

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



LAUDATO SI' GARDENS

*"What good people produce is like a life-giving tree.
Those who are wise give new life to others."*

Proverbs 11.30



LAUDATO SI' GARDENS

Laudato Si' Gardens are sacred places that promote in us a love for all of God's creation. The gardens contribute to enhancing local biodiversity and environmental justice with their special emphasis on the beauty of native plants, food and the dignity of all people. Laudato Si' Gardens help people to remember the goodness and peaceful serenity of God's creation and to recover the original harmony between God, our first parents and all of creation in the Garden of Eden. They are sacred spaces where all of God's families can gather to pray and to celebrate outdoor liturgies. Laudato Si' Gardens also serve as a place for encounters with local community members, including children, the elderly, diverse ethnic groups and the physically challenged. They provide a means to knit the community's social threads together, thus promoting neighborhood cohesion, solidarity and peace. Those involved in establishing and maintaining Laudato Si' Gardens are encouraged to celebrate significant occasions like birthdays or to commemorate the passing away of a dearly beloved person by planting flowers, native plants and tree saplings.

DEDICATING YOUR LAUDATO SI' GARDEN

Though Laudato Si' Gardens may be planted for any occasion, they are often planted to commemorate special occasions such as holidays, anniversaries, events and festivals. Planting a Laudato Si' Garden is a way to bring people together from many different sectors of a community. Every Laudato Si' Garden dedication ceremony is a unique outcome of the shared experience for those who attend. Here are some suggestions to consider in the creation of your Laudato Si' Garden dedication ceremony:

- Secure an official Archdiocese of Chicago Laudato Si' Garden Plaque. Contact Luisa Pimentel at creation@archchicago.org.
- Invite your community to participate in the ceremony, including children, seniors, representatives of various faith communities and/or ethnic groups, schools, clubs, youth groups and local media. Ask a community leader or clergy member to say a few words at the ceremony.
- Explain the history and origin of the Laudato Si' Garden, how you learned about it, and the significance of the garden site and date of dedication.

- Choose an inspiring spiritual passage, litany, poem or prayer for the occasion.
- Invite those in attendance to contemplate the questions presented on the Laudato Si' Garden Plaque and Prayer Cards.
- Invite local groups to provide entertainment, such as a church choir or a children's dancing school. It is nice to end with everyone singing together.
- Some Laudato Si' Gardens are already planted prior to the ceremony and unveiled during the dedication. You may also choose to have a group planting, where everyone gets to heave a shovelful of earth. Creation poems or other items may be planted along with your Laudato Si' Gardens.
- Plan an annual ceremony for Rogation Days, the Season of Creation and feasts and blessings related to the seasons of the year.

Whatever you do to dedicate your Laudato Si' Garden, the important part will be to hold a prayer for the care of God's creation in your heart and to send that prayer around the world. You will make your garden special, and your organization will be seen as part of the global movement to care for our common home. Your Laudato Si' Garden's dedication will be filled with love!

Let Us Know

Please send information and digital photos of your Laudato Si' Garden dedication to Luisa Pimentel at creation@archchicago.org.

pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/care-for-creation-ministry/laudato-si-gardens

Laudato Si' Garden 2021 Partners

Congregation of St. Joseph
DePaul University
Faith in Place
The Field Museum
Life Directions
Openlands



Care for Our Common Home

LAUDATO SI' GARDENS

LAUDATO SI' MI SIGNORE! PRAISE BE TO YOU, MY LORD!

How do I care for all of God's Creation?

Hail Mary...

How do I uphold the life and the dignity of each human person?

Hail Mary...

How do I support families and future generations?

Hail Mary...

How do I love the poor and vulnerable?

Hail Mary...

How do I advocate for human rights and a just economy?

Hail Mary...

How do I live in solidarity with all, as one human family?

Hail Mary...

How do I live my life knowing that everything is interconnected?

Hail Mary...

Listen to the Cry of the Earth.

Hear the Cry of the Poor.



Scan to visit
our Website!

