

**LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN - YEAR 4 2026**

**St. John Neumann Parish, Reston, Virginia, USA**

**OVERALL THEME FOR YEAR 4: Integrate Laudato Si message into parish operations**



**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 will promote use of resources and energy at the parish facility to operate more efficiently and produce less waste.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Offer training to SJN ministries who use the kitchen on the use of the dishwasher, compostable products for use, collection of compostable wastes etc. so that there is a reliable workforce available for all parish functions	CCH, SJN Ministries	New Action	Quarterly	Most ministries have a Point of Contact trained and available to achieve Nearly Zero Waste during events
Request No Idling in Parking Lot during Parish events by signage and bulletin. Invite those waiting to come into the heated or cooled parish center.	CCH, Faith Formation	New Action	Fall	"No Idling Please" signs developed and posted in parking lot.
Investigate possibility of being a "single-use plastic water bottle-free" campus. Determine obstacles and possible alternatives. Outline steps to determine how and when to transition away from single use.	CCH, Office Administrator and staff, event organizers	New Investigation	Summer	Investigation performed and 1 or 2 ministries are modelling a successful transition.
Investigate feasibility of installing a water bottle filling station near the narthex (cost of station, including installation cost)	CCH, Facility Manager, Finance Council	New Investigation	Summer	Feasibility study submitted to Finance Council
Investigate lawn/landscaping care at the SJN facility with respect to pesticides and herbicides	CCH, Facility Manager	New investigation	Before contract is issued for 2027	Contract reviewed and suggestions offered
Add signage to demonstration project as model to removing a portion of grassed lawn	CCH	New Action	Summer	New signs installed at garden, information available via Bulletin, other media
Rename one of the gardens as a Laudato Si' Garden and add a sign	CCH	New Action	Summer	New signs installed at garden
Collect compost (from SJN events, Office kitchen and social room coffee) and take to transfer station	CCH	Continued annual action	Weekly	Compostable waste is routinely taken to I 66 transfer station
Track electricity, gas and water usage and compare annually for discrepancies/concerns; compute GHG emissions from Facility	CCH, SJN Accounting	Continued annual action	Spring	Memo submitted summarizing consumption and GHG emissions

**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 will continue to discover the needs of poor/disadvantaged (both locally and globally) and take action to help meet the needs.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Hold annual Fair Trade Sale to highlight the work of artists in poor or developing countries, highlighting the dignity of work	CCH, Fair Trade Winds	Continued annual action	Thanksgiving	Successful market
Continue the many community outreach programs and special collections for the poor and disadvantaged (and those affected by climate disasters) that the parish coordinates	CCH, Outreach Coordinator	Continued annual action	Throughout the year	Services provided to help meet local needs, collections made to help meet local and global needs

**ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS** acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. We will promote looking at total cost of purchases instead of just bottom line.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Develop a fact sheet to explain why "total cost" matters when making purchasing decisions, not just the price tag. Include prompts, examples and resources to help with ethical purchasing that honors people and the planet.	CCH, Parishioners	New Investigation	Fall	Fact sheet developed and offered to parishioners
Educate and provide tools for families to investigate divestment from banks, insurance and credit card companies that are funding fossil fuel expansion.	CCH, Parishioners	New Investigation	Summer	Fact sheet developed with background on financial divestment and links to reputable sites that rate institutions
Offer e-waste collection for recycling at Green Drop or PayMore for responsible recycling. Include signage in English and Spanish.	CCH, Office Administration	Continued annual action	During Season of Creation	E-waste collected and properly disposed of

**ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES** is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. We will continue to share message of Laudato Si with parishioners.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Progress towards 100% of parish events following Nearly Zero Waste Guidelines. Keep track of events through <a href="#">Post Event Kitchen Checklist</a> .	CCH, event organizers	Continued annual action	Throughout the year	Track completed checklists and determine % of NZW events
Meet with LSAP cohorts from previous years to give guidance and build community	CCH, LSAP households	Continued annual action	Summer	Each enrolled household submits a new yearly action plan
Invite a new cohort of households to join LSAP in the spring	CCH, parishioners	Continued annual action	Fall	New group of 10 households enrolled and action plan submitted

**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 will connect with both parishioners and youth groups (vacation bible school, Middle/High School students the and Confirmation class) to develop collaborative plans.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Develop and post on parish website clear summaries and graphics of how to dispose of common household goods	CCH, parishioners	New Investigation	Summer	Graphics developed and posted for easy reference on parish website.
Find space in the SJN library to provide books on the environment	CCH, parishioners	New Investigation	Fall	20 books added to SJN library shelves
Host an art contest for HS. Share sketches to address prompt about creation. Three winning submissions gets canvas and frame to complete the artwork	CCH, Youth Group	New Investigation	Summer	Call for entries is held and four finalists have painted canvases
Offer continual education about message of Laudato Si' and bringing about an ecological conversion	CCH, parishioners	Continued annual action	Summer	Monthly "Laudato Si' Corner" announcement published in Bulletin
Connect with Faith Formation (FF) to integrate Care for Creation into events	CCH, Faith Formation	Continued annual action	Quarterly	At least 2 meetings throughout the year were held to collaborate with staff on how to promote the spirituality of sustainability with FF families.
Develop a creative activity for youth to do outside on the parish grounds	CCH, parishioners	Continued annual action	Fall	Engaging activities conducted for youth during Parish Fall Festival

**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 afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities. We will continue to explain the connection of faith to caring for creation.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Offer "Mass for the Care of Creation" near Sept 1	CCH, clergy	New Action	Near Sept. 1	"Mass for the Care of Creation" planned and held
Develop and share a description of Integral Ecology highlighting how our faith calls us to foster the dignity of the human person while restoring the planet's health.	CCH, parishioners	New Action	Winter	Factsheet developed and shared. More parishioners and staff understand what Integral Ecology is and can explain it to others
Organize a pilgrimage walk in the woods with stops explaining the science of the Story of the Universe along with the Creation Story in Genesis	CCH, parishioners, high schoolers	New Action	Spring	Walk planned and held
Conduct annual Season of Creation, highlighting the spiritual aspects of creation care for parishioners	CCH, Liturgy	Continued annual action	Season of Creation	Successful Season of Creation celebrated at Parish with many offerings
Submit intentions for Prayer of the Faithful for consideration	CCH, Liturgy	Continued annual action	Monthly	List of potential intentions submitted monthly
Ask 60 people to pray monthly for impactful responses to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. Share the Prayer resources from Laudato Si Movement. This will represent 2 people praying every day, each month.	CCH, parishioners	Continued annual action	Daily	Updated signup schedule is complete with one or two ministry members praying every day each month

**COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT (ADVOCACY) envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. We will share the parish Laudato Si' S experience with the wider community.**

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Promote collaboration with ProLife Ministry and Racial Justice Ministry to determine overlap with LS message and CST.	CCH, SJN Ministries	New Action	Fall	Joint projects planned and held for the parish
Offer to educate and guide Provincial OSFS in enrolling in the LSAP	CCH, Pastor, Provincial Staff	New Action	Spring/Summer	Presentation on the LSAP process given to Provincial staff of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales
Share highlights of LSAP accomplishments with the parish	CCH	New Action	Fall	Highlights of parish activities shared in bulletin, bulletin board and social media
Meet with Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) to see how CCH members can participate in advocacy efforts at the county level	CCH, FACS	New Action	Quarterly	Meetings held and information shared with CCH members
Conduct road cleanup along 1 mile stretch of Lawyers Road in front of church	CCH	Continued annual action	2 times per year	Cleanups complete and reports submitted to DMV
Actively participate in quarterly Diocesan Care for Creation Network Meetings	CCH	Continued annual action	Quarterly	Information shared with CCH members
Encourage CCH ministry members to advocate for climate-friendly policies in Fairfax County, the Virginia General Assembly, and Congress	CCH	Continued annual action	Winter	Coordination with Virginia Catholic Conference; updates provided to CCH members urging emails to local legislators
Coordinate with VA chapter of Catholic Relief Services to share advocacy alerts and actions for legislation dealing with hunger and environment	CCH, VA CRS Chapter Leader	Continued annual action	Yearlong	Shared calls for action with CCH ministry members

**Abbreviations**

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|------|-----------------------------------|
| CCH  | Care for our Common Home Ministry |
| CRS  | Catholic Relief Services          |
| CST  | Catholic Social Teaching          |
| FF   | Faith Formation                   |
| LSAP | Laudato Si' Action Platform       |
| LSAP | Laudato Si'                       |
| OSFS | Oblates of St. Francis de Sales   |

*This plan was developed as a collaboration among the Care for Our Common Home ministry and staff leads.*