

**3-Year Plan for Laudato Si Action Platform
Adopted May 28, 2023**



POPE FRANCIS' CALL

“I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes every one, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all..... We require a new and universal solidarity....As the bishops of Southern Africa have stated: ‘Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God’s creation.’ Laudato Si’ 14.”

OUR RESPONSE



The Church of Saint Francis Xavier, first in many historic ways, is taking on the Pope's call to develop a bold and active response to the ecological crisis that threatens every aspect of God's gift of Creation.

Our parish and Xavier Mission enrolled in the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) last year, and consulted with leaders of our ministries. A committee, made up of several parishioners, staff and pastoral council members, is proposing a three-year action plan for our community to adopt.

Your participation, large and small, will be critical to the success of the St. Francis Xavier Laudato Si' Action Plan.



AS AN APOSTOLATE OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS, WE COMMIT OURSELVES, INDIVIDUALLY AND COMMUNALLY TO:



GROW our love for God's gift of Creation • Green our parish space and Xavier Mission



CHANGE our personal lifestyles to adopt green practices that reflect our care for our common home (2023-2026)



ADVOCATE for policies that will protect our common home and the most vulnerable communities.

Our most significant goal is to have parish and Mission operations running on **100% clean energy from renewable sources by 2026**, with a goal to have net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Net zero emissions refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere. Getting to net zero means we can still produce some emissions, as long as they are offset by processes that reduce greenhouse gasses already in the atmosphere.

OTHER INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- Energy audit of St. Francis Xavier facilities
- Feasibility study for on-site renewable energy
- Composting food waste from Welcome Table and church events
- Care for Creation corner: personal sustainability tips in each weekly bulletin
- Eco-Fair with exhibits, speakers, games and music
- Spiritual retreat on the connection of faith and sustainability
- Songs for the Earth concert (June 5, 2023)
- Speaker series on climate solutions including divesting from fossil fuels,
- Advocacy for federal, state and local climate policy and care for the poor
- Reduce the amount of plastic used in parish events and in our daily lives




HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE YOUR CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME?

WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT'S NEXT

The carbon footprint of the church, Hurtado Hall and parish offices is more than 74,229 kg of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) per year. The number stems from the amount of electricity from non-renewable sources used for heating (NYC steam) and for lighting and cooling (fossil fuel source from ConEdison).

Our CO₂ footprint is the equivalent to burning 172 barrels of oil or 83,148 pounds of coal, or 8,353 gallons of gasoline, each year. This is far greater than the average for other LSAP parishes, likely due to the size of our church.

The evaluation response to the 2022 questionnaire we submitted to the Vatican SFX revealed we do meet three key criteria set by LSAP, including “identifying how the planetary crisis is affecting local social issues,” “celebrating the Season of Creation (Sept 1-Oct 6)” and having “members who have received training on environmental science and Catholic social teaching.”



OUR PLAN: LAUDATO SI' ACTIONS (2023-2026)

Pope Francis asked all Catholic institutions to join the Laudato Si' Action Platform, and to focus our work on the 7 goals addressed in the encyclical:

ADOPTION OF
SUSTAINABLE
LIFESTYLES

ECOLOGICAL
EDUCATION

ECOLOGICAL
SPIRITUALITY

RESPONSE TO THE
CRY OF THE EARTH

RESPONSE TO THE
CRY OF THE POOR

ECOLOGICAL
ECONOMICS

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE AND
EMPOWERMENT

1. 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.

We shall:

RESTORE parish composting pickup of food waste by 2024. Promote less food waste.

PROMOTE greater recycling, reducing use of plastics by 2023.

EDUCATE parishioners about pollution prevention and conservation at home and at work.



2. ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

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

We shall:

SFX Environment Ministry will lead education efforts to include:

- weekly environmental tips “Care for Creation Corner” in our bulletin
- speaker series (3x/year)
- summer environment film series
- celebrations of Season of Creation, Earth Day, Laudato Si’ Week (anniversary of the encyclical)
- participation in clean-ups in parks or shorelines



3. 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.

We shall:

- Pray Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ prayer during Masses at relevant times of year
- Eco-spirituality retreat organized by Young Adults ministry by 2025
- Laudato Si’ Study series, led by environment ministry during Season of Creation
- Songs for the Earth, a choral concert, produced by music ministry in June 5, 2023
- Promote stewardship through an annual second collection to support compassion for climate refugees or indigenous peoples suffering due to deforestation in the Amazon rainforest.



4. 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.

We shall:

- Conduct energy audit of church, mission and school by 2024
- Working with Xavier High School, switch electricity to renewable energy by 2024
- Investigate on-site or community solar power with government incentives by 2025
- Implement energy efficiency measures at church and at home by 2024
- Support tree planting project by 2024



5. RESPONSE TO 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.

We shall:

- Parish and Xavier Mission by 2025 join forces for advocacy campaign aimed at:
 - food and housing insecurity
 - housing development in NYC
 - establishing housing stock for unhoused, immigrants
- Conduct feasibility study of creating a cafe business run by Xavier Mission clients by 2025
- Recruit pro bono attorneys, social workers to aid guests of the outreach program of the Mission by 2023
- Solicit financial gifts for climate action projects in developing countries by 2025



6. 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.

We shall:

- Research ethical banking practices and review existing banking relationship by end of 2026
- Invite expert speaker on divestment of fossil fuels from personal investment portfolios by 2024, organized by environment ministry
- Provide education to parishioners about how to make their investments free of fossil fuels



7. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT



Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.

We shall:

- Organize a public Environment Fair at SFX, supported by multiple ministries
- Promote and practice “buying local” and purchasing from “B Corporations” (formed for public good) by 2025
- Advocate for local NYC and federal climate policies, organized by Environment Ministry
- Get parishioners and other parishes involved with Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
- Provide training for parishioner advocacy on climate, by 2024



COSTS FOR THE CHURCH

The majority of the proposed tactics have little to no cost, with efforts led by volunteer parishioners. The parish environment ministry will lead all education-related strategies with support from other ministries.

The most significant costs will be related to implementing energy efficiency measures and potential costs for switching to renewable energy. These investments will likely have a swift return on investment by lowering the electricity costs. Thanks to new climate and infrastructure laws passed by Congress, we anticipate significant grant funding may help us reach our goals in the next few years. The Pastor will approve all cost estimates before moving forward with any action.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Laudato Si' Action Platform invites us to respond to Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home.

Exploring the long standing teachings of our faith in the light of today's ecological crisis, Laudato Si' teaches us that "everything is connected." (LS 91) As our relationship with our divine Creator has been neglected, human relationships have faltered, and our world has grown hotter, less stable, and more lifeless. As a result, we all suffer, and the poorest and most vulnerable suffer above all. We face a "complex crisis that is both social and environmental." (LS 139)



There is hope. Pope Francis calls us to develop a "loving awareness" of this home we share and to act on the values we hold dear. (LS 220)

A committee of about 10 polled the pastoral council and the various ministries. Hundreds of ideas were collected, and then winnowed for feasibility. Progress on the SFX LSAP was summarized at the 2023 ministries retreat. We invite you to review and comment or ask questions. After addressing any issues that have been raised, we sought and received ratification of the plan by the Pastor and Pastoral Council on May 9 and officially launched our 3-year action plan on Pentecost May 28 during Laudato Si' Week, the anniversary of the encyclical. It is a fitting date for us to begin our parish journey.

The committee will guide implementation of the plan, advising staff, ministries and outreach groups, meeting each quarter to review and report on progress.



*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.*

Laudato Si' Encyclical, by Pope Francis



JOIN US



EMAIL YOUR VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT
OR QUESTIONS TO
SFXLSAP@GMAIL.COM.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Kevin Tuerff, Parishioner, LSAP Committee Leader

Patrick Egan, SFX Pastoral Council Chair

Nicholas Grimaldi, Parishioner

Dee Kittany, Parishioner. Xavier High School staff

Nancy Lorence, Parishioner, SFX Environment Ministry Leader

Andrea Foley-Murphy, Parishioner, SFX Pastoral Council

Janet Paist, Parishioner

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PASTOR

Fr. Ken Boller, Pastor, Church of St. Francis Xavier

STAFF

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