

St. John Vianney Laudato Si' Plan
Written by the SJV Social Justice Committee
Approved by SJV Parish Council
May 2024



In May of 2015, Pope Francis wrote his encyclical on Care for our Common Home, Laudato Si'. Since then, various sectors, including parishes have been encouraged to develop Laudato Si' Action Plans. This document is St. John Vianney's parish council approved Laudato Si' Plan.

Take a look and see if you or any of the groups you are involved with can take on any of the proposed actions and goals!

St. John Vianney Parish
Bettendorf, Iowa
Diocese of Davenport, Iowa

St John Vianney Parish Laudato Si' Plan -- Area of Concern: 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 climate change, 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. [Diocese of Davenport Laudato Si' Plan]

BACKGROUND

Examples of actions in the parish in the past that promote this principle:

- Reduced / stopped buying Styrofoam cups and plates
- Reduced food waste by donation of leftovers

PROPOSED GOALS & ACTIONS:

- Plant natural grasses on the parish property (or other native and pollinator plant types). Consider this for St Joan of Arc School as well
- Create a wildflower garden on parish premises and on St. Joan of Arc School as well
- Create and maintain a vegetable garden
- Publicize local conservations efforts and encourage parishioners to be involved (ie: Nahant Marsh, etc)
- Promote composting, recycling and cleanup events in the community (ie: Xstream Cleanup, etc)
- Inform all ministries and users of parish facilities about recycling procedures
- Encourage parishioners to bring in extra/unneeded garden vegetables to share with others
- Investigate and consider use of environmentally friendly cleaning supplies
- Consider other opportunities in this area in the planning of St Joan of Arc School
- Publicize completed Laudato Si' Plan; Challenge commissions/ ministries/ parishioners to complete goals

St John Vianney Parish Laudato Si' Plan -- Area of Concern: Response to the Cry of the Poor

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote ecological justice and raise awareness that humanity's relationship to the earth is special. We are called to defend all of 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. [Diocese of Davenport Laudato Si' Plan]

BACKGROUND

Examples of actions currently in place in the parish that promote this principle (not all inclusive):

- Parish Wide Community Outreach (Thanksgiving Baskets, Angel Tree, School Supplies, Backpacks with Snack)
- Committees in place that support marginalized groups
 - Haiti Committee
 - Social Justice Committee (Socktober, Tips for Transportation, Hygiene Drive, Bike donations)
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Circles
 - Knights of Columbus
 - Men's Fellowship
- Volunteers serving at Café on Vine, Kings Harvest, Bettendorf Food Pantry, Churches United meal site
- Donations given to Humility Homes and Services, World Relief, Women's Choice Center

PROPOSED GOALS & ACTIONS:

- Encourage SJV parishioners to get personally involved in programs/projects that the Catholic Social Teachings promote in the area of basic human needs
- Investigate ways for the parish to be involved in the Opportunities Quad Cities Navigator program, a program that mentors and guides people in need
- Do an assessment of current parish activities in this area; discover needs that aren't being covered
- Encourage increased transparency on what/how parish funds are distributed to community organizations
- Publicize completed Laudato Si' Plan; Challenge commissions/ ministries/ parishioners to complete goals

St John Vianney Parish Laudato Si' Plan -- Area of Concern: Ecological Economics

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society embedded within the biosphere – our common home. The economy should exist for the benefit of all people, and not the other way around. It should not be the case that some persons are harmed to benefit others. [Diocese of Davenport Laudato Si' Plan]

BACKGROUND

Examples of actions in the parish in the past that promote this principle:

- Replaced incandescent lights with efficient LED lights
- Replaced HVAC with high-efficiency units
- Replaced insulation with higher ratings in areas repaired
- Considered renewable energy sources for St Joan of Arc School

PROPOSED GOALS & ACTIONS:

- Promote sustainable production and consumption, using the parish's consumer power.
 - Identify criteria for the parish on economic choices to consider the long-term impacts on resources and waste in the full life cycle of buildings and equipment. (e.g. efficient and renewable energy options)
 - Reach out to the parish's suppliers to promote sustainable concerns.
- Move toward a more circular economy with recycled materials.
 - Continue to promote reduction in Styrofoam and bottled water,
 - Promote the proper and increased use of recycling containers.
 - Reduce the use of paper: minimize and recycle handouts.
- Consider other opportunities in this area in the planning of St Joan of Arc School
- Publicize completed Laudato Si' Plan; Challenge commissions/ ministries/ parishioners to complete goals

St John Vianney Parish Laudato Si' Plan -- Area of Concern: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting responsibility in the use of resources and energy

BACKGROUND

Examples of actions currently in place in the parish that promote this principle: (not all inclusive)

- Have made improvements in recycling and waste reduction in parish operations
- Installed water bottle fill stations to reduce use of plastic water bottles
- Reduced water consumption by installing automatic faucets

PROPOSED GOALS & ACTIONS:

- Identify ways to increase sustainability at the church and on parish grounds
- Post ideas for sustainability in the parish bulletin
- Encourage use of Fair Trade products (ie: coffee) for events and on-line fundraisers
- Collect and disseminate meatless recipes as prelude to Lent
- Promote living simply, especially during Lent
- Publicize practices that are Earth-friendly
- Create parish sustainable events guidelines
- Investigate composting practices for the parish
- Consider other opportunities in this area in the planning of St Joan of Arc School
- Publicize completed Laudato Si' Plan; Challenge commissions/ ministries/ parishioners to complete goals

St John Vianney Parish Laudato Si' Plan -- Area of Concern: Ecological Education

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricula and institutions (foundations, institutes, professional societies) in the spirit of integral ecology to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all, promoting human rights, fostering Laudato Si' themes within curricula and educational communities, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers), and ecological restoration activities. [Diocese of Davenport Laudato Si' Plan]

BACKGROUND

Examples of actions currently in place in the parish that promote this principle: (not all inclusive)

- Social Justice Committee has focused events on the environment (ie: Season of Creation Taize Praise; Ecological Way of the Cross Stations; Various SJ Thursday events, environmental focus Ice Cream Social for Religious Ed students)
- Educational items included in the bulletin each week during the Season of Creation

PROPOSED GOALS & ACTIONS:

- Educate parishioners about pollution prevention and conservation at home/work.
- Social Justice Committee continue with environmental programming (ie: at least one SJ Thursday a year)
- Investigate an Environmental Film Series and/or encourage parishioners to attend the environmental films at the Figge
- Encourage religious education classes to include a unit on Care for Creation
- Encourage other faith development leaders to incorporate Care of Creation
- Meet with leaders of parish ministries to learn more how we can insure "it's all connected"
- Conduct a care for creation competition (ie: essay, poster contest) for religious ed students
- Publicize completed Laudato Si' Plan; Challenge commissions/ ministries/ parishioners to complete goals

St John Vianney Parish Laudato Si' Plan -- Area of Concern: Ecological Spirituality

Ecological Spirituality promotes a faithful vision of God's love poured out to us through creation. It helps us to "discover God in all things", and encourages greater contact with, and appreciation for, God's world. Ecological Spirituality reminds us to care for our common home, so that we may live in right relationship with God, ourselves, one another, and creation.

BACKGROUND

Examples of actions currently in place in the parish that promote this principle (not all inclusive):

- Taize Praise celebrating "The Season of Creation:
- Blessing of pets on the Feast of St. Francis
- Simple Lenten soup supper
- Blessing of Easter baskets
- Ecological Way of the Cross themed Stations of the Cross during Lent

PROPOSED GOALS & ACTIONS:

- Identify blessings and/or prayer services for the Season of Creation, Easter, Earth Day, Thanksgiving, Laudato Si' Week, and the solstices.
- Offer a blessing of seeds each April
- Develop an outdoor space for reflection or prayer, and pray that our leaders make "Care of the Earth" a priority
- Include Creation Care Intercessions at mass
- Construct a Laudato Si' Little Lending Library that circulates books about finding God in nature, with a few native plants bordering the library
- Recite Laudato Si' Prayer before mass/prayer services during the special ecological events.
- Publicize completed Laudato Si' Plan; Challenge commissions/ ministries/ parishioners to complete goals

St John Vianney Parish Laudato Si' Plan -- Area of Concern: Community Resilience and Empowerment

Community Resilience and Empowerment envisages a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels, a recognition that society is based on communities of families, and an acknowledgement that everyone has a role in the health of the community. [Diocese of Davenport Laudato Si' Plan]

BACKGROUND

Examples of actions in the parish in the past that promote this principle:

- Every Social Justice Thursday event includes action items for both Charity and Justice (the 2 feet of Social Justice)
- Parishioners are encouraged to participate in Bread for the World's letter writing campaign (letters to federal legislators)
- Social Justice Committee events are publicized with the Diocesan Social Action Committee and with Lourdes' Social Action Committee and in the Messenger
- SJV supports Quad Cities Interfaith by having a parishioner on the board

PROPOSED GOALS & ACTIONS:

- Educate parishioners on how to contact legislators
- Raise awareness of Catholic Advocacy (ie: promote Action Alerts coming out of USCCB and the Iowa Catholic Conference); Encourage parishioners to take these actions
- Identify key legislation and regulations worth supporting, locally, statewide and nationally
- Encourage parishioners to be informed by signing up for the 2 Feet Newsletters, attending Diocesan Lunch and Learns, for example
- Research ways to collaborate with established groups doing outreach to broader communities
- Continue to tie Bread for the World letter writing as a part of fall SJ Thursday
- Promote community environmental efforts
- Publicize completed Laudato Si' Plan; Challenge commissions/ ministries/ parishioners to complete goals

