

ENCÍCLICA  
LAUDATO SI'



*Council of Catholic Women - Archdiocese of Washington's*  
**APRIL MONTHLY VIRTUAL TEA**

# Care for Our Common Home- Discussing Laudato Sí



**LAUDATO SI'**

# Today's Program

## Welcome

Cheryl Holley, President

## Meeting Notes

Michelle Dorsey, Online Meeting Manager

## Opening Prayer

Michelle Dorsey, Treasurer

## Presentation:

# CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

**Discussion** Attendees

## Closing Remarks

Carol Monaco, Vice President

## Closing Prayer

Shelia Parker, Province Director



LAUDATO SI'

## Notes for Today's Program

### WELCOME!

All participants will be muted once the program begins

If your name and parish is under your picture we can say hi more easily!

If you have any questions, you can write them in the Chat

We hope you enjoy your afternoon tea!



# OPENING PRAYER

## PSALM 148

Praise the Lord from the heavens, Praise him in the heights;  
Praise him all you his angels, Praise him, all you his hosts.  
Praise him, sun and moon; Praise him all you shining stars.  
Praise him, you highest heavens, And you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
For the Lord commanded and they were created;  
He established them forever, and ever;  
He gave them a duty which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, all you sea monsters and all depths;  
Fire and hail, snow and mist, storm winds that fulfill his word  
You mountains and all you hills, You fruit trees and all you cedars;  
You wild beasts and all tame animals, You creeping things and winged fowl.

Let the kings of the earth and all peoples,  
The princes and the judges of the earth,  
Young men and maidens, old men and boys,  
Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

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**What does Pope Francis want us to know about Earth's environment problems?**

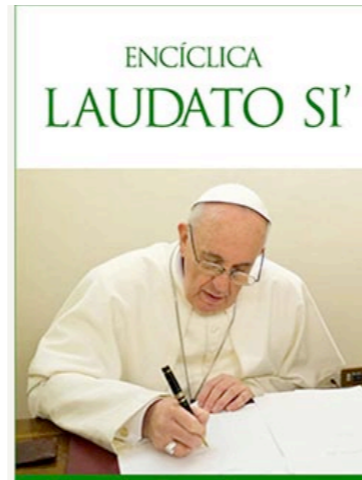
**What does Cardinal Gregory ask the Archdiocese of Washington to do to live the teachings in Laudato Si'?**



**How can I help? Where can I start?**



# What does Pope Francis want us to know about Earth's environment problems?



## The Vatican - Pope Francis' "Laudato Sí"

(Praise Be To You)

## National Geographic - Prince Ea



<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/vatican-laudato-si>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-nEYsyRIYo>

**What does Cardinal Gregory ask the Archdiocese of Washington to do to live the teachings in Laudato Si'?**



# Archdiocese of Washington and Laudato Si'

## ADW's Laudato Si' Action Plan

***“The Archdiocese of Washington is proud to join the (Vatican) in a journey of sustainability and integral ecology according to the teachings of Laudato Si’!***

***The Archdiocese of Washington is using an integrated method in this Action Plan to implement the teachings of Laudato Si’. Implementing Laudato Si’ cannot happen in a “green silo.” The task of implementing Laudato Si’ is also **not the work of an academic committee**. Nor are environmental efforts divorced from the teachings of the Church.***

***Rather Laudato Si’s vision of integral ecology calls for environmental efforts to be **rooted in the teachings of our Church**. Furthermore, environmental efforts must not only **seek to preserve and protect our Earth** but **also seek to eliminate poverty** and lift up individuals and communities who are on the peripheries of our society.***

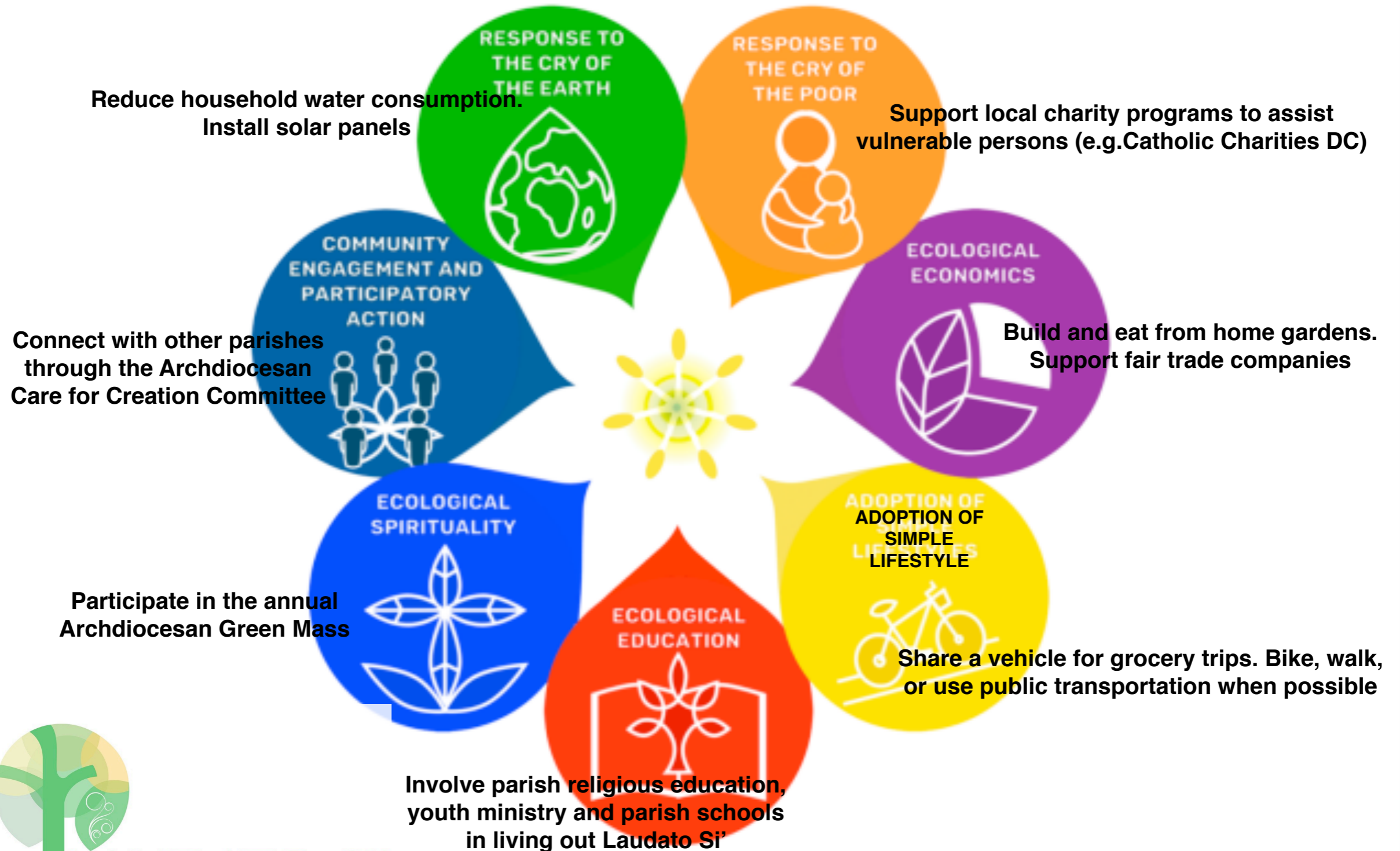
***Finally, integral ecology **calls for individuals to do their part** in environmental efforts, and for communities to work together to protect the environment. Let us work together to implement and fully live the vision of Laudato Si’. “***

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory - May 2021

<https://adw.org/living-the-faith/social-concerns/laudato-si-action-plan/>



# The Seven Markers to Measure Implementation of the Goals of Laudato Si'



# ADW' Laudato Si' Action Plan



In 2019, workers installed more than 5,000 solar panels on Catholic Charities property in Northeast Washington, D.C. The solar array, the largest such project in the District of Columbia, was fully operational by the end of January 2020.

## MARKER 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

In Washington, D.C., and Maryland, nearly two-thirds of our electricity<sup>11</sup> comes from the burning of two fossil fuels—coal and natural gas. By generating cleaner electricity without carbon dioxide emissions and by reducing electrical use, we can reduce harmful emissions. The Archdiocese has already taken significant steps to purchase and produce clean energy.

- In May 2020, the number of parishes and parish schools in the Archdiocese buying their electricity from clean wind-power generators went from two to ninety-one.
- In 2020, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington switched on the largest ground-based solar array in the District of Columbia, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on electric costs. These savings allow Catholic Charities to carry out its mission.

### 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)
- Adjust temperatures to 70 degrees or lower in winter and 80 degrees or higher in summer (easy)
- Open windows and use fans for cooling (easy)
- Lower water consumption
  - Reduce indoor water consumption (easy)
    - Look to EPA's WaterSense program for help (moderate)
    - Repair leaks quickly (moderate)
    - Retrofit kitchens and bathrooms by installing low-flow sinks and toilets (advanced)
  - Reduce outdoor water consumption (moderate to advanced)
- Connect to free resources and expertise like:
  - EPA ENERGY STAR ® program (easy)
  - Establish energy baselines (moderate)
- Develop a facilities plan for your parish or school and action steps to reduce emissions (moderate)
- Replace all lightbulbs with LED bulbs (moderate)
- Purchase power strips to turn off electronics when not in use (moderate)
- Purchase a programmable thermostat to reduce heat or cooling when not in use (moderate)
- Protect watersheds and wildlife (moderate)
  - Increase tree canopy (easy)
  - Eliminate chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and deicers (easy)
  - Create/build gardens (easy)
  - Introduce storm water pollution reduction methods (easy to moderate)
  - Reduce turf grass (easy to moderate)
  - Plant pollinator plants and conservation landscaping (easy to moderate)
  - Compost at home (easy to moderate)
  - Begin a parish or school composting program (easy to moderate)
- Install shades or heat-shielding film on windows directly exposed to sun and pull drapes at night to keep in the heat (moderate to advanced)
- 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)



# How can I help? Where can I start?

## FIVE IDEAS

Use plastic bags to make sleeping mats for homeless

Replace lawns with native plants in your yard

Install a rain barrel to collect water running off your roof for garden use

Drink tap water instead of bottled water

Clean up litter in your community



# Use Plastic Bags to make Sleeping Mats

## Crocheting Mats from Plastic Bags

Put used grocery bags to good use  
Decrease litter on roads and plastic in landfills  
Create a dry sleeping surface for camping  
or the care of a homeless person



# Replace lawn with plants native to Maryland

University Of Md Extension - Lawns to Native Plants

Maryland is a tough place to grow grass  
- too hot for some grasses and too cool for others

Turf is not native to Maryland so it takes a lot of work  
and resources to maintain a grass lawn

Planting a yard of native flowers and plants  
-creates a yard that is more pest and disease resistant than lawns  
-helps stop erosion of soil  
-reduces runoff into storm sewers  
-reduces pollution from lawn mowers  
-helps pollinators and birds, and  
-is beautiful

Save money on water bill and lawn care products



# Replace lawn with plants native to Maryland

University Of Md Extension - Lawns to Native Plants



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



# Use a Rain Barrel to Catch Rain Water for Flower and Vegetable Gardens

Lowes - Installing a Rain Barrel



## 5 BENEFITS OF USING RAIN BARRELS

Save money on water bills

Reduce pollution and soil erosion by catching rain before it picks up contaminants

Rainwater is better for your garden plants and soil

Conserve water in dry times - save tap water for drinking

Rainwater is better for washing windows and cars

<https://clearycompany.com/5-benefits-rain-barrels/>



# Drink Tap Water Instead of Bottled Water

## Tap Water vs Bottled Water

Australian Broadcasting Corporation - Behind the News

### Bottled Water vs Tap Water

In the US, tap water and bottled water are almost always  
equally safe to drink

Most people cannot taste the difference between bottled and tap water

Some bottled water comes from tap water (Dasani and Aquafina)

A bottle of water costs 2000 times much as the same amount of tap water

Bottles are made from plastic which is made from oil

US uses more than 500 million bottles of water a week - circle the globe 5 times

The oil and energy used to make bottles in US in a year could fuel 1 million cars

80% of used bottles end up in landfills or incinerators or as litter

Integral Ecology - Laudato Si'



# Clean up litter around your community

Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC)

Why not get a group in your parish together to de-litter a neglected road or area in your community?



# MORE INFORMATION

Other Laudato Si' topics to learn about

Effects of environmental problems on underserved  
communities

Advocacy for climate change mitigation measures

Resources for information and education

...and more!





“RainScape is a landscape or design technique that helps **reduce stormwater runoff** from individual properties. They include:

**Rain Gardens**

**Conservation Landscapes**

**Green Roofs**

**Water Harvesting**

**Permeable Pavement**

**Pavement Removal**

RainScapes can be installed on any kind of property, but those on ***private residential***, institutional, and/ or commercial properties may be **eligible for financial assistance: Rewards Rebates.** “

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/index.html>



EcoLatinos was born out of our passion for the environment and love for our Latino community. We are committed to social and environmental justice initiatives for all, especially in Spanish-speaking and under resourced communities. EcoLatinos works to engage, educate, and activate the Latino communities of the Chesapeake Bay and the Mid-Atlantic Region. We support non-profit, private, and public organizations creating connections with a growing and potentially powerful stewards of the community.

## PROJECTS

Tree Planting

Clean up and Care of

Anacostia Northwest Branch

Rain Barrels for the Latino Community

Making Connections that Bring People

Together

Training for Green Jobs

Audubon Naturalist Society:

Naturally Latinos Conference



# LAUDATO SI'

<https://ecolatinos.org/>



[www.ecolatinos.org](http://www.ecolatinos.org)

(240) 564-1256



WE'RE ALL PART OF  
**GOD'S PLAN(ET)**



## We're All Part of God's Plan(et)

“is a **national Laudato Si' awareness** and engagement campaign to educate and inspire U.S. Catholics to more fully embrace and act upon the teachings of Laudato Si'. This campaign especially **encourages Catholics**--from families to parishes and from universities to religious communities and businesses--to **participate in the Vatican's global Laudato Si' Action Platform.**

In the U.S., this effort is organized by **Catholic Climate Covenant**, which has been **asked by the Vatican's** Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development **to be the U.S. coordinator.** The campaign also includes the support and engagement of many other Catholic partners who together are working on engagement, outreach, programming, education, and other activities. Please learn more and join in this effort by visiting the [www.godsplanet.us](http://www.godsplanet.us) website.”



<https://godsplanet.us/about>

# What do you think?

We would love to hear about  
experiences have you had  
or ideas have you seen that could  
help us heal our planet  
and renew our communities



## CLOSING REMARKS

Thank You! for participating in our April 2022 Virtual Tea  
**Care for Our Common Earth**

Next Month's Tea (22 May) will be on the Topic  
**Mary Our Mother and the Eucharist**  
Registration opens Tues 29 April

CCW-ADW and ADW Office of Family Life present  
**The Real Presence**  
**What Does it Mean and Why Does it Matter?**  
Wednesdays May 25th through June 15th

Join CCW-ADW 's Nightly Phone Rosary 8 PM, 7 days a week Call  
605-468-8016, code 357090#

If you want to know more about CCW-ADW and how you and/or  
your parish can get involved...

Email us: [archdiocesecw@gmail.com](mailto:archdiocesecw@gmail.com)  
Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WashACCW>  
Visit our Website: <https://www.councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com>

Council of Catholic Women - Archdiocese of Washington  
*"Connecting Catholic Women"*



# CLOSING PRAYER

*from*

## A Prayer for the Earth

*(Laudato Si', 2015)*

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,

for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you!

Amen





## Areas of Interest

**Streams & Watersheds**



**Stormwater Management**



**RainScapes**



**Restoration Projects**



**Volunteer & Education Programs**



**Water Quality Protection Charge**



<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/index.html>

# Definitions of 7 Markers

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.
2. Response to the *Cry of the Poor*: defense of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrant children at risk through slavery, etc.
3. *Ecological Economics*: sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.
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.
5. *Ecological Education*: re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of *integral ecology* to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education, etc.
6. *Ecological Spirituality*: recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy, and gratitude, promote creation-centered liturgical celebrations, develop catechesis prayer, retreats, formation, etc.
7. Emphasis on *Community Involvement and Participatory Action*: to care for creation at the local, regional, national and international levels (promote advocacy and people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighborhood ecosystems, etc.)<sup>1</sup>



**Marker 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth**

Reduce indoor water consumption      Repair leaks quickly      Install solar panels on property

**Marker 2: Response to Cry of Poor and Vulnerable**

Volunteer to do a parish/community clean-up      Run errands for those who need assistance in your neighborhood

Support local charity programs to help and assist vulnerable persons, such as Catholic Charities DC, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development

**Marker 3: Ecological Economics**

Build and eat from home gardens      Lobby to utilize public land to build community gardens      Build a parish garden

**Marker 4: Adoption of Simple Lifestyle**

Cut down or eliminate single-use plastic (such as water bottles)

Drive less: share a vehicle for grocery trips. Bike, walk, or use public transportation when possible

Eat intentionally: go meat-free, buy local and in-season fruits and vegetables, or try growing your own

**Marker 5: Ecological Education**

Involve parish religious education, youth ministry and parish schools in living out Laudato Si'

Challenge children and youth to come up with local solutions to social and environmental problems

Organize local environmental trips (Tour Blue Plains in Washington, D.C. or Chesapeake Bay Foundation Educational Tours.)

**Marker 6: Ecological Spirituality**

Utilize materials from USCCB on Caring for Creation      Participate in the annual Archdiocesan Green Mass

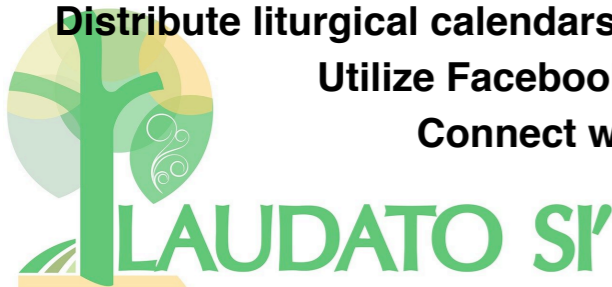
Bring in expert speakers to lead/guide conversations at parish or parish school sponsored events

**Marker 7: Emphasis on Community Involvement and Participatory Action**

Distribute liturgical calendars with suggestions for environmentally beneficial practices and other ways to promote justice

Utilize Facebook pages, and other social media to put Laudato Si' teaching/learning into action

Connect with other parishes through the Archdiocesan Care for Creation Committee



# Clean up litter around your community

Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC)

San Francisco's Zero Waste

Manila's Zero Waste Neighborhoods



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