

Laudato Si' Action Plan
Year 2 2024
St. John Neumann Catholic Church
Reston, Virginia USA



LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN - YEAR 2

St. John Neumann Parish, Reston, Virginia, USA

Overall Goals for Year 2: Build parish support by

- (1) Raising awareness that we are a LS parish;**
- (2) Collaborating with other ministries to increase sustainability**

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.

SJN overall 2024 objective: continue to make progress on energy reduction and improvements to grounds

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Investigate entire building HVAC system, boiler, heat pumps, kitchen equipment, water heaters, age of roof, temperature settings	Facilities Management	New Investigation	Winter 2024	Documentation with a comprehensive list of energy consuming equipment, age and estimated replacement date
Meet with Dominion Energy on a Facility Assessment and consider implementing recommendations	Facilities Management	New Investigation	Winter 2024	Report from Dominion Energy on efficiency improvements
Investigate other energy efficiency measures such as vampire energy, outdoor lighting, use of shades in auditorium, rectory efficiency measures	Facilities Management	New Investigation	Spring 2024	Develop and fill out inventory
Investigate landscaping contract and internal practices with regards to use of pesticides, electric vs gas-powered equipment, conversion of grass to meadows	Facilities Management, Accounting, CCH	New Investigation	Winter 2024	Best practices developed and shared
Investigate eco friendly ice melt for parking lot and snow removal materials stored under tarp in parking lot. Determine alternatives. Runoff goes directly into the stormwater management pond.	CCH, Facilities Management	New Investigation	Winter 2024	Determine material under tarp. Provide staff with eco friendly ice melt options.
Relook at compost pick-up service; consider middle school and preschool; look at other places within SJN to regularly collect; train custodians	CCH, Facilities Management	Continued Investigation	Spring 2024	Summary of Costs and schedules shared with staff
Create an Events Checklist for any parish event (caterers, outside organizations, parish ministries) to aid in planning for less waste.	CCH, Office Administrator	New Action	Spring 2024	Sustainability checklist
Purchase metal reusable water bottles for visiting clergy	Office Administrator	New Action	Winter 2024	Metal water bottles distributed to visiting clergy

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.

SJN Overall 2024 Objective: In addition to donating funds, increase activities that interact with poor, especially sharing stories.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Look at ways to make our multiple and effective outreach programs more sustainable and aligned with LSi'. Meet with many ministries to see how we can collaborate and share Laudato Si' values.	Outreach Coordinator, CCH	New collaboration	Quarterly	Meet with ministries to understand how services are offered. Provide list of sustainable suggestions if applicable.
Learn from and share ideas with Pro Life ministry. Develop a shared activity/education outreach that encompasses care for creation within the wider vision of dignity of all life.	Pro Life Ministry	New collaboration	Spring	Meet and share ideas. Develop a bulletin article.
Hold annual Fair Trade sale to highlight the work of artists in poor or developing countries, highlighting the Dignity of Work	CCH	Repeat Action	Thanksgiving	Successful market
Share stories from sister parish, Nino Jesus. Identify needs. Talk to Flor Graves for ideas. Research composting of brewery by-products produced near the community.	Nino Jesus contacts	New collaboration	By Laudato Si Week	Collection of Stories written and shared with parishioners
Collect and share stories of climate refugees. Reach out to CRS and Spanish community for personal stories.	Hispanic Ministry	New collaboration	Quarterly	Stories shared in bulletin, newsletter
Offer training in the kitchen with dishwasher and compostable use and collection.	Hispanic Ministry	Repeat Action	Twice a year or more as needed	Many are trained in competent use of kitchen

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.

SJN Overall 2024 Objective: Foster movement from a Linear to Circular economic model, considering external costs

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Take next step on developing a voluntary carbon tax or fee program to offset carbon footprint for interested parishioners. Investigate accounting system. Get suggestions for how funds will be spent.	CCH, Accounting	New Action	System in place by Laudato Si' week	Account set up and initial donations deposited
Offer e-waste collection for recycling at Green Drop or PayMore for responsible recycling of parish electronics	CCH	Repeat Action	During Laudato Si week and Season of Creation	Proper disposal of e-waste with photos and list of items diverted from the waste stream
Develop Fact Sheet explaining Circular vs Linear Economy	CCH	New Action	Summer	Factsheet Written and Shared
Develop a short list of critical questions concerning external costs to be considered when funds are to be spent. Share with staff and ministry leads so purchasing decisions are not based solely on the bottom line.	CCH	New Action New Collaboration	By the end of the fiscal year	List of questions formulated and shared with staff and ministries

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.
SJN Overall 2024 Objective: Highlight modeling of practices at the parish to be copied at parishioners homes

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Compile and share seasonal Meatless recipes	CCH	New Action	By Season	Recipes shared with parishioners
Offer plant based menus and recipes to groups who offer food at events.	CCH	New Collaboration	As Needed	Ideas and recipes offered during planning phase of ministry events
Invite a new cohort of households to join LSAP in the spring	CCH	Repeat Action	Before Laudato Si Week	New families/households enrolled in LSAP
Develop set of zero waste guidelines when outside groups and caterers share the facility space. Share the mentality of waste reduction for them to use in other places.	Office Administrator, CCH, Funeral Ministry	New Action Continued Collaboration	Spring	Guidelines and checklist developed and shared.
Continue modeling sustainable practices during Hypothermia meals, Mardi Gras dinner, Lenten Soup suppers, and Funeral Ministry receptions	CCH, Workcamp, Outreach Coordinator, Funeral Ministry	Repeat Action Continued Collaboration	Throughout the year	Reduction in waste disposal and visibility with other ministries
Offer Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum Study Sessions	CCH, Rel Ed	New Action	Spring and Fall	Study sessions planned, promoted and held
Grow the dishwashing ministry to allow for more sustainable use of the kitchen.	CCH	Continues Action	All Year	Longer list of volunteers and closer communication with members.

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.

SJN Overall 2024 Objective: expand educational opportunities to adults and parish as a whole

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Throughout the year, bookmark the lessons for each grade level that are appropriate for expounding on care for creation beyond what the curriculum provides.	Rel Ed	Continued Action	Yearlong	List of bookmarked lessons per grade
Let young people know that the Church is taking an active role in addressing the climate crisis - be encouraging, overcome anxiety.	CCH, Rel Ed	New Action	During Vacation Bible School in Summer	Themes of caring for creation offered in lessons and activities.
Educate parents about the effect of idling while parked in pick up or drop off lane. Share fact sheet and invite parents to turn off engines while waiting.	CCH, PreSchool, Rel Ed	New Action	Winter 2024	Fact sheet to be shared with families
Parish Festival - offer an activity each year	CCH, Staff	Repeat Action	Fall Festival	Activity prepared and offered
Have a monthly Laudato Si' corner in the bulletin helping parishioners to be aware of what the parish is doing and what families can do. Tie into LSAP	CCH, Communications	New Action	Monthly	One tip per month in bulletin
Investigate the new offering on OSFS website where words and themes are cross referenced with primary sources from St. Francis de Sales.	CCH, Father Michael	New Action New Collaboration	By Laudato Si Week	Develop list of 10 key words dealing with nature and cross reference to primary sources.
Landscaping: Conduct a Demonstration Project at lower parking lot by leaving a section of grass unmowed and enhance the area with native plants. Have a defined border and signs that explain the purpose and encourage parishioners to reduce a portion of their grassed lawn areas to improve biodiversity.	CCH, Facilities Management	New Action	Spring 2024	Establish "no Mow" area and add native seeds. Add signage. Write Fact sheet and include Bulletin announcement
Invite Audubon At Home representative to visit grounds and offer advice on meadow area.	CCH	New Action	Winter 2024	List of recommendations
Encourage energy audits at home	CCH	New Action	Season of Creation	Fact Sheet with Bulletin announcement
Address the problem of why people find it hard to change habits.	CCH	New Action	Season of Creation	Fact Sheet with Bulletin announcement
Share list of local sharing/reuse/recycling groups make visible on website, bulletin tip	CCH	Repeat Action	Laudato Si Week	List on Website

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 sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.

SJN Overall 2024 Objective: provide outdoor services

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Submit intentions for Prayer of the Faithful for consideration	CCH, Liturgy	Repeat Action	Quarterly	Submit a list of potential intentions for use throughout the year as a resource for the Prayer of the Faithful collator of the month.
Take advantage of feast day celebrations for bilingual prayer services. Conduct the services outside with translators.	CCH, Liturgy, Hispanic Ministry	New action	Select 2 feast days	2 Events planned and conducted
Encourage prayer outside, for groups or for individuals. Develop a flyer with map of prayer loop and suggested uses.	CCH, Liturgy	New action	Before Laudato Si Week	Flyer completed and shared and residing in an easy to access place.
Conduct annual Season of Creation, highlighting the spiritual aspects of Creation Care for parishioners	CCH, Liturgy	Repeat Action	Sept 1 to Oct 4	Successful Season of Creation celebrated at Parish with many offerings
Youth Art Contest/challenge dealing with nature	Rel Ed	New action	Laudato Si Week	Contest rules developed, promoted. Art received and shared. Winners given prizes.
Identify a sustainability champion at the parish	CCH	Repeat action	During Laudato Si Week and Season of Creation	Certificates given to ministries and copy put on CCH Bulletin Board
Research definition and examples of eco-spirituality and eco-conversion to share with staff and parishioners.	CCH	New investigation	Before Earth Day	Paper written and shared with staff
Relook and refresh contents of prayer boxes at Pollinator garden and prayer loop (rosaries at Mary Garden),	CCH	Repeat action	Before Laudato Si Week	New laminated copies in boxes.
Develop list of local natural areas to explore. Include ways of praying outside.	CCH	New action	Laudato Si Week and Season of Creation	Fact Sheet and Bulletin Announcement
Highlight Laudato Si Week in late May with events, speakers, activities etc.	CCH	New Action	Laudato Si Week, Late May	Robust celebration with multiple activities offered
Pray the "Prayer for our Earth" from Laudato Si' every day	CCH	New action	Daily	Set up a schedule for a ministry member to pray the prayer

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT (ADVOCACY) envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.

SJN Overall 2024 Objective: Increase activity at community level.

Action	Collaborate With:	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Coordinate with CRS chapter to learn more about CRS efforts to finance climate change adaptation projects in vulnerable countries (and the U.S.)	CCH, CRS	Repeat Action	Yearlong	Notes of meetings shared
Letter writing campaign for members of the CCH Ministry. Identify local businesses and stores and request that they change packaging options.	CCH	New Action	Season of Creation	Template of Letter developed, shared and promoted.
Interact with Work Camp ministry and develop activities to teach landscaping stewardship (Get ideas and resources from Nativity)	CCH, Workcamp	New Collaboration	Workcamp Training or mini workcamps	Activities researched and presented to youth
Meet with Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) to learn about their Buildings Upgrade grant from the Department of Energy, making funds available to congregations for energy projects	Facilities Management, CCH	New Investigation	Winter 2024	Meeting notes on financing options for various efficiency and conservation projects, apply if promising
Communicate with Diocesan Staff showing support and interest in Diocesan LSAP Action Plan	CCH	Continued Action	Winter 2024	Emails sent
Road cleanup along 1 mile of Lawyers Road in front of church	CCH	Continued Action	3 times per year	Submit reports to DMV
Encourage CCH ministry members to advocate for climate-friendly policies in the 2024 Virginia General Assembly.	CCH	Continued Action	January- February	Emails sent to Virginia Catholic Conference and local legislators

Other				
Action	Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Conduct evaluation of Year 1 action plan (2023)	CCH/Staff	New Action	November 2023	List of successes and areas of needed improvement
Start developing Action Plan for Year 2 (2024)	CCH/Staff	New Investigation	Winter 2024	Draft Plan
Submit Action Plan for Year 2 (2024)	CCH/Staff	New Action	Winter 2024	Staff Approval and Submission to Vatican

Abbreviations

CCH Care for our Common Home Ministry
 CRS Catholic Relief Services
 LSAP Laudato Si' Action Platform

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