

## **Diocese of Dodge City**

### **Laudato Si' Action Plan**

#### ***Recognizing and Deepening Care for Our Common Home***

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#### **Introduction**

Pope Francis, in *Laudato Si'*, calls the Church to care for our common home through both personal conversion and practical action.

In the Diocese of Dodge City, we approach this call in the same way we approach stewardship:

not by beginning with what is missing, but by **recognizing what is already present**.

Across our parishes, schools, and diocesan offices, many people are already living care for creation in simple and meaningful ways. This plan seeks to:

- recognize those efforts
- encourage continued awareness
- offer practical next steps
- support parishes in responding according to their local context

This work is grounded in our diocesan pastoral plan, ***Jesus in Our Midst (2026–2031)***, especially in its call to holiness, family life, and relationships rooted in Christ.

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#### **Guiding Principles**

Our approach to *Laudato Si'* is:

**1. Recognition First**

We begin by identifying and affirming what is already being done in our parishes, schools, and diocesan operations.

**2. Practical and Local**

Each parish and institution is invited to take steps that are realistic and appropriate to their context.

**3. Gradual and Sustainable**

Change is most effective when it is steady and sustainable, not rushed or burdensome.

**4. Rooted in Discipleship**

Care for creation is part of our call to holiness and stewardship, expressed through daily choices and community.

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### **Current Diocesan Efforts**

The Diocese has already begun implementing practical steps in care for creation, including:

#### **Resource Stewardship**

- Reduced water consumption at chancery and Bishops' residences
- Reduced chemical and fertilizer use in lawn care
- Transition to LED lighting
- Installation of programmable thermostats

#### **Waste Reduction & Recycling**

- Recycling of electronics, metals, cardboard, paper, and plastics
- Encouragement of reusable coffee cups and water bottles

#### **Operational Practices**

- Use of videoconferencing when appropriate to reduce travel
- Evaluation of energy use and efficiency

#### **Parish & Community Initiatives**

- Support of solar energy evaluations (e.g., Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe)
- Development of parish and community gardens
- Workshops on care for creation through the stewardship conference

#### **Formation & Communication**

- Articles, videos, and podcasts through diocesan communications (Southwest Kansas Catholic, social media, etc.)
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### **Areas for Continued Growth**

The Diocese will continue exploring practical, attainable steps such as:

- Reducing single-use plastics where appropriate
- Increasing use of reusable tableware at diocesan events

- Continued attention to water use across properties
- Annual tree planting at chancery and diocesan properties

These efforts will be evaluated and implemented gradually.

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## **Parish Engagement**

Parishes are invited to participate in care for creation in a way that is **simple, local, and sustainable**.

### **Suggested First Steps**

Parish leaders may consider:

- initiating a conversation with:
    - Stewardship Councils
    - Property Commissions
    - Youth Group
    - School or PSR
  - identifying a **parish point person**  
(often someone already interested or experienced in this area)
  - recognizing existing efforts already taking place in the parish
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### **Examples of Parish-Level Actions**

Parishes might consider:

- starting and or improving recycling practices
- reducing waste at parish events
- exploring community or parish gardens
- reviewing water and energy use
- incorporating care for creation into formation and youth activities

There is no expectation that every parish do the same thing.

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## Formation and Ongoing Support

The Diocese will continue to support this effort through:

- stewardship conference
- parish resources and workshops
- communication through the website and SKC
- sharing of parish best practices

Care for creation will also continue to be integrated into broader stewardship formation.

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## Conclusion

Care for our common home is not a separate initiative, but part of our life as disciples.

When we recognize how God has entrusted creation to us, even small and ordinary actions take on deeper meaning.

In the Diocese of Dodge City, our goal is not to do everything at once, but to:

**recognize what is already being done, and respond with greater awareness, gratitude, and care.**

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” — Psalm 24:1