

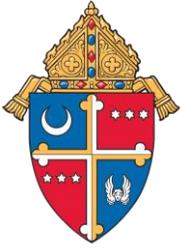
The Roman Catholic
Archdiocese *of* Washington

Laudato Si' Action Plan

Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns-
Office of Social Concerns

Ms. Genevieve L. Mougey, M.Div.

March 8, 2022



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Embarking on our Journey Together

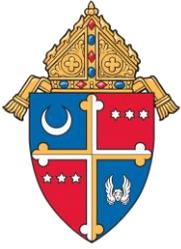
LAUDATO SI'

Embarking On A Seven-Year Journey
Promoting An Integral Ecology in
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington



“This Action Plan is for all of us! We are all called to protect our common home according to our ability and means. This Action Plan contains small and big ways for us to exercise stewardship over God’s creation. I invite each of you to study this Action Plan and be challenged to protect and restore our fragile Earth and our natural resources.”

~ Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of Washington



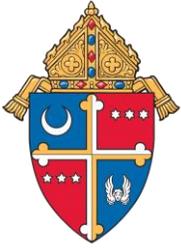
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Church Teaching on the Environment

Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home

- Combines Catholic Tradition and Scripture throughout the document
- The Holy Father connects the needs of those on the margins (those who are poor) to those who do not live on the margins.
- The Holy Father ties environmental concern to economic concern
- We are introduced to a new term: “Integral Ecology: Integral ecology includes multiple ecologies: environmental, economic, social, cultural, and daily life (human ecology). It also incorporates the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principle of the common good and a notion of intergenerational justice.



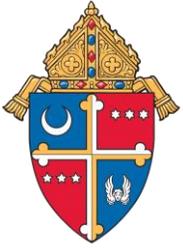


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Framing of the Document and the Plan

To ensure cohesion, the 7 themes of the document were guide posts informing the plan.

- response to the cry of the Earth;
- response to the cry of the poor;
- ecological economics;
- adoption of simple lifestyles;
- ecological education;
- ecological spirituality;
- and emphasis on community involvement and participatory action

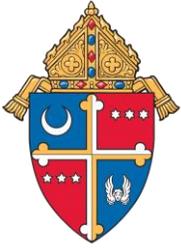


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We are all called to participate in the plan

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington's Action Plan is not exclusive, we specify 3 groups in our plan and invite all to join in this important work.

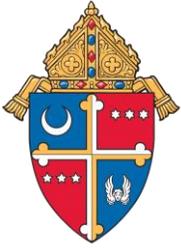
- 1. Family**
 - 2. Parish (Archdiocese)**
 - 3. School**
- **Universities**
 - **Hospitals/Health Care Centers**
 - **Businesses/Agricultural Farms**
 - **Religious Orders**



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Ways to implement Laudato Si'

- The Action Plan was developed with the geographic and economic diversity of the Archdiocese taken into consideration.
- Each Marker has several ideas for implementation marked with accessibility level of Easy, Moderate, or Advanced to guide members of the Archdiocese.
- An easy way to ensure implementation and “buy-in” from the parish community is the formation of a “Green Team”. There are several already in place through the Archdiocese, and conversations are in place for more parishes.



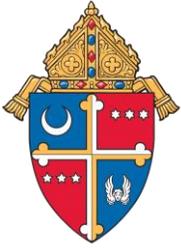
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Ways to implement Laudato Si'

- 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth: greater use of clean renewable energy and reduction of fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality efforts to protect and promote biodiversity guaranteeing access to *clean water for all*, etc.**

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes and schools:

- Seal or caulk around windows and door frames (easy)
- Turn off light sources when not needed (easy)
- Install solar panels on property (moderate to advanced)
- Install timers or motion sensors on outdoor lighting (advanced)
- Utilize EPA's ENERGY STAR ratings when replacing or buying new appliances (advanced)



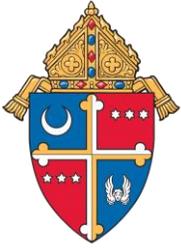
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Ways to implement Laudato Si'

4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyle: sobriety [intense focus] in the use of resources and energy, *avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet and reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.*

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes and schools:

- Cut down or eliminate single-use plastic (such as water bottles) (easy)
- Buy less non-essentials (easy)
- Cut down or eliminate foam-based food containers (easy)
 - ▷ Buy consciously: look for goods that have less packaging; support businesses that pay fair wages.
 - ▷ Eat intentionally: go meat-free, buy local and in-season fruits and vegetables,



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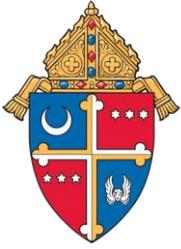
Pastoral Activities

PROGRAMS

- **May 2020 Symposium-** over 70 people virtually joined this special presentation to learn of the proposal and work being undertaken regarding the Laudato Si' Action Plan.

LITURGIES

- **October 3, 2020- Green Mass-** Bishop Campbell presided at the first celebration of Care for Creation in the Archdiocese.
- **May 2021- Mass** announcing anticipated launch of action plan, seed blessing for parishes, and close of Year of Creation



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Pastoral Activities cont'd.

Other Activities:

- The Office of Social Concerns has participated in all meetings convened by the Care for Creation Committee of the Archdiocese of Washington, and served as a liaison on all matters.
- Created a Laudato Si' Grant Program with “seed” money of \$40,000 to help pastors initiate new programs or work to support the vision and mission Laudato Si' efforts in ADW.
- Created new Laudato Si' [webpages](#) and updated other resources to ensure a cohesive approach and streamlined media and communication strategy.



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Long-Term Strategies and Vision

- **Webinars** developed by the Office of Social Concerns or Care for Creation Committee
 - Topics to include:
 - How to form a Green Team?
 - How to Engage your Parish?
 - Promoting Laudato Si' in your Life
- Continue to promote an “integral ecology” in upcoming events, including **October 3 mass at St. Joseph Parish in Lanham with Bishop Campbell—Created by God: A Celebration of the Dignity of Life.**
- **Visit** Parishes and Deaneries to promote the plan and distribute seeds.
- Ensure the promotion of the **Grant Program.**