

Laudato Si' Action Plan, 2023-2024

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Executive Summary

The former and current pastors of St. Ignatius Parish have committed us to a journey to become a *Laudato Si'* Parish. This will be a multi-year program that requires discernment and action. The goal is sustainability not just for us but as part of a global effort to implement the principles of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

This is the first edition of the *Laudato Si'* Action Plan for St. Ignatius Parish, Chestnut Hill, Mass. It includes background on the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform (LSAP), a program initiated by Pope Francis and executed by the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development. It describes the approach we are taking to provide a variety of suggested opportunities for individuals, families, and the parish as a whole to support discernment and promote action.

The underlying purpose of this action plan is for each of us to seriously consider the effects of our current lifestyle choices and, from our reflection, design a new lifestyle, a continuation of the recent Ignatian year motto: To see all things new in Christ.

This report consists of five chapters with specific activities, arranged under goals from the LSAP. Tables at the end summarize past work and identify new opportunities.

Implementation will be coordinated by the St. Ignatius Green Team, in collaboration with other parish groups and parishioners. Results will be monitored and the plan will be updated as we make progress and take on new challenges. This will be a living document.

All are invited to participate according to their ability.

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. *Laudato Si'* (LS) 14

St. Ignatius Parish Engages with the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform

In the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, released in 2015, Pope Francis says, “The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world” LS 161. The pace of catastrophes has only increased since then.

To emphasize the need for immediate action, Pope Francis delegated responsibility for implementing *Laudato Si'* to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. This led to creation of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform (LSAP), a global program inviting all Catholics to join the journey “towards sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology.” Different Catholic entities, including parishes, were invited to enroll.

Former pastor Fr. Joseph Costantino enrolled St. Ignatius in the LSAP under the “Parish” sector in November 2021. This started a seven-year journey for St. Ignatius Parish and its members to see, judge, and act on the challenges and opportunities to become a *Laudato Si'* Parish.

Is our contemporary lifestyle unsustainable? How do we discern the answer to that question?

First, we must make visible the ways that our lifestyles, individually and collectively, are part of the problem. In Chapter Six of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis describes this process of increasing our awareness:

[Christians] need . . . an “ecological conversion,” whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. 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. LS 217

The journey of ecological conversion calls us to

- “recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God’s eyes”; LS 69
- join all creation and ““Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created”” (Ps 148:3-5); LS 72
- stop “view[ing] reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit”; LS 159
- acknowledge that “intergenerational solidarity is not optional.” LS 159

Second, we must embrace the spirit of integral ecology. We will know we are doing this when the work we do

- “restore[s] the various levels of ecological equilibrium, establishing harmony within ourselves, with others, with nature and other living creatures, and with God” as described in the Creation stories; LS 210 (See also LS 65.)
- uses strategies that recognize that “we are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental” and takes “an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.” LS 139

The journey toward sustainability is an opportunity for us to reexamine the way we think about our faith. Our relationship with Jesus Christ is not just with the historical Person who lived, died and rose again. It is with God who created and sanctifies all of Creation and whose Spirit inhabits and gives dignity to all people. With this in mind, we can begin our journey of *Magis*: What more can we, *must we*, do to care for our common home and meet the needs of all God's people?

Building a *Laudato Si'* Action Plan

To guide the parish on its journey "towards sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology," the Green Team, working with parish staff, commissions, and parishioners, has prepared the first of what will be a series of *Laudato Si'* Action Plans. This version of the action plan includes ideas for action collected from parishioners in various discussion groups held in 2022 and 2023, as well as from resources provided by the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, the *Laudato Si'* Movement, and the Catholic Climate Covenant.

The framework for the main body of the plan is the seven Goals of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. We have organized the suggested activities around five of the goals. The first two goals, Hear the Cry of the Earth, and Hear the Cry of the Poor, are incorporated into the five chapters of our plan.

Each section is in two parts:

See/Judge – Parishioners are invited to examine our way of living in the context of church teachings on social justice and the guidance of St. Ignatius and to reflect on how we are putting our faith into practice. Activities and events promote reflection and discussion, leading to a commitment by more parishioners to the *Laudato Si'* Pledge:

- To pray for and with creation
- To live more simply
- To advocate to protect our common home.

Act – Parishioners are invited to put into practice the results of their prayerful reflections in the form of changes in their prayer life, lifestyles and relationship with nature and each other. Activities put into practice the insights gained, leading to ongoing sustainability according to the principles of integral ecology.

Activities cover the three spheres of parishioners' lives:

1. **Parish life**, including both the spiritual activities of our faith and the practical infrastructure by which we are able to provide and support a robust Catholic spiritual life
2. **Home life**, including our spiritual life at home, our interactions with family and friends and the way we manage our homes' operations
3. **Life in the world**, including our engagements with the working world and society at large

A variety of activities are included, ranging from short, specific actions (write a letter to your representative) to major life changes (electrify everything in your house).

Parishioners are in various stages of engagement with climate justice in general and the encyclical *Laudato Si'* specifically. Parishioners are also in a variety of situations – young to old; poor to rich; healthy to challenged. With this in mind, Pope Francis provides some advice:

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. LS 14

Goal 1. Ecological Spirituality

Ecological spirituality leads us to discover God in all things, connecting to the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude. Scripture teaches us of the magnificence of Creation, the web of relationships that bind us all, and our obligation to care for Creation and for all people and parts of nature that might be suffering from a lack of care on the part of society. We can build this spirituality through conscious efforts in both communal and individual prayer and action. The activities are organized by suggestions for individuals (I) and for the parish (P).

See/Judge

- Building on Ignatian spirituality, adopt an attitude of gratitude and appreciation of God's Creation. Ask, "Where did I see God in creation today?" (I)
- Spend time outside fully mindful of the world around me. Reflect on how I am or am not taking care of what I see. (I)
- Join a group and study *Laudato Si'* other documents on the Church's teachings on social justice. (I)
- Incorporate Catholic social teaching, including *Laudato Si'*, in homilies, petitions, bulletin and Flocknote communications, and programs. Create a consistent voice and gather parish members to reach out to help in addressing the needs of the poor and of the natural world. (P)

Act

- Join a group or attend a webinar and study *Laudato Si'* other documents on the Church's teachings on social justice. (I)
- Make prayer for Creation and for the poor a part of our daily spiritual exercise. These powerful prayers for the Earth from *Laudato Si'* and other sources can strengthen our emotional connection to Creation and the disadvantaged. (I)
- During the Season of Creation, deeply focus on our relation to all of Creation and our obligation to nurture, not abuse, as well as to address the needs of the poor in our community. (I)
- Continue to organize annual Season of Creation activities with opportunities for prayer, reflection, service and advocacy. Invite parishioners to sign the *Laudato Si'* pledge. Invite parishioners to provide a reflection on readings for one Sunday of the season. (P)
- Work with the BC theology department to host a discussion group emphasizing *Laudato Si'* goals and principles. (P)
- Explore creating interfaith partnerships to share ideas and collaborative activities. (P)

Goal 2. The Adoption of Simple Lifestyles

Our lifestyle impacts not only us, but also all of God's Creation, including the Earth itself. Becoming more aware of how our throwaway and polluting lifestyle is increasingly harmful to the environment – to

animals, plants and other human beings, most especially people living in poverty – will increase the likelihood that we can become better stewards of the Earth in a way that will benefit humanity and the planet.

See/Judge

- Reflect on my personal relationship with Creation and how my actions may harm it. How can I change my lifestyle to bring things back into balance? (I)
- Using reliable sources, explore how current practices in agriculture, transportation, energy production and manufacturing are not sustainable. See how my lifestyle choices play a part in this. (I)
- Sign the *Laudato Si'* Pledge and learn how you can pray, live and advocate for the actions called for in this encyclical, leading to a sustainable lifestyle. (I)
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSec5I5DSeFdoxXSLqDEriNtCFvcc10wGyzY1zDcDGGz7h5OYw/viewform>
 - [St. Francis/Laudato Si' Climate Action Pledges](#)
- Commit to reducing the carbon footprint at my place of work using recommendations from a group such as the Catholic Health Association as a guide. (I)
 - <https://www.chausa.org/environment/resources/reduce-your-carbon-footprint>
- Become more aware of how pollution leads to sickness and death, especially among less advantaged people who because of poverty need to live near factories and other polluting sources. (I)
- Commit to reducing the carbon footprint of the parish facilities and operations using recommendations from a group such as the Catholic Health Association as a guide. (P)
 - <https://www.chausa.org/environment/resources/reduce-your-carbon-footprint>
- Evaluate current parish systems and determine best practice improvements needed for energy sufficiency, ethical purchasing and reuse. (P)

Act

- Upon reflection, correct my own behaviors that are unsustainable and lead to climate destruction. Adopt recommended sustainable practices.
 - Adopt sustainable dietary habits, using more plants and reducing meat consumption. (I)
 - Use more public transportation and active mobility such as walking and cycling. (I)
 - Reduce purchases of single-use materials and fast-fashion clothes.
 - Use tips from St. Ignatius Green Team or organizations like Green America
 - <https://www.stignatiuschestnuthill.org/green-team>
 - [Green Living: 10 Habits of Highly Sustainable People](#)
- How can I turn away from our throwaway culture? Promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with people who are impacted the most by environmental harm, especially people in poorer countries who have contributed the least to climate destruction but suffer the most because of it. (I)
- Promote alternative ways to get to Mass and parish activities. Encourage biking and plug-in cars. (P)

- Continue Greener Lent program with a pledge to reduce meat consumption. During Lent, organize a vegetarian dinner, including easy recipes, and afterward encourage people to reflect on and discuss how what we eat affects the environment in different ways. (P)
- Collaborate with and support young people, especially BC students, in their efforts to promote sustainability. (P)

Goal 3. Ecological Education

To fully embrace and extend our commitment to care for the Earth and each other, our parish must focus on our ecological education. As we grow in our faith, we deepen our awareness of the needs of the Earth and the needs of the poor and marginalized among us who have been hurt by our neglect and abuse. It is important to include all ages of parishioners in this effort. We can do this in the Faith Formation curriculum, the written words of the parish bulletins, and the spoken words in our liturgies. This deepened knowledge can lead to transformative action.

See/Judge

- Participate in a parish book club or join a PJ&R committee to explore books that incorporate aspects of social justice. (I)
- Continue and expand Faith Formation classes that explore our connection to God's Creation and to all of God's people, with lesson plans and discussions that highlight relevant scripture as foundation for that connection. (P)
- Work with the Faith Formation book club to choose ecologically centered and socially conscious titles to strengthen awareness of the needs of the Earth and the poor. (P)

Act

- Enroll with groups such as Interfaith Power and Light or Catholic Climate Covenant. Read newsletters and attend webinars to broaden my knowledge and learn about actions I might take. (I)
- Reach out to help an immigrant or refugee group. (I)
- Read a book or participate in a reading group such as a *Laudato Si'* Circle (I)
- Educate parishioners about the spiritual connection between caring for the Earth and caring for humanity. These could be followed by small-group parish discussion and action planning. (P)
- Continue to host movie screenings followed by discussion, such as was done with *-The Letter*. Collaborate with other committees within the Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission. (P)
- Form and expand a parish *Laudato Si'* library, including digital materials (P)
- Hold multi-age discussion sessions to engage young people, perhaps with a guest speaker on local ecology issues or social needs (P)
- Work with BC faculty to expand the first-year course to include *Laudato Si'* goals. This could strengthen a relationship between new BC students and the parish. (P)
- Work with BC Eco Clubs and Faculty to develop an annual *Laudato Si'* Fair with speakers and exhibits as a way to encourage broader participation in the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. (P)

Goal 4. Ecological Economics

The common root of “ecology” and “economics” is the Greek word *oikos* meaning “household.” Ecology is learning about the household, that is, the Earth. Economics is the management of our household, both micro and macro. Building on the idea of Integral Ecology, Ecological Economics is an economy that takes care of the household in a way that acknowledges the economy as a subsystem of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere, our common home.

In an initiative separate from the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, Pope Francis asked “young economists, entrepreneurs, and changemakers” from around the world to imagine a future where the economy of today has been transformed into an economy of the Gospel. He calls this the Economy of Francesco, after St. Francis of Assisi. At the end of the September 2022 conference Building an Economy of the Gospel, held in Assisi, a Covenant was presented that includes goals for an economy that

- “opposes the proliferation of arms, especially the most destructive,”
- “is at the service of the human person, the family and life, respectful of every woman, man, and child, the elderly, and especially those most frail and vulnerable,”
- “recognizes and protects secure and dignified work for everyone,”
- considers finance as “a friend and ally of the real economy and of labour and not against them,”
- “values and safeguards the cultures and traditions of peoples, all living things and the natural resources of the Earth,”
- “fights poverty in all its forms, [and] reduces inequality,”
- “creates wealth for all [and] engenders joy and not just riches.”

These goals influence the activities we should pursue.

See/Judge

- Be informed; learn how my lifestyle affects the workers producing what I buy and the environment used for extracting materials in what I use and throw away; reflect on what I can change in my habits of consumption. (I)
- Explore how the current economy places burdens on the vulnerable and marginalized by exposing them to unsafe drinking water, particulates in the air and heat islands in urban areas. (I)
- Include the vulnerable and marginalized in discussing and addressing issues that may affect parishioners. Include young people in these discussions. (P)
- Learn how to organize activities around an environmentally friendly narrative that help us to reflect on current consumption patterns compared to Gospel values. (P)
- Working with BC Faculty, host events that link aspects of social justice and sustainable development. (P)

Act

- Work with others to explore and implement a Francesco Economy that uses finance to minimize fossil fuel development and maximizes a just transition to a sustainable energy infrastructure. (I)
- Support BC students in pursuing discussions about Boston College’s divestment from fossil fuels, emphasizing the Gospel values that support this action to care for Creation. (I)
- Work with organizations dedicated to giving marginalized people a stable foundation and positive future. (I)

- Improve parish efforts in conservation in repairs, water use, land/energy use and activities. Explore options for landscaping to include a nature garden, solar panels, car charging stations and bike racks. (P)
- Include best practices for remodeling to minimize carbon footprint of both construction and final operation of the parish facilities. Provide opportunities for parishioners and BC students to review and discuss options. (P)
- Collaborate with the archdiocese, other parishes, BC, Boston and Newton to meet the greenhouse emissions goal of being net-zero by 2035. (P)

Goal 5. Community Resilience and Empowerment

St. Ignatius Parish is not an island. Nor can we hope to address all of the issues associated with our unsustainable lifestyles individually or even as a single community. Solidarity and subsidiarity are fundamental Church principles describing how we promote and support each other on our faith journey.

In “St. Ignatius Parish, Chestnut Hill, Mass. *Laudato Si’* Reflection–Parish Values and Principles”, we say, “Faith and our work for justice are connected. Working for justice in partnership among parish groups and with other groups outside our parish helps build a vibrant community.”

See/Judge

- Seek out and attend events or webinars outside my comfort zone to listen to the needs of vulnerable communities and reflect on how I am hearing new ways to be in relationship with others. (I)
- Use the Green Team website to post environmental facts, quotes and information with opportunities to reflect on questions about what is presented. (P)
- Invite candidates to speak on their positions on issues of environmental justice. (P)

Act

- Enroll in the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform as an Individual/Family. Join a group advocating social justice or environmental justice such as Pax Christi, the *Laudato Si’* Movement, or Catholic Climate Covenant. (I)
- Learn how to and engage in conversations with family and friends about ecological justice. (I)
- Plan and hold events, especially meals, among various parish commissions and committees to share stories and find ways for collaboration. (P)
- Hold an Advocacy Training session for parish staff and parishioners. (P)
- Create an Advocacy Team to identify opportunities for petitions and letter writing and recruit parishioners to join and participate. (P)
- Engage with other Catholic parishes and faith communities in the Chestnut Hill area to share ideas on working for environmental justice. (P)
- Identify and join other groups working to clean and restore the environment. Continue collaboration on Coast Sweep at Wollaston Beach and build collaboration with BC Eco Clubs to support cleanup campaigns and attend their annual ecology fairs. (P)
- Create partnerships with government agencies and conservation groups to promote ecological justice and opportunities for individuals to invest in lifestyle changes at low cost. (P)

Measuring Progress and Updating the Plan

In 2021, the Green Team used the Measures of Success from the *Creation Care Plan* of the Diocese of San Diego to assess St. Ignatius' progress as a parish implementing the principles of *Laudato Si'*. The parish had some participation in 19 of 57 possible activities. This is our starting point. Appendix 1 lists the parish activities that we want to continue and provides new activities that could be included in regular parish life.

Parishioners can also track their participation in *Laudato Si'* goals, using the self-assessment tool in Appendix 2 to track their activities at home or at work.

The Green Team, in collaboration with other parish commissions, will take responsibility for maintenance and promotion of the plan during our seven-year journey. We will review the plan annually and update it with specific activities and events the parish has sponsored in which individuals have participated.

The annual cycle will include these activities:

- Plan the Work
- Work the Plan
- Review Results
- Celebrate Success
- Revise the Plan
- Work the Plan

This will be a living document.

Appendix A. Parish Activities to Track

St. Ignatius has been an active parish. In 2021, the Green Team assessed our work to learn and implement *Laudato Si'*. Using a sample checklist from the Diocese of San Diego, St. Ignatius was active in about 30% of the suggested actions. The list of active areas has been updated for other work done since 2021. Ongoing activities are indicated by “pre-2024”. This indicates that work was started before Sept. 1, 2023, the beginning of the Season of Creation.

The Rev. Quyen Vu, SJ, Provincial of the Society of Jesus in Australia, talks about this kind of assessment in the province’s planning guide:

It is not about recording what we do already [or don’t do], but rather identifying what more we could do, in material and measurable terms – in the different context of each of our ministries and works – to achieve ecological conversion and better outcomes for our common home. This will vary from ministry to ministry and work to work. (<https://jesuit.org.au/initiatives/cchc/>)

With that in mind, we have added new items to this *Laudato Si'* Action Plan. Which items will be active and how they will be implemented will be determined over the course of the year. When we reach the review stage in 2024, this list will be updated to reflect the latest accomplishments. After review and discussion with parishioners, staff and other commission members, the whole list will be reviewed and items will be added or removed to reflect the objectives for 2025.

Measures of Success “Pre-2024 = Parish was doing this work as of 9/1/2023”	Status in Parish	Source	Spiritu-ality	Life-style	Education	Econom-ics	Advo-cacy
Explore creating interfaith partnerships to share ideas and collaborative activities		Parishioners	Yes				
Incorporate Catholic social teaching, including Laudato Si', in homilies, petitions, bulletin and Flocknote communications, and programs. Create a consistent voice and gather parish members to reach out to help in addressing the needs of the poor and of the natural world.	Pre-2024	Fr. Joe Costantino	Yes				
Continue to organize annual Season of Creation activities with opportunities for prayer, reflection, service and advocacy. Invite parishioners to sign the Laudato Si' pledge. Invite parishioners to provide a reflection on readings for one Sunday of the season.	pre-2024	Fr. Joe Costantino	Yes				
Work with the BC theology department to host a discussion group emphasizing Laudato Si' goals and principles.		BC student leaders	Yes				
Continue Greener Lent program with a pledge to reduce meat consumption. During Lent, organize a vegetarian dinner, including easy recipes, and afterward encourage people to reflect on and discuss how what we eat affects the environment in different ways.	pre-2024	Parishioners		Yes			
Continue to evaluate current parish systems and determine best practice improvements needed for energy sufficiency, ethical purchasing and reuse.	pre-2024	Strad Engler		Yes			
Commit to reducing the carbon footprint of the parish facilities and operations using recommendations from a group such as the Catholic Health Association as a guide.		San Diego Purchase & recycle		Yes			
Promote alternative ways to get to Mass and parish activities. Encourage biking and plug-in cars.		Parishioners		Yes			

Measures of Success "Pre-2024 = Parish was doing this work as of 9/1/2023"	Status in Parish	Source	Spirituality	Lifestyle	Education	Economics	Advocacy
Make available a parish library of environmental and Laudato Si' materials, including digital materials.		San Diego - Catholic social teaching			Yes		
Work with the Faith Formation book club to choose ecologically centered and socially conscious titles to strengthen awareness of the needs of the Earth and the poor.		PJR, Social Outreach			Yes		
Hold multi-age discussion sessions to engage young people, perhaps with a guest speaker on local ecology issues or social needs.		Fr. Joe Costantino			Yes		
Continue and expand Faith Formation classes that explore our connection to God's Creation and to all of God's people, with lesson plans and discussions that highlight relevant scripture as foundation for that connection.	Pre-2024	San Diego - Catholic social teaching			Yes		
Continue to host movie screenings followed by discussion, such as was done with -The Letter. Collaborate with other committees within the Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission	Pre-2024	BC student leaders			Yes		
Educate parishioners about the spiritual connection between caring for the Earth and caring for humanity. These could be followed by small-group parish discussion and action planning.	Pre-2024	San Diego - Catholic social teaching			Yes		
Work with BC faculty to expand the first-year course to include Laudato Si' goals. This could strengthen a relationship between new BC students and the parish.		BC student leaders			Yes		
Learn how to organize activities around an environmentally friendly narrative that help us to reflect on current consumption patterns compared to Gospel values.		The Letter discussion groups				Yes	
Include the vulnerable and marginalized in discussing and addressing issues that may affect parishioners. Include young people in these discussions.	pre-2024	Fr. Joe Costantino				Yes	

Measures of Success “Pre-2024 = Parish was doing this work as of 9/1/2023”	Status in Parish	Source	Spiritu-ality	Life-style	Education	Econom-ics	Advo-cacy
Working with BC Faculty, host events that link aspects of social justice and sustainable development.	pre-2024	PJR, Social Outreach				Yes	
Improve parish efforts in conservation in repairs, water use, land/energy use and activities. Explore options for landscaping to include a nature garden, solar panels, car charging stations and bike racks.	pre-2024	Fr. Joe Costantino				Yes	
Collaborate with the archdiocese, other parishes, BC, Boston and Newton to meet the greenhouse emissions goal of being net-zero by 2035.		Fr. Joe Costantino				Yes	
Include best practices for remodeling to minimize carbon footprint of both construction and final operation of the parish facilities. Provide opportunities for parishioners and BC students to review and discuss options.		Fr. Jim / Parishioners				Yes	
Identify and join other groups working to clean and restore the environment. Continue collaboration on Coast Sweep at Wollaston Beach and build collaboration with BC Eco Clubs to support cleanup campaigns and attend their annual ecology fairs.	pre-2024	Parishioners					Yes
Hold an Advocacy Training session for parish staff and parishioners.		San Diego - Advocacy					Yes
Visit and share experiences with another parish or faith traditions.		San Diego - Advocacy					Yes
Use the Green Team website to post environmental facts, quotes and information with opportunities to reflect on questions about what is presented.		BC student leaders					Yes
Plan and hold events, especially meals, among various parish commissions and committees to share stories and find ways for collaboration.	Pre-2024	The Letter discussion groups					Yes
Create an Advocacy Team to identify opportunities for petitions and letter writing and recruit parishioners to join and participate.		Ecological examen					Yes
Invite candidates to speak on their positions on issues of environmental justice.		San Diego - Environmental justice					Yes
Create partnerships with government agencies and conservation groups to promote ecological justice and opportunities for individuals to invest in lifestyle changes at low cost.		Parishioners					Yes

Appendix B: Monitoring Individual and Family Participation

The work that families and individuals do at home, at work, or in society at large is not regularly tracked by the parish. We are able to count attendance at events and prayer services. We will keep track of the number of parishioners who have signed the *Laudato Si'* Pledge. A few other activities will be monitored. Most of the work to assess personal activities will be up to parishioners. To help, this is a list of suggested activities for individuals and families. Parishioners can use it to assess their participation during the annual review period.

Measures of Success	Status at home	Source	Spirituality	Lifestyle	Education	Economics	Advocacy
During the Season of Creation, deeply focus on our relation to all of Creation and our obligation to nurture, not abuse, as well as to address the needs of the poor in our community.		Fr. Joe Costantino Parishioners	Yes				
Join a group or attend a webinar and study Laudato Si' other documents on the Church's teachings on social justice.		San Diego - Cath. Social teaching	Yes				
Make prayer for Creation and for the poor a part of our daily spiritual exercise. These powerful prayers for the Earth from Laudato Si' and other sources can strengthen our emotional connection to Creation and the disadvantaged.		Parishioners	Yes				
Building on Ignatian spirituality, adopt an attitude of gratitude and appreciation of God's Creation. Ask, "Where did I see God in creation today?"		Parishioners	Yes				
Spend time outside fully mindful of the world around me. Reflect on how I am or am not taking care of what I see. Related to No. 18.		Faith Formation	Yes				
Collaborate with and support young people, especially BC students, in their efforts to promote sustainability.		BC student leaders		Yes			
Reflect on my personal relationship with Creation and how my actions may harm it. How can I change my lifestyle to bring things back into balance?		<i>The Letter discussion groups</i>		Yes			
Using reliable sources, explore how current practices in agriculture, transportation, energy production and manufacturing are not sustainable. See how my lifestyle choices play a part in this.		Parishioners		Yes			
Upon reflection, correct my own behaviors that are unsustainable and lead to climate destruction. Adopt recommended sustainable practices. Includes "actions in the home" from <i>The Letter</i> discussion group.		<i>The Letter discussion groups</i>		Yes			
Sign the Laudato Si' Pledge and learn how you can pray, live and advocate for the actions called for in this encyclical leading to a sustainable lifestyle.		Parishioners		Yes			
Commit to reducing the carbon footprint at my place of work using recommendations from a group such as the Catholic Health Association as a guide.		San Diego Purchase & recycle		Yes			
How can I turn away from our throwaway culture? Promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with people who are impacted the most by environmental harm, especially people in poorer countries who have contributed the least to climate destruction but suffer the most because of it.		<i>The Letter discussion groups</i>		Yes			

Measures of Success	Status at home	Source	Spirituality	Lifestyle	Education	Economics	Advocacy
Become more aware of how pollution leads to sickness and death, especially among less advantaged people who because of poverty need to live near factories and other polluting sources.		Parishioners		Yes			
Reach out to help an immigrant or refugee group.		San Diego Env. Justice			Yes		
Participate in a parish book club or join a PJ&R committee to explore books that incorporate aspects of social justice.		PJR, Social Outreach			Yes		
Read a book or participate in reading group (such as LS Circle)		Fr. Jim			Yes		
Enroll with groups such as Interfaith Power and Light or Catholic Climate Covenant. Read newsletters and attend webinars to broaden my knowledge and learn about actions I might take.		Fr. Jim			Yes		
Explore how the current economy places burdens on the vulnerable and marginalized by exposing them to unsafe drinking water, particulates in the air and heat islands in urban areas.		<i>The Letter discussion groups</i>				Yes	
Be informed; learn how my lifestyle affects the workers producing what I buy and the environment used for extracting materials in what I use and throw away; reflect on what I can change in my habits of consumption.		Ecological examen				Yes	
Work with organizations dedicated to giving marginalized people a stable foundation and positive future		PJR, Social Outreach				Yes	
Work with others to explore and implement a Francesco Economy that uses finance to minimize fossil fuel development and maximizes a just transition to a sustainable energy infrastructure.		Strad Engler				Yes	
Enroll in the <i>Laudato Si'</i> Action Platform as an Individual/Family. Join a group advocating social justice or environmental justice such as Pax Christi, the <i>Laudato Si'</i> Movement, or Catholic Climate Covenant.		<i>The Letter discussion groups</i>					Yes
Seek out and attend events or webinars outside my comfort zone to listen to the needs of vulnerable communities and reflect on how I am hearing new ways to be in relationship with others.		PJR, Social Outreach					Yes
Learn how to and engage in conversations with family and friends about ecological justice.		<i>The Letter discussion groups</i>					Yes
Engage with other Catholic parishes and faith communities in the Chestnut Hill area to share ideas on working for environmental justice.		<i>The Letter discussion groups</i>					Yes

Appendix C. Resources

Church Teaching on Care for Creation

Pope Benedict XVI

Message for the World Day of Peace in 2010, with the theme and title [If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation](#)

Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, 2009. (See especially No. 69.)

https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate.html

Pope Francis

Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, 2015.

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Goals of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform

Each chapter of the St. Ignatius *Laudato Si'* Action Plan is based on a goal developed for the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform (the first two goals are incorporated throughout the five chapters of our Action Plan). The full list of goals is provided here as a reference.

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. Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.

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. Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems, and social service programmes.

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labor and protecting the dignity of workers.

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting

sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling), and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic, etc.).

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights, fostering Laudato Si' themes within the community, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers), and ecological restoration activities.

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things,” both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities. Actions could include promoting creation-based liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, etc.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighbourhood ecosystems.

St. Ignatius Documents for the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform

Assessment - LSAP form completed and submitted Jan. 26, 2023 by Michael Sennett, Leader of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, with assistance from Karen O'Reilly, Financial Manager, and Strad Engler, Green Team member.

https://www.stignatiuschestnuthill.org/files/ugd/3d2253_5f6297527dde4c249fd3993441aa56ca.pdf

Reflection - St. Ignatius Parish, Chestnut Hill, Mass. *Laudato Si'* Reflection—Parish Values and Principles

https://www.stignatiuschestnuthill.org/files/ugd/3d2253_000c7db21032441da72d973358d71669.pdf

References

Building a *Laudato Si'* Action Plan

Laudato Si' Action Platform: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

Laudato Si' Movement: <https://laudatosimovement.org/>

Catholic Climate Covenant: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Chapter 3

Interfaith Power and Light: <https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/>

Chapter 4

On the Economy of Francesco: Building an Economy of the Gospel conference, Assisi, Italy, 2022.
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-09/economy-francesco-final-covenant-pope-francis-gospel.html>

Chapter 5

Pax Christi USA: <https://paxchristiusa.org/>

Laudato Si' Movement: <https://laudatosimovement.org/>

Measuring Progress

Creation Care Plan, Diocese of San Diego: <https://sdcatholic.org/office-for/life-peace-and-justice/care-for-creation-and-environmental-issues/>