

Thank you Pope Francis!

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

Caring for God's Creation Ministry



Caring for God's Creation Laudato Si' Ministry

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

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

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

Laudato Si' Action Plan Caring for God's Creation Ministry 2023-2026

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

December 13, 2023



Our Parish, Most Blessed Sacrament Church, A Catholic Community

Most Blessed Sacrament (MBS) was formed in 1978 and is located in Arlington, Texas USA which is in the middle of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Our church has 4,000 total parishioners which represents 1,800 families of which 25% are children/youth. We are an active Catholic Community with over 40 ministries that are supported by parishioners who volunteer their time in support of the parish, the community, and the underprivileged. <https://mbs.church/>

Caring for God's Creation, *Laudato Si'* Ministry – New Ministry Formation

Caring for God's Creation is a new ministry at MBS, announced to the community on May 21, 2023. The ministry was formed to respond to the call of Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si' (Praise Be), On Care for Our Common Home* (2015) to take better care of the world we were given by God, and of all the people in it. This call went out to all people of our world, which includes 1.3 billion Catholics. Our MBS parish responded. The first ministry meeting was on May 24, 2023, the 8th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*.

Enrollment in the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform (LSAP)

The *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, an initiative of the Vatican Dicastery (*Department*) for Promoting Integral Human Development, is inspired by Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The [Laudato Si' Action Platform website](#) is a shared space that equips the Church to achieve real and lasting solutions to the ecological crisis. LSAP supports participants in the development of tailored *Laudato Si'* Action Plans to accomplish a single purpose: Concrete actions to protect our common home. Most Blessed Sacrament's enrollment was accepted by the Vatican on June 23, 2023.

We committed to the following:

1. Complete an annual parish self-assessment
2. Upload an annual *Laudato Si'* Action Plan
3. Upload a reflection of our values connected to the 7 *Laudato Si'* Goals

MBS ANNUAL 3 Year *Laudato Si'* Action Plan (LSAP)

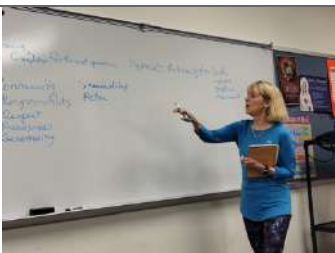
In 2023, as the Caring for God's Creation team began learning about LSAP, and identifying potential action items, we also started implementing some of them. We were "**Learning and Doing**" at the same time! Some action items are in progress and some have been completed. This experience has guided what we believe will be an effective planning structure for our ministry. Our approach is to expand the LSAP time frame to 3 years with annual action item updates.

7 Goals of LSAP



MBS Laudato Si' 6 Month "Learning & Doing" Action Plan

July 2023 – Dec 2023

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
Ministry Conduct LSAP Parish Assessment & Carbon Footprint	Complete: Jul '23	CGC Team
Create a Caring for God's Creation Vision and Mission Statement*		Complete: Jul '23 CGC Team
Successful participation in the MBS Ministry Fair	Complete: Aug '23	CGC Team

* **Our Vision:** To protect and preserve God's Earthly creation for future generations.

* **Our Mission:** To see God in all things and to actively support Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* call that we act personally, within our parish, and globally to protect the earth and its people. We are committed to increase awareness through activities that provide education to all, young and old alike, concerning care for the environment and the Poor. We will promote sustainable environmental practices and lifestyles. We will build community partnerships to increase the impact of environmental initiatives.

7 Goals of LSAP July 2023- Dec 2023

Goal 1 Cry of the Earth

- Create Sustainable Native Plant & Pollinator Gardens for MBS Garden Areas, AND 2023-Ongoing
- Learn "How to Create Gardens" by working with local organizations 2023-Ongoing

Goal 2 Cry of the Poor

- Work with the many existing MBS and local ministries that support the underprivileged 2023-Ongoing
- Create a vegetable garden as a source of fresh food for the underprivileged 2024-Ongoing

Goal 3 Ecological Economics

- Install LED lights throughout parish 2023-Ongoing
- Research faith-based tax credits available for renewable energy programs Complete-Will not pursue at this time
 - Will not pursue because energy decisions are made at diocese level.

Goal 4 Sustainable Lifestyles

- Install drinking fountains with bottle filler by gym to reduce single plastic bottle use. 2023-2024
- Purchase recycle bins for use in parish hall, and reduce use of plastic meal utensils. 2023-Ongoing

Goal 5 Ecological Education

- Create a Carbon Footprint Calculator for individuals and households / Implement Complete/2024
- Native Plant Giveaway Event at parish picnic: Drought tolerant & attracts pollinators Complete 2023
- Educate Parishioners on a variety of topics using parish communication tools 2023-Ongoing

Goal 6 Ecological Spirituality

- Read Laudato Si' and watch the online conference, "Laudato Si' and the US Catholic Church" by Creighton University and the Catholic Climate Covenant. 2023-24
- Introduce "The Season of Creation" to the parish in 2023 / Continue to build and grow. Complete/Ongoing

Goal 7 Community Engagement

- Start local! Investigate UTA (University of Texas, Arlington), the City of Arlington, and the TRWD (Tarrant Regional Water Department). 2023-Ongoing
- Talk to neighbors. This is an ecumenical ministry. 2023-Ongoing

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

Contact Carol Stilley mbs.creationcareteam@gmail.com

Laudato Si' Action Plan

Caring for God's Creation Ministry

2024-2026



Goal 1 CRY OF THE EARTH

“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) *

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
<p>1.1 Create sustainable, native plant and pollinator gardens for the parish to <u>conserve water</u>, thereby also <u>saving money</u>, and to <u>support pollinators</u>. A special consideration will be made for the Monarch Butterfly, which is the state insect of Texas, and is now an endangered species.</p> <p>Use the parish gardens to inspire parishioners and people living in the area to do the same.</p>	2023 - 26	CGC Team
<p>1.2 To support biodiversity, evaluate ways to maintain garden and lawn areas without chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Share with parishioners and others.</p>	2023 - 26	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor

“Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.
Laudato Si' (1)

** Thanks to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for the 7 Goal Laudato Si' quotes.*

2023



Goal 2 CRY OF THE POOR

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

(Laudato Si’ 117)

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
2.1	Support existing community and parish programs that help people in need, in our parish and our community.	2023 - ongoing CGC Team
2.2	Rent a vegetable garden plot at UTA (University of Texas, Arlington) to grow vegetables for organizations that serve the people in need in our community.	2023 - 2026 CGC Team



[UTA Community Garden](#)

The half-acre garden supports Arlington's commitment to sustainability by preserving green space, educating the community about preserving green space and utilizes both compost and rain harvesting techniques to

promote water conservation. A portion of all food grown here is donated to Mission Arlington, the garden's designated food bank program. The garden is a joint venture between [UTA's Office of Sustainability](#)



and the City of Arlington's Parks and Recreation Department.



Goal 3 ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

“Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act.”

(Laudato Si’ 206)

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
3.1 Conduct financial analysis and provide other analytical support for ecological initiatives that have an additional benefit of saving money (e.g., drought tolerant plants - saving money via reduced water, renewable energy).	2024 - 26	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor
3.2 Conduct an annual parish energy audit, with the goals of reducing our energy use, and increasing renewable energy sources. Reduce our carbon footprint as a parish. Use parish audit and energy goals as an inspiration for parishioners and neighbors to do the same.	2023 - ongoing	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor
3.3 Create an energy management program at MBS to reduce energy costs.	2024 - 26	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor
3.4 Buy local, buy sustainable, buy recyclable, share what you no longer use, embrace The Gift Economy.	2024-26	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor



LED Church Lighting by Craft Metal Products





Goal 4 SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

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

(Laudato Si’ 208-209)

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility	
4.1	Minimize the use of plastic and Styrofoam in the parish and our homes, and when used—recycle!	2023 - ongoing	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor
4.2	Reduce food waste in our parish, homes, and community. Research the environmental cost of food waste and the dollar amount.	2024 - ongoing	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor
4.3	Research and evaluate the potential for composting at MBS with expansion to the community.	2024 - 26	CGC Team

Youth Group Suggestion (2023): Install bottle fillers in church, so they don’t have to bring single use plastic water bottles. (Status: being implemented)





Goal 5 ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

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

(Laudato Si’ 202)

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
5.1	2023 - 26	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor
5.2	2024 - 26	CGC Team

2023

Parish Picnic, June 11 FREE Purple Coneflowers!

Monarch Butterflies
Love Them!

Compliments of
the new MBS ministry:
CARING for GOD’S CREATION



Parish Picnic, June 11 FREE Prickly Pear Cactus!

State Plant of
Texas

Compliments of
the new MBS ministry:
CARING for GOD’S
CREATION



CARE & Info*

LIGHT Sun, Part Shade
WATER Low
Ht x W 1.5’ x 3.0’
BLOOM Spring
WILDLIFE Pollinator Bees

*Native Plant Society of
Texas






Goal 6 ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

“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)

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
<p>6.1 Incorporate the celebration of the Season of Creation (Sep 1-Oct 4) and Laudato Si’ week (May 21-28) as a part of the liturgical year at MBS in an engaging and meaningful way for both adults and youth.</p> <p>Increase awareness of St Francis with adults and youth in the parish. Who he is and why he is the patron saint of ecology.</p>	2024 - ongoing	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor
<p>6.2 Engage with other faith communities in the Greater Arlington area to celebrate the Season of Creation.</p>	2024 - 26	CGC Team, Parish Staff, and Pastor
<p>6.3 Create a Read & Reflect of Laudato Si’ and Laudate Deum for adults and youth.</p>	2024 - ongoing	CGC Team
<p>6.4 Weave prayer into all initiatives and aspects of the Caring for God’s Creation ministry.</p>	2023 – ongoing	CGC Team



LAUDATO SI’ ROSARY*
 Sunday, October 1st
 9:15am Chapel

Bring a friend, children, grandchildren.... If you do not have a rosary, that’s OK. We’ll provide one, and provide any assistance you need!

* What is Laudato Si’?
 “Laudato Si’, On Care for our Common Home,” is the title of a letter (called an encyclical) from Pope Francis, published in 2015. This encyclical is written to “every person living on this planet” and calls us to take care of our common home—planet Earth, and all the people in it.

Caring for God’s Creation Ministry

2023

2023



POPE FRANCIS AND COP28:
 8:30am Mass Fri, Dec 1
 Pray that the words of Pope Francis will inspire the world leaders at the UN climate summit in Dubai on Dec 2
 -- Caring for God’s Creation



Goal 7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“Bring the whole human family together... for we know that things can change”

(Laudato Si’ 13)

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
7.1	Start local! Work with organizations such as UTA, the City of Arlington, TRWD, and the AISD for partnerships at various levels. Advocate for social and ecological causes.	2023 - 26 CGC Team
7.2	Work with Catholic Climate Covenant. Advocate for social and ecological causes.	2023 - ongoing CGC Team
7.3	Start Local! Engage neighbors as source of new members and churches open to new partnerships.	2024 - ongoing CGC Team
7.4	Regularly explore our local ecosystem as a group.	2024 - 26 CGC Team

2023



Laudato Si'!, *Praise Be!*

Caring for God's Creation, 1st Ministry Fair, August 2023

Monsignor Pemberton, we thank you for your support!

Caring for God's Creation ministry



Pope Francis Arrives in Arlington, Texas!

Carol learning the Pope Wave



"Molto bene, Don!"
Blessing the presentation



Caring for God's Creation at Ministry Fair



Pope Francis thanks the ministry team!

A Texas Howdy to Pope Francis!

Xeita and Anthony setting up



Helen meets her Facebook Friend



Ann having coffee with the Pope



Barbara



Pat



Stephanie

Tom and Valerie



Karen and Jack showing rain water reclamation for their garden.



Pat acquaints parishioners with Pope Francis!

Jane



Lolly



Frank



More Caring for God's Creation Team Members

Julianne, Bette, & Kim at
Picnic Plant Giveaway



Bette & Mike in God's Creation*

* *El Tesoro de los Angeles Retreat Center, Woodland Park, Colorado.*



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

--USCCB (United States Council of Catholic Bishops)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amen.

¹ Laudate Deum, Quoting Laudato Si', no. 233.

² Laudate Deum, no. 64, quoting Laudato Si', no. 97.

³ Laudate Deum, no. 65.

**This prayer is inspired by [Laudate Deum](#), Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on care for creation in follow-up to [Laudato Si'](#).*

