

Timeframe: May 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Maynard R.

Commitment: Book reading and YouTube links posting, sharing in bulletin, Father Frank reading.

Timeframe: September 2024 and continue

Person or Group Responsible: Vicki, Susan, Laura

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Blessing of the Animals, join another church.

Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Laura and Vicki

Commitment: Develop outdoor prayer space at cemetery.

Commitment: Creation Care Prayers of the Faithful (ex. Rosary at Cemetery).

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: Update website (ex. Pope's video) – get more Creation Care.

Timeframe: December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Laura

Commitment: Meeting regularly (once during season) on creation care prayer (ex. Giant Rosary on hike) – Monthly action team meeting.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Laura

Commitment: Garden bounty sharing.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: Collect and share seeds from garden (zinnias, pumpkins).

Timeframe: March 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Sam and Liz

Commitment: Move rain barrels to parish house.

Timeframe: December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Action Team

Commitment: Offer recycling at church (when not available at home).

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Liz and Laura

Commitment: Map recycling opportunities since different companies cover the parish, communicate to families their options.

Timeframe: December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Laura

Commitment: Move Mary to garden at parish house.

Timeframe: September 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Sam

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal:

Commitment: Earth Day efforts to reinvigorate efforts (ex. tree planting).

Timeframe: March 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Action Team

Commitment: Recycling at picnic and mindful of single use items.

Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Laura

Commitment: Flock notes – continue sharing – communicate how to join.

Timeframe: September 2024 and ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Vicki and Laura

Commitment: Website sharing of creation care.

Timeframe: December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Laura

Commitment: Veggie chili cookoff during Lent.

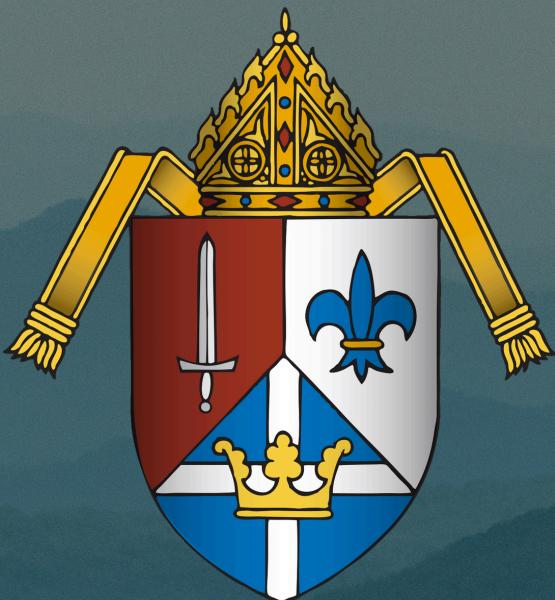
Timeframe: March 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Action Team

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Laura Groff

Team Members: Vicki Wenz, Liz Wehri, Susan Wallace, Sam Roggero, Laura Groff



MOUNTAIN EAST DEANERY

Holy Cross, Jackson
Holy Trinity, Harlan
St. Stephen, Cumberland
Resurrection, Lynch
Good Shepherd, Campton
Our Lady of the Mountains, Stanton
Mother of Good Counsel, Hazard
Queen of All Saints, Beattyville
Holy Family, Booneville
St. Elizabeth, Ravenna
Dean: Fr. Terrence de Silva

Holy Cross
51 Brewers Drive, Jackson Kentucky, 41339

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

As a parish in Eastern Kentucky, which has been affected by climate change and changing demographics, we take seriously our commitment to reflect upon and implement the vision of Laudato Si' in our parish and wider community. By caring for creation as stewards of all God's natural gifts, we can worship God, build the kingdom of God, and construct a shared community of responsibility that leaves the world better than we found it.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We purchase energy efficient appliances (e.g. air conditioners).

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Life Director and the parish finance council

Commitment: We turn off/unplug light sources when not needed or in use.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Involves all parishioners (especially those responsible for organizing parish activities)

Commitment: With the participation of multiple parishioners, we planted a flower garden with native pollinator flowers.

Timeframe: This will be an annual activity to aid the beatification of the parish in an environmentally friendly manner.

Commitment: We plan to apply for a grant for LED lighting and solar panels.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Our Care of Creation team will be in charge of this initiative.

Commitment: With the participation of parishioners, we plan to plant a wildflower garden.

Timeframe: Spring 2025 and annual

Commitment: Install motion sensor lights in parish bathrooms.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: This will be done by parishioners with guidance from our Care of Creation team and finance council.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: With the participation of various parishioners, our parish operates a Blessing Box with expired but still good food from the local IGA for the needy in our community.

Timeframe: This is an ongoing activity.

Commitment: We promote and distribute Rice Bowls during each Lent.
Timeframe: This is an annual Lenten activity.
Person or Group Responsible: Parish Life Director

Commitment: We help local residents with utility bills during the winter months.
Timeframe: Ongoing
Person or Group Responsible: This outreach is led by our Parish Life Director

Commitment: Several parish volunteers cook a meal to feed the local Homeless Shelter staff and residents each month.
Timeframe: This is an ongoing activity.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We planted a vegetable garden to feed parishioners and our Blessing Box.
Timeframe: This is an annual Spring/Summer activity.

Commitment: We support local businesses (especially farmer markets) when we can.
Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: Begin purchasing "green" cleaning products and kitchen items.
Timeframe: 2025
Person or Group Responsible: This will be led by the Care of Creation team and will be continually implemented by parishioners who clean and serve in the parish.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We recycle paper, cans, plastic, and cardboard.
Timeframe: Ongoing
Person or Group Responsible: All parishioners participate in this ongoing activity.

Commitment: We use cloth napkins, drinkware, and plates rather than disposable items.
Timeframe: Ongoing
Person or Group Responsible: This is maintained by all parishioners in charge of parish lunches and potlucks.

Commitment: We plan to find a used dishwasher for the parish kitchen.
Timeframe: 2024-2025
Person or Group Responsible: The Parish Life Director and Care of Creation team with the parish finance council will lead in implementing this goal.

Commitment: We can save plastic lids to be recycled.
Timeframe: Immediate
Person or Group Responsible: All parishioners will work together in this ongoing activity.

Commitment: Purchase water pitchers with filters.

Timeframe: 2025

Person or Group Responsible: The Parish Life Director and Care of Creation team will begin this initiative, and it will be ongoing and maintained by all parishioners.

Commitment: Begin transitioning away from using plastic shopping bags and begin to reuse coffee filters.

Timeframe: Immediate

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We have watched diocesan Laudato Si' videos and have scheduled a time for a parish viewing of "The Letter."

Person or Group Responsible: Our Care for Creation team, together with parishioners, plan to make this an ongoing activity, especially during the annual Season of Creation.

Commitment: Host an annual speaker on Care of Creation during each Season of Creation or as part of a retreat during Advent or Lent.

Timeframe: 2025 and Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Care of Creation team

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We include intentions for the Care of Creation in the Prayer of the Faithful.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Life Director

Commitment: Several parishioners will be erecting an outdoor prayer space under a tree on parish property. All parishioners will have an opportunity to nurture their spiritual life through this ongoing opportunity.

Timeframe: In 2025

Commitment: Beginning in 2025, we can have an annual Animal Blessing on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4).

Person or Group Responsible: This will be organized by the Care for Creation team and will be an annual activity.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We have established a Care for Creation team. This team meets regularly to promote ecological concerns in the parish and wider community.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Commitment: We can explore inviting local residents to have a small family garden on our Church property.

Person or Group Responsible: If able to be implemented, this will be an ongoing activity under the supervision of the Parish Life Director and the Care of Creation team.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Sister Amy Westbrook

Team Members: Adam Barnett and Jeremiah Gilbert

Holy Trinity, St. Stephen, and Resurrection

Holy Trinity: 2536 US Highway 421 Harlan, KY 40831

St. Stephen: 304 Central St. Cumberland, KY 40823-1612

Resurrection: 200 Church Street Lynch, KY 40855

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

God reveals himself through the Creative Order. We encounter God through Creation. We are called to be good stewards of God's Creation.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will continue to recycle cardboard, paper, plastic, and metal.

Commitment: We will purchase a dishwasher to lower water consumption this quarter. We will stop using chemical fertilizers on parish grounds immediately.

Commitment: We will plant trees on the parish grounds once the land work is done.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will continue and strengthen the food pantry on an ongoing basis. We will continue to support the Rice Bowl effort each year.

Commitment: We will continue to support Catholic Charities on an ongoing basis.

Commitment: We will continue to maintain emergency funds to help pay utility bills for those in crisis.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will purchase green products through Thrive Market and other sources for cleaning, office, and kitchen use as needed.

Commitment: We will encourage parishioners to use eco bags whenever possible.

Commitment: We are looking for donors to help us install solar panels on two buildings.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We agree to reduce and try to eliminate single use plastics immediately. We will purchase water filters for the church, rectory, and guest house to eliminate use of bottled water as soon as possible.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will offer a Laudato Si' lesson to parish school science in the coming year.

Commitment: We will offer a lesson on Laudato Si' after Mass from time to time.

Commitment: We will teach our children to practice sound ecology as a lifetime endeavor.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will add prayer intentions for Caring for Creation at Mass frequently. Caring for Creation will be included from time to time in homilies.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We will participate in Earth Day community programs at Farm Bureau and through the UK Extension Agency as much as possible.

We will participate in litter removal days when they are scheduled in the community.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Terrence de Silva

Team Members: Tommie Rodgers

Good Shepherd
PO Box 742, Campton, KY 41301

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Our community commits to promoting healthy living through healing practices for our world and environment.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to planting pollinator plants and gardens on our property.

Timeframe: Completion date: May 2025

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to offering two ecological educational gatherings for the local community.

Timeframe: Completion date: June 2025

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to purchasing locally prepared food, when possible, to support the local economy.

Timeframe: Completion date: January 2025

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to reinstating the parish recycling program for all cardboard, plastics, and aluminum products.

Timeframe: Completion date: April 2025

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to sending monthly educational newsletters to our community groups through Flocknote regarding our local ecology.

Timeframe: Completion date: January 2025

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to offering two outdoor prayer experiences focusing on the environment for the local community.

Timeframe: Completion date: August 2025

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to bringing back the Blessing of the Animals and partnering with our local organizations.

Timeframe: Completion date: October 2025

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Kirsten Thorstad

Team Members: Wanda Fields, Gale Harris, Kathi May, Ian Teal

Our Lady of the Mountains
PO Box 727 Stanton, KY 40380

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

Our community commits to taking care of our world and its people.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to treating the wood bees ecologically inhabiting our structure and preserving the building.

Timeframe: Completion date: October 2025

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to involving and educating our parish community more fully in the food outreach program.

Timeframe: Completion date: January 2025

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to purchasing locally prepared food, when possible, to support the local economy.

Timeframe: Completion date: May 2025

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to setting up a parish recycling program for one area, either cardboard, plastics, or aluminum products.

Timeframe: Completion date: June 2025

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to sending monthly educational information to the community through the bulletin regarding our local ecology.

Timeframe: Completion date: January 2025

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to setting up our new Marian Grotto allowing more opportunities for outside prayer.

Timeframe: Completion date: August 2025

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We commit to bringing back the Blessing of the Animals and hosting a parish outdoor cleanup day.

Timeframe: Completion date: October 2025

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Kirsten Thorstad

Team Members: Amy Richwald, Benton and Elizabeth Clark, June Montgomery, Editha Kash, Marion Leach

Mother of Good Counsel
329 Poplar St. Hazard, KY 41701

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

We at Mother of Good Counsel acknowledge our call to care for the whole of creation as part of our obligation to our faith and living out our baptismal call. We recognize that each individual plays an important role in responding to the cry of the earth, the vulnerable, and the poor because of our interconnectedness. We call to mind that actions need to take place immediately and we as a community must do justice, love goodness and walk humbly as stewards of creation.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Composting food scraps in our compost bin, using natural weed killer on the property, and maintaining landscaping, flower and vegetable gardens with natural products.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Staff and volunteers at Mother of Good Counsel

Commitment: Conduct an energy audit with the Mountain Association. Assess water usage from appliances, toilets, showers, and fixtures on the property. Make sure they are not leaking and install resource efficient appliances including tankless water heaters and industrial dishwasher.

Timeframe: July 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Mountain Association, Dan Helfrich, and contractors

Commitment: Create a plan and install solar on our roof.

Timeframe: Project completed by July 2026

Person or Group Responsible: Lori Helfrich, Dan Helfrich, Ed Davis

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Our outreach program will provide an emergency food pantry weekly and support Northfork Local Foods and the Housing Development Alliance who are working to address food security issues and decent and affordable housing in the local community.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Lori and Dan Helfrich, Northfork Local Foods and Housing Development Alliance

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Purchasing from local businesses and using local producers whenever possible.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Lori Helfrich

Commitment: The parish purchases recycled products for office supplies and takes advantage of online bill pay when available.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Lori Helfrich, Sue Bowling

Commitment: The parish will look at options for purchasing fair trade coffee to be used at parish events.

Timeframe: April 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Lori Helfrich

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: We use reusable plates, silverware, and cups for our regular meetings and events. For our large fundraising meals, we use compostable plates, cups and real silverware or bamboo silverware and compostable/ reusable containers for those that have carryout meals.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: All parishioners and staff

Commitment: There is a Berkey water filter that is used for filtration of water instead of using individual plastic water bottles.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: All Parishioners and staff

Commitment: There are recycling containers set out for plastic, aluminum, paper and cardboard. We commit as a parish to working on recycling old electronic devices.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Lori and Dan Helfrich

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Including education, and opportunities to learn through experience about care of creation in our faith formation programs including OCIA, Teen Disciples, and religious education.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Lori Helfrich, Luke Glaser, Catechists

Commitment: We want to expand our selection of resources on care of creation and posting more on social media and through our website.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Lori Helfrich, all parishioners

Commitment: Connect people to gardening and visiting local places like Lily Cornett Woods, Pine Mountain, and parishioners' homes who are working with agriculture and conservation.

Timeframe: October 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Ben Sumalpong, Alita Vogel, Lori Helfrich

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Creating a Laudato Si' circle that meets quarterly. This group will be an ecumenical small faith sharing group who will gather to discuss faith and the intersection of care of creation.

Timeframe: November 2024 - December 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Lori Helfrich, David Logston

Commitment: Update our outdoor cross and create a pollinator garden on the property.

Timeframe: October 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Lori and Dan Helfrich, East 76 Landscaping

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Make connections with the local conservation district, Pathfinders, and county and city officials working on emergency preparedness.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Lori Helfrich, Ron Brunt, and other city/county officials

Commitment: Talk with city/county officials about unused outdoor spaces and how they might be able to be used for community gardens.

Timeframe: May 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Luke Glaser, Ben Sumalpong

Commitment: Encourage participation in parishioner advocacy at the state level and help people advocate for change in unfair utility cost.

Timeframe: Feb 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Lori Helfrich, Office of Peace and Justice

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Lori Helfrich

Team Members: Dan and Lori Helfrich

Queen of All Saints & Holy Family

Queen of All Saints: 90 Railroad Street Beattyville, KY 41311

Holy Family: 1439 KY 11 S, Booneville, KY 41314-9345

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

To mitigate the effects of global warming overtime, and to reduce waste by recycling, reusing, and buying wisely. Global warming is evidenced by increased floods and rising sea levels worldwide. Queen of All Saints Parish suffered the floods of March 2021 in Beattyville. These are to be achieved by beginning small and locally.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Both parishes have replaced lighting receptacles to accommodate LED light bulbs. Existing fluorescent bulbs or tubes are not discarded (to avoid waste) but are replaced with LED equivalent once bulbs are burnt out. Conversion to LEDs is almost complete. Both parishes plant pollinator flowers during Spring Season, to attract bees and other pollinator insects.

Timeframe: The practice will continue.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Mark Ouma & Sr. Judy Donahue

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: A soup kitchen at Holy Family in Booneville started operating in the summer of 2024. It helps to feed needy families in Owsley County once a week as well as run a food pantry. Both parishes continue to help needy families with payment of utility bills (electricity, water, and gas).

Timeframe: Both practices will continue in the parishes.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Mark Ouma & Cheryl McCauley

Goal 3: Ecological Economics.

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Buying locally produced foods whenever possible at both parishes. Both parishes strive to buy “green products” when purchasing cleaning and office supplies.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Mark Ouma & Sr. Judy Donahue

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Queen of All Saints is currently developing a plastic recycling program. Recycling bins will be ordered, followed by locating a site to take the plastics to be recycled. Eliminate single use plastics in both parishes by not purchasing single use plastic water bottles.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Mark Ouma & Sr. Judy Donahue

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Booneville Holy Family Parish watched “The Letter” to educate parishioners about ecology. There is a possibility of doing the same at Queen of All Saints Parish.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Mark Ouma

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Highlight care of creation in a variety of formats such as during homilies, coffee and donuts after Mass, and in bulletin announcements.

Person or Group Responsible: Fr. Mark Ouma & Sr. Judy Donahue

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: As an ecological event, ten trees were planted on Earth Day of 2023 at Holy Family Parish in Booneville. A follow up to monitor progress of the trees continues and if needed, more trees will be planted.

Person or Group Responsible: Sr. Judy Donahue & Cheryl McCauley

Laudato Si’ Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Mark Ouma

Team Members: Cheryl McCauley, Sr. Judy Donahue, Fr. Mark Ouma

St. Elizabeth
322 5th Street Ravenna, KY 40472

Parish Laudato Si' Statement

To help ensure a healthy environment for current and future generations, we the parishioners of Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church are committed to continually working towards a sustainable society. The integrity of our world must be respected and protected through a common goal of preserving natural resources, maintaining harmony with nature, and helping those most in need.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Seal and Caulk Windows in the Church: add caulk around windows in Church to reduce draft.

Timeframe: By December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Commitment: Energy Audit of Church: Free Energy Audit of Church performed by Mountain Association (MA).

Timeframe: By April 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team in coordination with MA nonprofit

Commitment: Replace Lights in Parish Hall with LEDs: Change out lights in Parish Hall and replace with energy efficient LED lights.

Timeframe: By September 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Commitment: Refurbish pollinator garden: Replant parish pollinator garden with new plants.

Timeframe: By June 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Research LED Lights Giveaway to the Poor: consult with local electric utilities on possibility of LED light giveaway to the poor at parish monthly basement sale.

Timeframe: By January 2026

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Apply for Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installation Grant: Look into the possibility of installing an electric vehicle charging station at parish with grant funding from

Evolve KY facilitated through Mountain Association. Grant application already submitted. This charger would be at least partially powered by the parish solar array.

Timeframe: Know if grant is available by December 2024, installation by January 2026 if grant is accepted

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Commitment: Replace hand soaps with locally produced natural soaps: Replace hand soaps in all bathrooms/kitchen with locally produced natural soaps.

Timeframe: By October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyle

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Install Recycle Bins: Install Recycle Bins in Parish Hall and encourage use.

Timeframe: By December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Commitment: Recycle Office Paper and Cardboard: All paper waste and cardboard used in office will be recycled.

Timeframe: By December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Commitment: Use reusable utensils at parish events: Use reusable metal silverware and cups at Parish Events instead of disposable plastic.

Timeframe: By December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Post environmental tip in parish bulletin: We plan to post monthly in our weekly bulletin a different tip on what parishioners can personally do to promote our Laudato Si' plan.

Timeframe: January 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Rosemary Capo

Commitment: Sponsor Monthly Herb Club meetings: Monthly meetings of an herb/garden club for discussion/awareness and community education on environmental issues.

Timeframe: December 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Incorporate Environmental Issues into Parish Discussion and Education Groups: Bible Study Group, which meets after Sunday Mass, will try to incorporate environmental issues

as they pertain to scripture discussion. This will be true for our youth ministry classes and RCIA preparation classes as well.

Timeframe: January 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Commitment: Perform Animal Blessings on Feast of St. Francis of Assisi: Parishioners will bring pets and animals for blessing on the Feast of St. Francis.

Timeframe: October 2024

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

Commitment: Have Parish County Clean-up Day: Contact County Solid Waste Coordinator and local action group to coordinate time and location for trash clean-up.

Timeframe: By June 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Commitment: Arbor Day Tree Give-away: Tree give-away in conjunction with the Estill County Conservation District.

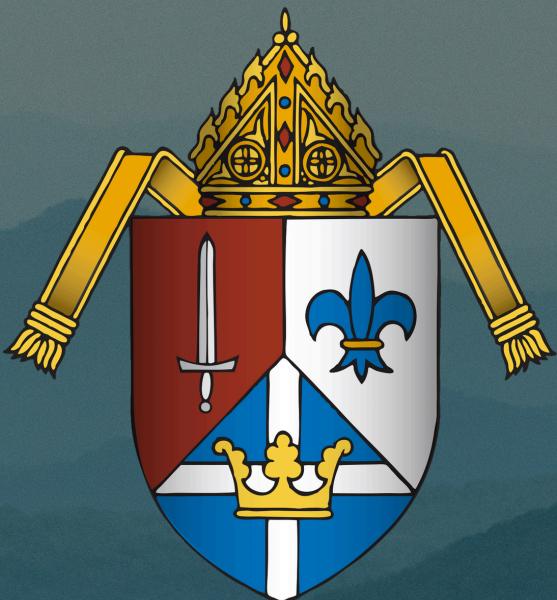
Timeframe: By June 2025

Person or Group Responsible: Parish Action Team

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Fr. Enrique Montoya, Rosemary Capo

Team Members: Chris Foster, Mario Alexander, Jack Stickney, Teresa Stickney, Caleb Stickney, Zach Lee, Barb Dixon, Ann Miller, Fr. Enrique Montoya, Rosemary Capo



ADDITIONAL PLANS

Lexington Catholic High School
Sts. Peter and Paul Regional School
Clare-Francis Secular Franciscans
Chancery Care for Creation Commitment
Diocesan Net-Zero Commitment

Lexington Catholic High School

October 2024

Laudato Si' Care for Creation Planning

Goal: To communicate the intentions of Lexington Catholic High School to develop a Laudato Si' Care for Creation Plan, in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, for the 2025-26 Academic Year.

Strategies:

1. Lexington Catholic High School will engage in the Laudato Si' Net-Zero initiative of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, and we are in the process of developing a Laudato Si' Care for Creation Committee of faculty, staff, parents, and students with the first task of creating a strategic planning document from which selected strategies and action items can be implemented in 2025-26 academic year.
 - a. The Environmental Club, and its sponsor has already agreed to participate.
 - b. Dozens of faculty and staff members have already volunteered to be involved.
 - c. The Service Club, under the supervision of Spiritual Life, will participate.
 - d. Student Government Association (SGA) will participate.
 - e. Parent Action Corps (PAC) will be asked to participate.
 - f. The committee will be formed in the first semester of 2024 and will meet on a regular basis to develop the plan in the second semester in 2025.
 - g. The Laudato Si' Plan developed will become a part of the overall Strategic Plan of Lexington Catholic.
 - h. The Board of Trustees and the Facilities Committee, Academic Committee, Athletics Committee, Spiritual Life Committee, and all LC Events Planning Committees, will engage in the process.
 - i. As Cash Flow and new expenses are being carefully scrutinized by upper administration and the Board, any and all ideas being identified here may not be affordable for '25-'26 but may be in consideration for the future.
2. Geothermal Heating and Air Conditioning system at Lexington Catholic's new \$12 million Science & High Marks Center will be an integral part of the energy plan.
 - a. We are in the process of completing, in collaboration with the Diocese, all paperwork necessary to receive Geothermal tax credits. It is estimated that approximately \$300,000 may be refunded in tax credits to Lex. Cath. in 2025.
 - b. Proceeds from these tax credits will be carefully scrutinized by our Facilities Committee in implementing the most cost effective and energy efficient HVAC systems in the future. Additional Geothermal, Solar and other clean energy options will be considered. EPA's Energy Star ratings will be pursued for any new equipment.
 - c. Facilities Committee is doing a short-term, 5 and 10-year planning document on the replacement of, or repairing, existing HVAC systems aimed at cost savings and

- energy efficiency. An Energy Audit and thorough examination of HVAC costs and emissions throughout campus will be suggested to be explored.
- d. Education for students, faculty, staff and custodial personnel in turning off lights, adjusting thermostats to comfortable and cost savings settings, and turning off other computer and electrical systems when leaving rooms and the building.
 - e. Lights in the new building are motion sensor, so they are automatically turned off. Explore more of these systems in future planning.
 - f. Adjust thermostats over night and on weekends. Ensure a comfortable work temperature when school is in session.
 - g. Most light fixtures have been replaced with LED on campus, but we'll do another inventory.
 - h. The AP Environmental Sciences Class does a report each year on what it would take to get to Net-Zero at Lexington Catholic. Obviously, the big issue is energy use. The smaller strategies that follow in the rest of this report like recycling, etc. doesn't even put a dent in it.
3. Recycling opportunities will be thoroughly evaluated.
- a. Discuss the options of removing all plastic water, soda, and sports drinks **sold** at the school (cafeteria, concessions, etc.), understanding that in some circumstances where there are not water fountains or water refilling resources, that these may be needed, but can still be recycled.
 - b. Re-institute the recycling program at the school, including the placement of recycling receptacles in the cafeteria, in classrooms, and throughout the campus. Placement in every classroom to be discussed—faculty members to take recyclables to proper disposal locations.
 - Suggestion to use cardboard boxes for single stream recycling, paper etc. in classrooms.
 - We need to educate about following City of Lexington guidelines for recycling.
 - c. Education programs and reminders on recycling for faculty, staff and parent volunteers will be necessary.
 - d. Reuse and/or recycle computer, electronic equipment. Right now, the science department and others send equipment to engineering classes so they can learn how this equipment is built and then they take left over electronics parts and batteries to the recycling center.
 - e. Recycle and/or reuse of textbooks.
 - Many publishers, Ave Maria Press et. al., offer PDF listed licenses for their textbooks, and the students could download these to their devices.
 - Reevaluate textbook rotation and purchases to align with overall goal of this program.
4. Continue to move away from uses of paper for teaching, administration, meetings etc.
- a. Many faculty have resisted this in the past.

- b. Encourage Faculty to put as much teaching and testing on an electronic platform as possible to reduce as much paper use.
 - c. When teachers give tests, they can copy only one class set and use them all day.
 - d. Tests on-line are difficult at Lex. Cath. because students don't have consistent computer devices, therefore some computers don't work properly with testing software, and we would need some kind of new browsing equipment to guard against cheating. Some studies have shown that students who use both computer and paper are learning better and scoring higher on tests. So, we will have to do more R&D in this arena.
 - e. When making copies, copy on front and back to reduce paper use. Duplex as much as possible.
 - f. We have been successful in eliminating paper products as we do the following electronically: tickets for games and events, facilities through EventLink, electronic hall passes, accreditation.
5. Sustainability in Our Cafeteria and Sporting/Extracurricular Events
- a. For the last year we have been looking into ways to better serve our students and care for our earth at the same time. We started by replacing serving plates with biodegradable serving boats and have now started transitioning to all biodegradable serving products. Our goal is to switch to all biodegradable serving products by the end of the year.
 - b. Continue to reduce food waste. At the end of each lunch period students throw away a lot of food. We need to educate them on this and persuade them not to throw away unused items.
 - c. We currently send all our leftover foods to the Catholic Actions Center from cafeteria, sports concessions, and special events. We send 3,000 hoagies or more to CAC every year during our Hoagie Fundraising project.
 - d. Evaluate the re-institution of the recycling program at the school, including the placement of recycling receptacles in the cafeteria and throughout the campus including sporting events and near concessions areas.
 - e. Explore planting portable herb and vegetable gardens outside of cafeteria for school use, a fruit garden in the quad garden area for school use.
 - f. Research utilizing and buying locally produced and prepared food whenever possible and buying fair trade coffee and other foods and beverages.
6. Examine Water Use, Consumption and Conservation.
- a. We have already added new water fillings stations in our new addition (2) and two more that were donated by Kentucky American Water. Most students drink water for reusable bottles and containers already. We need more filling stations. Install, as it is financially feasible, new water filling stations for old water fountains.
 - b. In the new science wing, they will not have to buy bottled distilled water needed for experimentation, once the water distiller (ordered) comes in.
 - c. Install, as financially feasible, new water filling stations for old water fountains.
 - d. Examine installing Brita or other water filling options in teacher lounges to discourage plastic bottle use.

- e. Explore a fundraiser, selling Care for Creation reusable water bottles.
- 7. Community Service: Student Participation in Care for Creation.
 - a. Explore opportunities to work with environmental, ecological, sustainability organizations for students and student clubs, i.e.. Kentucky Riverkeeper, Bluegrass Greensource, Fayette Alliance, et. al.
 - b. Clubs to include Environmental, Spiritual Life, Service, Student Government.
 - c. Explore ecological field trip opportunities. Our Exemplar Scholars Math Science Technology Students go to Bernheim Arboretum and participate in water ecology testing, and they participate in the Fayette County Kentucky American Water Science Fair. Explore more opportunities for the student body as a whole.
- 8. Maintenance, Facilities, Administration, Faculty & Staff Sustainability
 - a. Explore reusable coffee filters in administrative offices and teacher lounges.
 - b. Explore purchasing office supplies made from natural or recyclable materials.
 - c. Teachers can collect most handouts from students after usage to make sure they are recycled properly.
 - d. Explore and adjust the cleaning supplies we are ordering through our City-Wide vendor, to use more environmentally friendly products, considering all costs.
 - e. Faculty and administration should be educated to refrain from opening windows when air conditioning or heating is on.
 - f. Maintenance and Facilities staff members should keep heating and air conditioning at an agreed upon temperature for educational purposes.
 - g. Caulking or sealants around windows and door frames to be researched for need.
 - h. Explore purchasing “green produces” including cleaning products, office supplies, and kitchen items wherever possible.
 - i. When it’s time for new busses and vehicles consider hybrid or electric in the future.
- 9. Ecological Spirituality & Education
 - a. Include Care for Creation Intentions at all Masses.
 - b. Offer more prayer experiences outdoors. We already have a Senior Sunrise Service, and a new Ave Maria Grotto is in the planning stations which will give us a wonderful outdoor space for masses, spiritual services, reflection, prayer.
 - c. Our outdoor quad space between our buildings is being designed and developed for more student use, senior lunch periods, outdoor class periods. This is also a space where we can implement biodiversity “Care for Creation” plantings, pollinators, native KY. Plantings, possibility of a compost pile. Some of these concepts are already in practice.
 - d. There is a lot that could be done with the landscaping around the school to make it more environmentally friendly. Discuss more planning of native species of trees, plants flowers. The environmental club can work in designated areas on campus for this project.

- e. Spiritual Life plans to incorporate a Mass for God's Creation during the school year and include a petition at every all-school and chapel Mass in keeping with "Care for Creation."
- f. The Environmental Club can explore hosting "Care for Creation" speakers and discussions.
- g. Explore adding "Care for Creation" and environmental discussions in religion and science classes and curriculum.
 - One example: Biology Students currently offer a Threats to Biodiversity Project as part of our Conservation unit. Students are tasked with researching a human-caused problem to the environment and propose a unique solution which is presented in front of their peers.
- h. It has been suggested to offer a "Care for Creation" art show.

Sts. Peter and Paul Regional Catholic School

Goal: To form a dedicated committee of students and teachers who will collaboratively develop a comprehensive plan for promoting integral human development within our school community and beyond.

Timeline:

- September 2024 - February 2025: Committee Formation and Initial Planning Phase
- March 2025 - May 2025: Plan Development and Finalization
- May 2025: Completed Plan Ready for Implementation
- 2025-2026 School Year: Plan Implementation

Action Steps:

1. Committee Formation:
 - Recruit a diverse group of students and teachers representing various grade levels and subject areas.
 - Ensure representation from key stakeholders, including administration, faculty, students, parents, and potentially community members.
 - Establish a clear committee structure with defined roles and responsibilities.
2. Initial Planning Phase:
 - Conduct a thorough review of the Laudato Si' encyclical, focusing on the seven goals of the Laudato Si'.
 - Assess the current state of our school's efforts in promoting integral human development.
 - Identify areas of strength and areas for improvement.
 - Brainstorm potential initiatives and projects aligned with the Laudato Si' principles.
3. Plan Development and Finalization:
 - Develop specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals based on the Laudato Si's seven goals.
 - Outline concrete action steps and strategies to achieve these goals.
 - Allocate resources and establish a budget for implementing the plan.
 - Create a timeline for implementation, including key milestones and deadlines.
 - Ensure the plan is inclusive, equitable, and accessible to all school community members.
4. Completed Plan and Implementation:
 - Present the final plan to the school community for feedback and approval.
 - Make any necessary revisions based on feedback received.
 - Officially launch the plan at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Monitor progress regularly and make adjustments as needed.
 - Celebrate successes and share learnings with the broader community.

Key Areas of Focus:

- Ecological Education and Awareness: Integrate environmental sustainability into the curriculum and school operations.
- Spiritual Formation: Foster a deeper connection to God, creation, and one another through prayer, reflection, and service.
- Social Justice and Solidarity: Promote awareness and action on issues of poverty, inequality, and human rights.
- Sustainable Living Practices: Encourage responsible consumption, waste reduction, and energy conservation.
- Community Engagement: Partner with local organizations and initiatives to address environmental and social challenges.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Increased awareness and understanding of integral human development within the school community.
- Concrete actions and initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, social justice, and spiritual growth.
- A more engaged and empowered student body committed to making a positive difference in the world.
- A strengthened school culture rooted in the values of compassion, solidarity, and care for creation.

By embracing the teachings of the Catholic Church and working collaboratively to implement this action plan, Sts. Peter and Paul Regional Catholic School will take significant strides toward promoting integral human development within our school and beyond.

Clare-Francis Secular Franciscan Fraternity

690 Mason Headley Road #317 Lexington, KY 40504

Ministry Laudato Si' Statement

Creation is God's first revelation of himself to us. God is present in every particle of His creation, and He instituted its inspiring inter-relationships and the delicate balance of its wholeness. As part of His creation, in respecting His creation we respect ourselves. By caring for His creation, we enter into right relationship with God and the dynamic of His love.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a Ministry:

Commitment: Build and install a "seed sharing box" stocked with seeds, offered for free, and inviting others to leave seeds for free take-away. This is a fraternity commitment that will be assessed after 10 months as to the level of participation by the fraternity members and the prospective gardeners.

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a Ministry:

Commitment: Seek to partner with already existing groups which care both for creation and for the poor, such as Glean, adding to our existing partnership with Catholic Action Center. This is a fraternity commitment and will be assessed after 10 months as to whether a productive relationship has been established with a suitable partner.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a Ministry:

Commitment: Shop with reusable bags. This is a fraternity membership commitment and will be assessed after 10 months for the degree of self-reported observance by the members.

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a Ministry:

Commitment: Avoid single-use plastics and reduce plastic use to the extent possible. This is a commitment of the fraternity as a whole, as well as the individual members in their own lives. Success will be measured by the degree of incorporation of these goals into the lifestyles of the fraternity and its members, as self-reported.

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a Ministry:

Commitment: Include in our monthly meetings a discussion of a passage from Laudato Si' especially focusing on these discussions during the Season of Creation. This is a goal of the fraternity and will be measured after 10 months as to whether there has been regular observance.

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a Ministry:

Commitment: Include in our monthly meetings prayers for the spread of the principles of caring for creation, especially focusing on these prayers during the Season of Creation.
This is a fraternity commitment to be measured after 10 months as to whether it has been observed regularly.

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a Ministry:

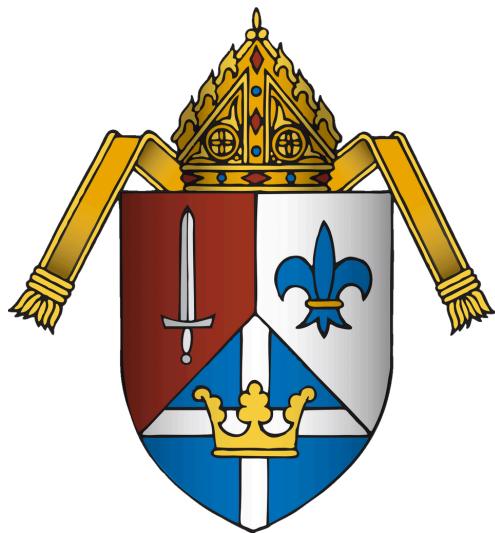
Commitment: Seek to partner with already existing groups which care for creation by empowering community environmental resilience, such as SeedLeaf.
This is a fraternity commitment and will be assessed after 10 months as to whether a productive relationship has been established with a suitable partner.

Laudato Si' Action Team

Coordinator: Beth O'Donnell, OFS

Team Members: Sister Robbie Pentecost, SSF Oldenburg, Rosie Fedorchuk, OFS, Beth O'Donnell, OFS

The Catholic Diocese of Lexington



**THE CATHOLIC CENTER'S
COMMITMENT TO CARE FOR
CREATION:

POLICIES, GUIDELINES, AND
NEXT STEPS**

March 1, 2024

Preamble:

On October 4, 2023, Pope Francis issued Laudate Deum, an apostolic exhortation, as a follow-up to his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si'. In the exhortation, he observed that faced with a collapsing world, our responses have been inadequate. While recognizing the truth that “the most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international level” (69), Pope Francis nevertheless affirmed the role individuals have to play in changing the current culture through personal action. For example, he noted, “Efforts by households to reduce pollution and waste, and to consume with prudence, are creating a new culture” (71).

It is in this spirit that the Catholic Center’s Care for Creation document provides the following set of policies, guidelines, and commitments for those who act on behalf of the chancery. This document does not present an exhaustive list of expectations and requirements, rather it provides a start and invites each staff member to explore new and creative ways to further our shared commitment to care for creation.

Responsibility for Compliance/Enforcement

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington holds accountable all chancery personnel for maintaining the policies in this document. Violation of the policies outlined in this document, or any other applicable diocesan policy will lead to progressive disciplinary action (see the Employee Handbook for more information).

Chancery personnel are responsible for following the guidelines provided in this document to the extent possible.

To ensure compliance, everyone with supervisory responsibilities in the chancery will:

1. Ensure that the Catholic Center’s Care for Creation document is provided to, reviewed with, and accepted by new chancery personnel.
2. Immediately and appropriately address questions or issues resulting from the application of the policies and guidelines identified in the Catholic Center’s Care for Creation document.

THE SAINT FRANCIS PLEDGE

I/We Pledge to:

- PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
 - LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
 - ASSESS how we, as individuals and in our families, parishes, and other affiliations, contribute to climate change through our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
 - ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
 - ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.
-

I. Policies

Section 1: Single-Use Plastics

Single-use plastics negatively impact our ecosystems and communities as it does not degrade and only a small percentage is successfully recycled. This policy intends to decrease the Catholic Center's impact by reducing the number of plastics that are purchased and distributed on the Catholic Center campus.

1. The purchase and distribution of single-serving, single-use plastic water and beverage bottles by Catholic Center staff using Catholic Diocese of Lexington funds is not permitted.
 - a. Recyclable plastic water and beverage containers (i.e. multi-serving containers such as two-liter beverage containers) are permitted, but their use should be limited to the extent possible.
 - b. Catholic Center staff who purchase and/or use such multi-serving recyclable plastic water and beverage containers are responsible for ensuring the empty containers are placed in the proper recycling bin.
2. The use of disposable single-use plastic ware (forks, knives, spoons, plates, cups, etc.) is not permissible. Only reusable or locally compostable alternatives are permitted for use in the Catholic Center.
3. The use of single-use plastic bags should be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Where plastic bags are required, marine degradable plastic should be used if available.

Section 2: Recycling

Catholic Center personnel are to abide by the Catholic Center recycling protocol.

1. All aluminum and tin cans, plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, dry cardboard, office paper, paper mail, newspapers, magazines, and catalogs are to be placed in recycling bins. See Addendum A for a more comprehensive list of recyclable items.
2. All food waste and coffee waste are to be placed in the compost bins.
3. All leftover food from gatherings is to be either given to participants to take home, left in the kitchen area for staff with an announcement made, or donated to the Catholic Action Center.
4. The donation of electronic waste (e-waste) is to be managed by the Diocesan Director of Property and Plant. All other e-waste is to be recycled at the Lexington Electronic Recycling Center at 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40508. See Addendum B for list of electronic recyclable items.
5. The disposal of all office furniture (desks, shelves, bookcases, chairs, tables), regardless of condition, is to be managed by the Diocesan Director of Property and Plant.

Section 3: Care for Creation Promoter

The Care for Creation Promoter is appointed by the Bishop and is charged with overseeing the implementation of, providing ongoing formation opportunities on, and ensuring compliance with the Care for Creation policies and guidelines.

1. The Care for Creation Promoter has the authority to initiate the progressive discipline process for policy violations and/or to address any lack of adherence to guidelines in consultation with the Bishop.
2. The Care for Creation Promoter oversees “next steps” planning and reporting for Care for Creation efforts across Catholic Center departments.
3. The Care for Creation Promoter can answer questions when a supervisor does not have the information or authority to interpret policies or guidelines.

II. Guidelines

Catholic Center personnel are expected to follow the following guidelines in exercising diocesan responsibilities:

- 1. Catering** – give preference to green catering options offering no-waste or limited-waste services for all gatherings where food is served.
- 2. Paper Use** - reduce/eliminate paper use whenever possible.
- 3. Carpooling** - carpool when traveling to locations within the diocese to the extent possible.
- 4. Virtual Meetings** – utilize virtual meetings/video calls when travel is unnecessary.
- 5. Cleaning Products** – use only non-toxic cleaning products.
- 6. Ink and Toner** – buy only remanufactured ink and toner cartridges.
- 7. Interior Paints** – use only No-VOC (volatile organic compounds – like formaldehyde, d-Limonene, acetone, and ethanol) interior paints.
- 8. Lighting** – use only LED lighting.
- 9. Power Strips** – use only programmable power strips to eliminate phantom power waste.
- 10. Zero Waste** – strive for zero waste generation when hosting gatherings that include food and drink.

Ongoing Activities

- Regularly Assess Investment Practices based on Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Identify and engage opportunities for the Chancery to be active in national and international advocacy on this issue.
- Identify green grants/ funding sources.
- Strive for Zero Waste regarding food and drinks.

III. Next Steps

Implementation by March 1, 2024

- Send a letter from Bishop John to priests asking them to preach/teach about the climate crisis.

Implementation by July 1, 2024

- Develop a plan to host information sessions on solar options for parishes and Catholic institutions in the Diocese.
- Develop a plan to offer workshops to parishes to foster local adoption of similar guidelines.
- Add Green expertise to the Building Commission.

Long-Term Goals (1-3 years)

- Building Commission - identify green certification processes/standards for buildings.
- Building Commission - develop a 10-year plan to upgrade diocesan buildings to meet green goals.
- Install water-saving fixtures.
- Discuss/discern a path forward on reducing/eliminating meat consumption at chancery/diocesan events.

Addendum A: Recyclable Items (<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/recycling>)

Never bag recyclables. Items should be put in the blue cart or recycling dumpster **clean, dry and loose.**

- Aluminum cans
- Steel cans, lids and canisters:
 - o canned food (labels can stay on);
 - o lids from spaghetti sauce, salsa, and other glass food jars (lid separate)
 - o metal canisters for coffee, tea, or cookies
- Plastic screw-top bottles, jugs, and jars (caps on):
 - o soda and water bottles; milk jugs;
 - o liquid laundry detergent jugs;
 - o peanut butter jars
- Dry cardboard with packing material removed:
 - o moving boxes;
 - o shipping boxes;
 - o carry out/delivery pizza boxes (throw away parts of the box with food residue or grease)
- Box board:
 - o gift, shoe, tissue, frozen food, and cereal boxes;
 - o toilet paper and paper towel rolls;
 - o wrapping paper rolls;
 - o soda or beer boxes;
 - o paper egg cartons;
 - o clean, paper takeout containers (NO plastic takeout containers)
- Paper:
 - o office paper, envelopes, and packing paper;
 - o magazines, catalogs, and newspaper envelopes; newspaper; packing paper
- Cartons:
 - o milk, cream, and juice cartons;
 - o broth and soup cartons
- Brown paper:
 - o paper grocery bags and craft paper
- Glass bottles and jars, colored and clear

Addendum B: Electronic Recyclable Items (<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/electronics-recycling>)

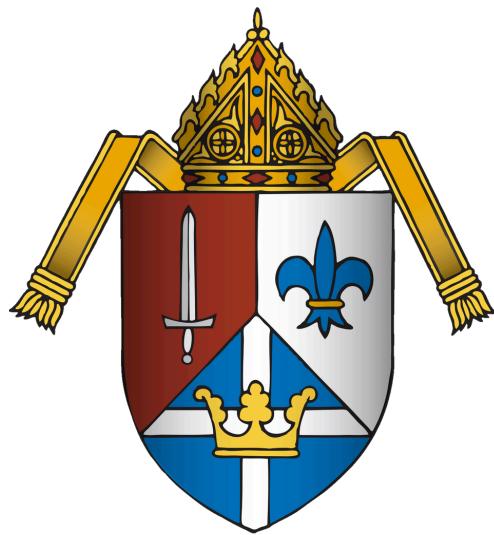
Acceptable items

- Computers, printers, copiers
- Printer cables, coaxial cables, RCA wires, HDMI cords, USB cables, power cords
- Printer cartridges and toner cases
- Alkaline batteries
- Cell phones and other communication devices
- Microwave ovens
- Televisions and monitors
- Vacuum cleaners
- CDs, DVDs and their cases
- VHS and cassette tapes
- Audio and video players/equipment
- Small corded electrical items such as toasters, hairdryers or radios
- Extension cords
- Holiday lights
- Fluorescent light tubes
- LED light bulbs
- MP3 players and handheld games
- Laptops and electronic tablets
- Rechargeable batteries (We do not accept automotive or other lead-acid batteries. Batteries Plus will accept all batteries for a fee.)

Unacceptable items

- Items that are not structurally intact, such as TVs with broken screens. (These items should be taken to the Bluegrass Regional Transfer Station at 1505 Old Frankfort Pike.)
- Automotive and other lead-acid batteries (Batteries Plus will accept all batteries for recycling for a fee.)
- Satellite dishes
- CFL light bulbs (Recycle them at Lowes or Home Depot)

The Catholic Diocese of Lexington



**2030 NET-ZERO
COMMITMENT**

Catholic Diocese of Lexington's Net-Zero Commitment

As we approach the 10-year anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, the call for concrete and measurable efforts to address the environmental crisis has become ever clearer.

In response to this call from Pope Francis, the Diocese of Lexington is developing its *Laudato Si'* Action Plan for the entire diocese which includes developing a plan to bring the Diocese to Net-Zero in energy usage by 2030.

To accomplish this goal of Net-Zero carbon emissions, the Diocese has convened a task force. Joshua van Cleef, Director of the Office of Peace and Justice, is coordinating the Net-Zero initiative for the Diocese with Adam Edelen and Edelen Renewables as the primary advisor. As primary advisor, Adam consults on the overall process and chairs the task force.

The task force advises the Diocese in three main areas:

- 1) **Technology:** The task force will evaluate relevant data from the Diocese to determine its carbon footprint. It will then propose solutions to bring the diocese to Net-Zero.
- 2) **Finance:** The task force will identify funding sources and partnerships and propose ways for the projects to be financed.
- 3) **Communication:** The task force will advise on a strategy to communicate this Net-Zero project to the public from initial planning through the plan's implementation.

Task Force Members

David Absher, Senior Manager of Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs | Toyota

David Butler, Head of Sustainability | Alltech

John Damm, Project Sustainability Manager | Lexmark

Ed Davis, Director of Property and Plant | Catholic Diocese of Lexington

Adam Edelen, Founder and CEO of Edelen Renewables

Stephen "Tay" Gibson, System Director of Property Management | Appalachian Regional Healthcare

Josh King, Vice President of Facilities Planning and Development | Appalachian Regional Healthcare

Matt Partymiller, General Manager | Solar Energy Solutions

Amy Samples, Chief of Staff, Edelen Renewables

Debbie Swisher, Diocesan Finance Officer | Catholic Diocese of Lexington

Joshua Van Cleef, Director, Office of Peace and Justice | Catholic Diocese of Lexington

1) What is Net-Zero?

Net-Zero is the balance between an organization's amount of greenhouse gas emissions it generates, and the amount removed from the atmosphere. The Catholic Diocese of Lexington is committed to reaching carbon neutrality (Net-Zero) by 2030 for its scope 2 emissions. Scope 2 refers to the amount of greenhouse emissions produced by the Diocese's purchase of electricity.

2) Where will the Diocese find the funding for this?

Bishop Stowe has convened a group of sustainability experts drawn from our region's leading corporate citizens to make recommendations regarding not only the technical aspects of our mission but our financial options as well. The task force will propose projects and avenues of funding for them.

3) How do you remove greenhouse gas from the atmosphere to become net zero? What kinds of projects might this include?

The taskforce will provide the Diocese a litany of options for offsetting our carbon footprint. Options are likely to include onsite solar, participation in green energy programs with our local utility, energy savings procedures, and other approaches utilized by organizations who are on their own "Net-Zero" journey.

4) Will parishes be included in this process?

The first year of the task force's work will involve data collection to determine the carbon footprint of the diocese for electricity usage and planning to get to net zero. During the implementation phase of the plan that will follow, locations included in any projects will be engaged in the process.

5) What is the timeline for this process?

The Net Zero Task Force convened in April 2024. Since then, an effort has been underway to collect electric utility data and conduct onsite solar assessments for all diocesan properties. In January 2025, the emissions footprint of the Diocese will be calculated using Greenly, a carbon measurement and reduction platform. The development of next steps will depend on the results of the emissions footprint which will be analyzed by the Net-Zero Task Force. The Task Force will then make recommendations which will be incorporated into the Diocesan Net-Zero Plan. The Diocesan Net-Zero Plan will be published and begin implementation in Spring 2025.