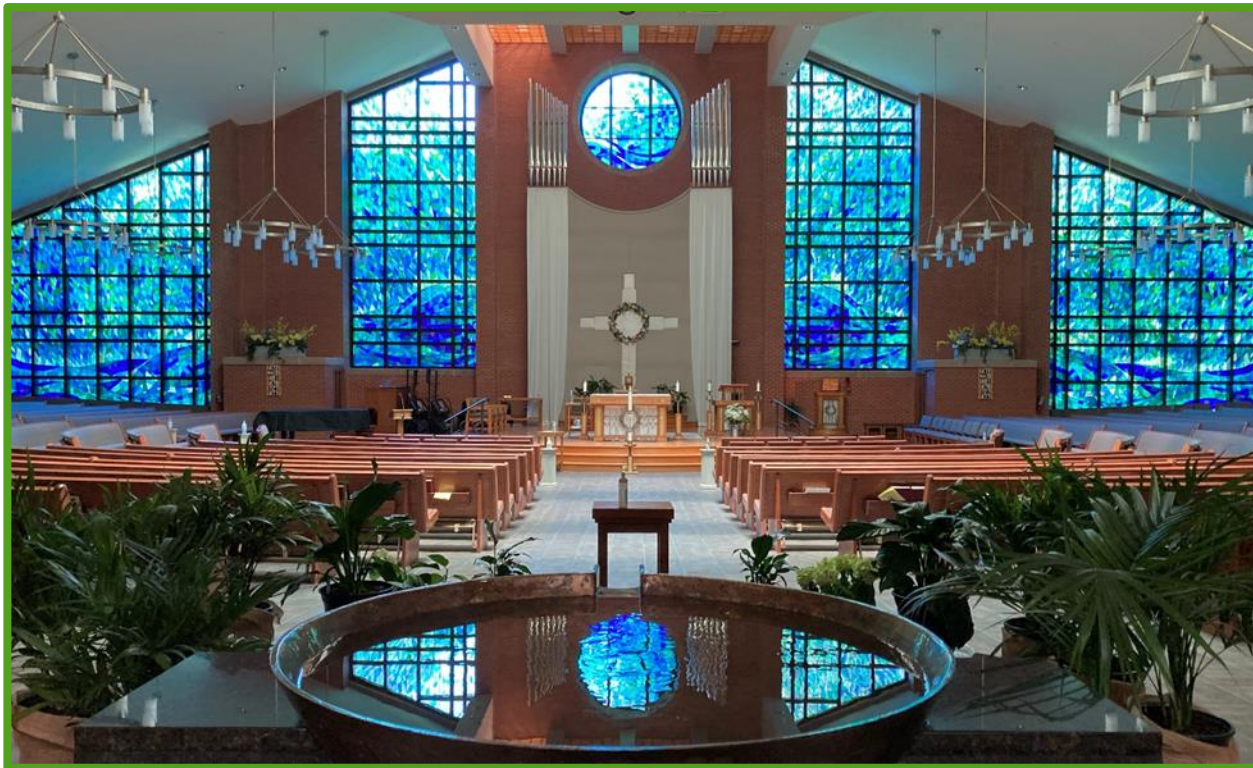


## St. John Neumann Parish in Reston, Virginia, USA

### LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN Year 1

October 2022 – September 2023



*This plan was developed as a collaboration among the Care for Our Common Home ministry and staff leads for submittal to the [Vatican Laudato Si' Action Platform](#).*

**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.

- Investigate and refine current purchase of **renewable energy certificates** from Dominion Energy to ensure best fit for the parish's energy usage.
- Complete mulching of final segment of **Prayer Loop**.
- Organize a "**Weeding Ministry**" that will take on future maintenance of Mary Garden, pollinator garden and other parts of Parish Grounds.
- Investigate pros and cons of using a landscape contractor that uses **electric leaf blowers**. Learn how the landscaping contract is determined.
- Gather information and parent attitude for a **No Idling Campaign** for cars queueing up in front of church.
- Work with Eagle Scout to build a "**Native Plant Mary Garden**" in front of the church.

**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.

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- Continue supporting the numerous parish outreach activities that provide **food to the hungry**. (Cornerstones "brown Bag" collections, Thanksgiving food drive, Shelter Meal Program and others)
- Continue supporting the numerous parish outreach activities that **interact one on one** with the lonely, discouraged and homeless. (Hypothermia Shelter, Lamb Center breakfasts, FACETS Hot Meals, and others)
- Continue offering **special collections** to raise funds for pro-life organizations, parish youth group outreach activities and victims of natural disasters.

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

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- Continue annual **Fair-Trade event** to empower those living in poverty to change their lives and their communities.
- Develop a **voluntary carbon tax** or fee program for interested parishioners.
- Develop a master list of preferred **paper/compostable items**, where to purchase, and cost comparisons.
- Create a policy on **socially responsible purchasing** and use of kitchen for parish events.

**ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES** is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

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- Continue to provide **dishwashing services** for parish events to reduce use of resources.
- Educate and encourage families in a target audience (from CCH mailing list) to **enroll in LSAP**.
- Reinstate **composting program** with outside provider to make it a weekly occurrence. Train custodial staff and educate kitchen users.
- Assist the **Farmer's market** with educational and outreach activities pertaining to sustainability
- Communicate with parishioners the ways for households to **reduce use of single use items**.
- Train selected Ministry Leads and staff in **Dishwashing Protocol**

**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.

- Director of RE to observe and note how each event throughout the year might be done with **less consumption and waste** to be good stewards of parishioners' financial contributions.
- Throughout the year, bookmark the lessons for each grade level that are appropriate for expounding on **care for creation** beyond what the curriculum provides.
- Create a list of **Faith in Action activities** for RE students. Include enrollment in LSAP as a family.
- Organize **film screenings** or guest speakers on CST issues.
- **Investigate benefits**, limitations and costs of using dishwasher at parish events.
- Emphasize the themes of **CST** to catechists during training and throughout the year.
- **Develop/collect resources** for catechists for the bookmarked lessons for use in the following year.
- With the help of a local expert, undertake a partial **inventory of the birds and plants** found on the Parish grounds.
- Offer **Laudato Si' Study Sessions** for any interested parishioners.

**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.

- Integrate Catholic Social Teaching (including Care for Creation) into the Liturgy through **Prayer of the Faithful intentions**. Compile and share list of suggestions.
- Develop an annual **Season of Creation calendar of events**, including bulletin inserts, spiritual reflections and a parish wide education event.
- Identify Sundays in the lectionary cycle with **readings that touch on Laudato Si' themes**. Collect resources and provide to Office of Liturgy for sharing.
- Research and identify Salesian examples of **spiritual lessons from nature**. Include them in the bulletin throughout the year.
- Investigate definition and examples of **eco-spirituality** and **eco-conversion**.
- Observe opportunities to **include silence** into liturgical prayer. Encourage parishioners to spend quiet time in the church during times of waiting.
- Research, prepare and pilot **contemplative prayer services** that include themes of caring for creation. Offer to CCH ministry participants.
- Provide information sessions on **Centering Prayer** for any interested parishioners. Coordinate with Spanish Leaders.

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

- Highlight **current advocacy issues** that align with CST and offer opportunities for social justice ministry parishioners to participate.
- Continue the numerous outreach activities to **provide gifts to the less fortunate**. (Backpack collection program, Laurel learning center birthday gifts, Christmas Angel gifts, and others)
- Continue to **support those with special needs** or concerns in the community. (Eucharist to the Homebound, Prison Ministry, Welcome the Stranger, Recovery and Addiction Ministry, Divorced and Separated Ministry and others)
- Meet with Cornerstones to assess needs for **weatherization** services in rental units. Assess their interest in grants from Inflation Reduction Act.
- Offer **Advocacy 101** to interested parishioners.





## APPENDICES

### Abbreviations:

CCH	Care for our Common Home Ministry
CST	Catholic Social Teaching
LSAP	Laudato Si' Action Platform
RJM	Racial Justice Ministry
SOC	Season of Creation
WTS	Welcome the Stranger Ministry

**Full Details of Action Plan below:**

**St. John Neumann Parish  
LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN  
Year 1**

Reston, Virginia, USA

**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.

Action	Suggested Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Investigate and refine current purchase of renewable energy certificates from Dominion Energy to ensure best fit for the parish's energy usage.	STEWARDSHIP Dave/Tom B/Ed	On-going Action and Investigation	Annually	Determine if current plan is best; modify Dominion agreement if warranted
Complete mulching of final segment of Prayer Loop.	STEWARDSHIP Nelson/CCH	On-going Action	Fall 2022	Path completed
Organize a "Weeding Ministry" that will take on future maintenance of Mary Garden, pollinator garden and other parts of Parish Grounds.	STEWARDSHIP Nelson/Ed/ Bob H/Patty K	New Investigation	Spring 2023	Create a list of potential volunteers
Investigate pros and cons of using a landscape contractor that uses electric (instead of gas) leaf blowers. Learn how the landscaping contract is determined.	STEWARDSHIP CCH/Nelson/John M	New Investigation	Fall 2022	Summarize findings in Fact Sheet
Gather information and parent attitude for a No Idling Campaign for cars queuing up in front of church.	STEWARDSHIP CCH	New Investigation	2023/2024	Summarize findings in a Fact Sheet
Work with Eagle Scout to build a "Native Plant Mary Garden" in front of the church.	STEWARDSHIP Nelson/Ed/Eagle Scout	New Action	Spring 2023	Project completed

**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.

Action	Suggested Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Continue supporting the numerous parish outreach activities that provide food to the hungry. (Cornerstones "brown Bag" collections, Thanksgiving food drive, Shelter Meal Program and others.)	SERVICE/COMMUNITY Jo-Ann, Outreach Ministries	On-going Action	Continue throughout the year	Metrics are captured in parish financial reports
Continue supporting the numerous parish outreach activities that interact one on one with the lonely, discouraged and homeless. (Hypothermia Shelter, Lamb Center breakfasts, FACETS Hot Meals, and others)	SERVICE/COMMUNITY Jo-Ann, Pam D/Joe B, Kelly, Michele/KofC	On-going Action	Continue throughout the year	Metrics are captured in parish financial reports
Continue offering special collections to raise funds for pro-life organizations, parish youth group outreach activities and victims of natural disasters.	STEWARDSHIP Patty K, Jo-Ann	On-going Action	Continue throughout the year	Metrics are captured in parish financial reports

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

Action	Suggested Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Continue annual Fair Trade event to empower those living in poverty to change their lives and their communities.	COMMUNITY CCH/ Fair Trade Winds	On-going Action	Thanksgiving 2022	Successful event with Fair Trade Winds
Develop a voluntary carbon tax or fee program for interested parishioners.	STEWARDSHIP Bob M/CCH	New Investigation	Spring 2023	Develop pilot program and share with a target audience
Develop a master list of preferred paper/compostable items, where to purchase, and cost comparisons.	STEWARDSHIP Patty K/Ed	New Action	Fall 2022	Summarize findings in a resource list
Create a policy on socially responsible purchasing and use of kitchen for parish events.	STEWARDSHIP Patty K/Ed/CCH	New Action	Spring 2023	Prepare and test the pilot policy with a target group

**ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES** is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

Action	Suggested Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Continue to provide dishwashing services for parish events to reduce use of resources.	STEWARDSHIP Patty K/Ed/Janet/Tim	On-going Action	Continue throughout the year	Increase in number of events when dishwashing is provided
Educate and encourage families in a target audience (from CCH mailing list) to enroll in LSAP.	COMMUNITY CCH/Janet	New Action	Spring 2023	25 Families Enrolled
Reinstate composting program with outside provider to make it a weekly occurrence. Train custodial staff and educate kitchen users.	STEWARDSHIP Nelson/Ed/Janet	New Action	Spring 2023	Request funding and establish contract; conduct training
Assist the Farmer's market with educational and outreach activities pertaining to sustainability.	COMMUNITY Jo-Ann	New Action	Spring 2023	Meet with Farmer's Market organizers
Communicate with parishioners the ways for households to reduce use of single use items.	COMMUNITY Duane/Kelly/Janet	New Action	Monthly throughout the year	Regular monthly eco-tip in Bulletin
Train selected Ministry Leads and staff in Dishwashing Protocol.	STEWARDSHIP Nelson/CCH	New Action	3 Times beginning Fall 2022	3 Completed Trainings

**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.

Action	Suggested Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Director of RE to observe and note how each event throughout the year might be done with less consumption and waste to be good stewards of parishioners' financial contributions.	FORMATION Jean	New Investigation	Yearlong	Running list of observations and suggestions
Throughout the year, bookmark the lessons for each grade level that are appropriate for expounding on care for creation beyond what the curriculum provides.	FORMATION Jean/RE Team Catechists	New Investigation	Yearlong	List of bookmarked lessons per grade
Create a list of Faith in Action activities for RE students. Include enrollment in LSAP as a family.	FORMATION Jean/RE team/CCH	New Investigation	Yearlong	List of potential activities
Organize film screenings or guest speakers on CST issues.	FORMATION/ COMMUNITY CCH	New Investigation	Yearlong	Two events planned and offered
Investigate benefits, limitations and costs of using dishwasher at parish events.	STEWARDSHIP CCH	New Investigation	Fall 2022	Summarize findings in Fact Sheet.
Emphasize the themes of CST to catechists during training and throughout the year.	FORMATION Jean/RE Team/Catechists	New Action	Yearlong	Notation of when training was provided
Develop/collect resources for catechists for the bookmarked lessons for use in the following year.	FORMATION Jean/RE Team/Catechists	New Action	Yearlong	Folder of resources for bookmarked lessons
With the help of a local expert, undertake a partial inventory of the birds and plants found on the Parish grounds.	COMMUNITY CCH	New Action	Two times per year	Map or List of species identified at each event
Offer Laudato Si' Study Sessions for any interested parishioners.	FORMATION CCH	New Action	Spring	Hold at least one multi-week session

**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.

Action	Suggested Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Integrate Catholic Social Teaching (including Care for Creation) into the Liturgy through Prayer of the Faithful intentions. Compile and share list of suggestions.	WORSHIP CCH, Amelia	On-going Action	Quarterly	Deliver list of intentions to Amelia each quarter for consideration
Develop an annual Season of Creation calendar of events, including bulletin inserts, spiritual reflections and a parish wide education event.	WORSHIP CCH	On-going Action	Summer 2023	Submit list of SOC activities for clergy approval by late July
Identify Sundays in the lectionary cycle with readings that touch on Laudato Si' themes. Collect resources and provide to Office of Liturgy for sharing.	WORSHIP CCH, Tricia	New Investigation	Yearlong	List of dates and resources delivered to staff each quarter
Research and identify Salesian examples of spiritual lessons from nature. Include them in the bulletin throughout the year.	WORSHIP/FORMATION CCH, Carol S, Clergy	New Investigation	Spring 2023	Compile list of quotes and share with parishioners in the bulletin
Investigate definition and examples of eco-spirituality and eco-conversion.	WORSHIP CCH	New Investigation	Summer 2023	Develop a summary report and share
Observe opportunities to include silence into liturgical prayer. Encourage parishioners to spend quiet time in the church during times of waiting. Ask for feedback.	WORSHIP Clergy/Department Heads/ Ministry Leads	New Action	Yearlong	At clergy discretion, modify use of silence at Mass. Share feedback from parishioners about effect of personal quiet time in church outside of Mass.
Research, prepare and pilot contemplative prayer services that include themes of caring for creation. Offer to CCH ministry participants.	WORSHIP CCH	New Action	Quarterly	3 Prayer services offered to CCH Ministry
Provide information sessions on Centering Prayer for any interested parishioners. Coordinate with Spanish Leaders.	WORSHIP CCH	New Action	Twice a year	Offer 2 Sessions



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

Action	Suggested Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Highlight current advocacy issues that align with CST and offer opportunities for social justice ministry parishioners to participate.	COMMUNITY/ FORMATION Jo-Ann, CCH, RJM, WTS	On-going Action	Yearlong	Advocacy issues from ministry participants
Continue the numerous outreach activities to provide gifts to the less fortunate. (Backpack collection program, Laurel learning center birthday gifts, Christmas Angel gifts, and others)	SERVICE/COMMUNITY Jo-Ann, Outreach Ministries	On-going Action	Continue through out the year	Metrics are captured in parish financial reports
Continue to support those with special needs or concerns in the community. (Eucharist to the Homebound, Prison Ministry, Welcome the Stranger, Recovery and Addiction Ministry, Divorced and Separated Ministry and others)	SERVICE/COMMUNITY Jo-Ann, Outreach Ministries	On-going Action	Continue through out the year	Metrics are captured in parish financial reports
Meet with Cornerstones to assess needs for weatherization services in rental units. Assess their interest in grants from Inflation Reduction Act.	SERVICE/COMMUNITY Jo-Ann, Cornerstones	New Investigation	Winter 2023	Meet with staff of Cornerstones
Offer Advocacy 101 to interested parishioners.	SERVICE/COMMUNITY Bob M/CCH	New Action	Spring 2023	Hold class and share resources

**Other**

Action	Leaders	Status	Timing	Metric of Success
Conduct evaluation of Year 1 action plan	CCH/Staff	New Action	August 2023	List of successes and areas of needed improvement
Start developing Action Plan for Year 2	Staff/Pastoral Council/CCH	New Investigation	Spring 2023	Draft Plan
Submit Action Plan for Year 2 (Oct'23-Oct '24)	Staff/Pastoral Council/CCH	New Action	Mid Sept 2023	Approval and Submission to Vatican