

Laudato Si' Action Plan Year 2 (July 2024 – June 2025)

Arlington Diocese, Virginia, USA

Introduction

The Diocese of Arlington has incorporated into its Strategic Plan an initiative to advance Care for Creation. In that plan, the Diocese pledges to “implement sustainability projects at the diocesan level, at parishes and at schools for care of creation.” The goal is “To advance conservation and sustainability in our diocese, parishes and schools to demonstrate stewardship of God’s creation.”

In pursuit of these ends, in Year Two of its *Laudato Si'* Action Plan, our diocese will seek to advance in the following areas:

1. Increase Sustainability in Diocesan and Parish Events and Catering Practices
 - a. Office of Chief Operating Officer will take steps to achieve greater sustainability in catering for diocesan meetings and events, and diocese will publicize these steps and encourage parishes to do the same;
 - b. Diocesan staff, Peace and Justice Commission and Creation Care Network (CCN) will be available to assist the Chief Operating Officer by
 - i. Developing a checklist of catering best practices
 - ii. Using checklist, assess sustainability practices of currently approved caterers and recommend improvements based on best practices;
 - iii. If needed, research sustainability practices of potential new vendors
2. Communications
 - a. Update and maintain the Peace and Justice website to include information about care for creation and the *Laudato Si'* Action Plan.
 - b. Promote peace and justice and Catholic Social Teaching, including Creation Care, in diocesan print and other media;
 - c. Purchase Season of Creation banners for CCN parishes (\$100 each)
3. Spirituality
 - a. Identify three parish events or activities that can include praying with and for creation.
 - b. Offer suggestions and assistance in implementation.
4. Catholic Social Teaching in Schools
 - a. Follow up with Office of Catholic Schools regarding developing *Laudato Si'* toolkit;
 - b. Ask Office of Catholic Schools to support an effort to reduce idling of cars during pick-up and drop off at Catholic schools.
5. Mentoring New Teams

- a. Care for Creation Network to establish regular and ongoing communication with new parishes participating in the Network to provide guidance and support;
 - b. Establish one on one mentoring with parishes that have existing Care for Creation Teams.
6. Facilities
- a. Develop a toolkit for parishes to use to conduct energy audits.
 - b. Fine tune the toolkit by conducting a pilot program with three parishes
7. Engage Non-traditional Creation Care Audiences
- a. Prepare (or find from Catholic Climate Covenant or Laudato Si' Movement) Spanish language materials to send out to parishes with large Hispanic communities
 - b. Gather stories from people directly affected by climate change (possibly from sister parishes in Caribbean or Latin America)
 - c. Investigate Catholic Rural Life resources and share as appropriate
 - d. Investigate ways to reach out to others not engaged in Creation Care: doubtful and questioning voices, inactive parishes.