



**LAUDATO SI'**  
Action Platform



**DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING  
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

# Laudato Si' Action Platform

Parish Overview Presentation  
A Facilitator's Guide  
(In-person)

# MATERIALS NEEDED FOR PRESENTATION

Please have the following supplies prepared and ready for use prior to the event:

- Invitations and RSVP list. Allow at least two hours for the presentation alone, and add at least an extra 45 minutes for the reception and cleanup.
- Reserved chapel/church or sacred space monstrance, luna and Host (if no access, set up something like a prayer table in a spiritual space)
- Tall candles on either side of monstrance
- Crucifix standing behind monstrance
- Flowers/vines surrounding monstrance
- Holy water placed near monstrance (bring your own glass container and fill)
- Reading from Laudato Si', Paragraph 236, (VI. SACRAMENTAL SIGNS)
- Reserved meeting space with plenty of floor space for activity
- Chairs in a large circle(s) and access to additional seating for people who just show up
- 1 Round table for monstrance/candles if not in chapel/church
- 3 Rectangular tables: 2 for reception and 1 for welcome entry table
- 7 large standing easels (or something to lean 24x36 posters on)
- Set of 7 24x36 posters** with each of the talking points
- Set of 7 12x18 floor cards** of Integral Ecology Themes
- Set of 7 12x18 floor cards** of LS Goals
- Set of 7 12x18 floor cards** of LS Parish Care for Creation Committee Stakeholders
- Pack of 3 x 3 light colored Post-It notes (enough for 3 total for each participant)
- 5x7 index cards (enough for one per participant)
- Rolls of thick twine
- NAME TAGS: Very important.** Put at sign-in table (and provide Sharpies to use).
- Welcome Area: Rectangular banquet table and Laudato Si' Logo/banner
- Coat racks/hangers near sign-in table
- Hand sanitizer pumps at welcome table and at each end of serving tables
- Signs inside/outside:** Directional signs outside/inside pointing to gathering place
- Sign inside: Masks Required**
- Pencils/pens for each participant. Put on welcome table and have available for activity.
- Sign-in sheets** to be used later for follow-up contact
- Laudato Si' Action Platform packet** for participants to take back to parish

- Reception area and refreshments.** Once you find out what the space you will be setting up is, designate tasks and be clear with organizers about what each person is doing, and what they are bringing. Find out if the reception area has a kitchen with plates, etc., to use. If not, make sure to provide them. Important - please be aware of any parish Covid protocols for serving food. Our theme is caring for creation, so avoid paper/plastic if possible – plastic, in particular, contradicts our message.
  - Suggested refreshment items:** Water in pitchers, lemonade, wine, paper cups, napkins, trays of cookies, cheese and crackers, grapes cut into small portions, veggie tray
  - Designate someone to take pictures**
- 

The following supplies from the above list are typically brought by the facilitator:

- 7 large 24x36 posters** with talking points for each diagram to display on easel
  - 12x18 floor cards** – 3 sets of cards with 7 posters each – including LS Themes, Goals and Parish Stakeholders (please provide extra copies of all for larger group breakouts)
  - Pack of light colored Post-It Notes (each participant will use 3 notes)
  - Rolls of thick twine, sign-in sheets, prayer cards, copy/copies of the encyclical
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## ADVANCE AND DAY OF EVENT ACTION STEPS

### BEFORE EVENT

- Send out invitations far in advance, and follow up with personal calls and emails.
- Reserve spaces and collect materials and supplies ahead of time.
- Recruit several people to help with setup in advance.

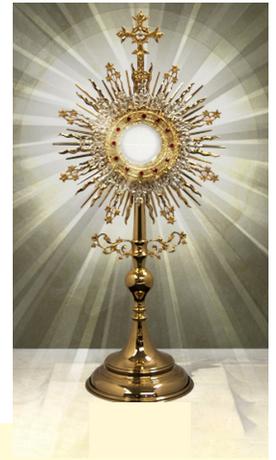
### DAY OF EVENT

- Arrive at least 1 1/2 hours in advance** – for set up, and to determine the size of the small groups if there are many participants.
- Set up welcome table with sign-in sheet, pens/markers, name tags, flowers, statue, cross, candles, the encyclical, prayer cards, and other items.
- Have reception and refreshment area ready for the end of the presentation.
- Designate one person to stay at the sign-in table up until 10 minutes after the start time, in case people arrive late.** Upon each person's arrival, be sure to: a) welcome, b) hang coats, c) sign in, d) make name tag and e) direct participants to the chapel or quiet reflection area.
- A group larger than about 14 people will require creating smaller groups, having additional copies of the floor cards, and adjusting to circumstances.
- In the large activity area, line up all 7 posters on easels in a row, in sequence as they will be presented. Show only the back/blank side. The participants chairs will be in a circle next to this.

# INTRODUCTION: FORMAT & SCRIPT

PLEASE START YOUR PRESENTATION ON TIME!

1. **WELCOME** and **brief, informal introductions** of Vicariate leaders/facilitators.
2. **THANK YOU** for taking the time to grow in our faith.
3. **GOAL OF MEETING** is to learn about the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform.



4. **SAY** *"Let us quiet ourselves for we are in the presence of Christ. We begin today's gathering in prayer, adoring the Eucharist. Let us begin, as we do all things, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen."* (Sign of the Cross)

- **SAY** *"Please listen with an open heart – be present to a word or phrase that emerges for you."*

5. **READ ALOUD** passage 236 from Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si'  
**ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

*"It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation. Grace, which tends to manifest itself tangibly, found unsurpassable expression when God himself became man and gave himself as food for his creatures. The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours. In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life. Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God. Indeed the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love: "Yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world".[166] The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God's hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, "creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself".[167] Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation."* (LS 236)

- **SAY** *"Please listen with an open heart – be present to a word or phrase that emerges for you."*
- **READ ALOUD a second time** passage 236 from Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si'.
- Follow with three minutes of contemplative prayer.
- **Conclude with reading of** Our Father and Glory Be.

# PROGRAM

## ACTION, ACTIVITY & SCRIPT 1

### WHY



Please reveal this poster only at the **conclusion** of this activity section indicated in the text on page 6.

### WHY

#### ACTION:

- **MOVE GROUP TO ACTIVITY AREA/ROOM.**
- Have group form a circle with chairs behind each person. Participants can be seated.
- The 7 large posters are on easels, turned around so content is not visible yet.
- Begin dialogue.

#### SCRIPT FORMAT & POINTS TO INCLUDE:

- **SAY** *"Purpose for being here today is learn about the Vatican's LSAP"*
- **SAY** *"It's a blessing to be together today. Let's take a minute to introduce ourselves, your parish and what brings you here today."* (very brief)
- Reflect on LS passage – read again!
- **SAY** *"You are welcome to share a word or phrase that emerged during our contemplative prayer."* (Pause for reflection/discussion)
- **SAY** *"We are in communion with all of creation. The teachings of our Church are grounded in the fact that everything is interconnected, as an integral ecology."*
- **SAY** *"A fundamental message of Laudato Si' is that everything is connected. We are in communion with all of creation. Pope Francis talks about an integral ecology, that everything is interconnected."*
- **SAY** *"I invite you now to participate in an experience. It's your choice. You can participate if you are comfortable to do so. Are you okay with this?"*

## ACTIVITY

- **Hand out** three Post-It Notes/pen to each person.
- **SAY** *"Please write a word or two on each Post It note that tells what you care about, what's important to you or your charism."*
- While waiting for everyone, **ASK** them to look at what they wrote.
- **SAY** *"The things we care about are why we are here, why we care, and why being here matters."*
- **SHOW** the WHY poster.
- **SAY** *"This is WHY we are here today."*
- **SAY** *"Please put your Post-it notes in your pocket."*

## ACTION, ACTIVITY & SCRIPT 2

# LAUDATO SI' INTEGRAL ECOLOGY CARDS



Please reveal this poster only at the **conclusion** of this activity section indicated in the text below.

### ACTIVITY

- Place all 7 INTEGRAL ECOLOGY CARDS on the floor, in front of everyone, laid out like the petals of a flower and follow these steps:

1. **Instruct** all participants to please stand in their place around the circle. Have one participant hold the ball of twine.
2. **SAY** *"Listen intently as we learn about these 7 elements."*
3. The first person holding the twine **reads aloud** the elements and the information about the elements, holds onto the end of the twine, then tosses the twine ball ACROSS the circle for the next person to read and hold the string, creating a web (Continue in this way until all are read.)
4. **ASK** everyone to gently tug on their string and then **ASK** *"What do you notice?"* (Pause for reflection/discussion)

### INCLUDE THESE POINTS IN DIALOGUE

- **SAY** *"Laudato Si' invites us to see how everything is an integral whole."*
- **SAY** *"If you pull one element of our reality, it tugs on every other part of reality."*
- **SAY** *"This is a fundamental truth. This is the law of science. This is a Teaching of our Church."*
- **SAY** *"Theology and science are married together into this common bond of truth, this is fundamental to Laudato Si'."*

### ACTION & SCRIPT

- Invite participants to gently put the web of interconnectedness down onto the floor.
- **SHOW** large poster of Integral Ecology... **SAY** *"These are the elements of Integral Ecology as expressed in Laudato Si'. This is WHAT the LSAP is focused on."*
- **ASK** *"What observations or reflections do you have about this experience?"*

## **CLOSE SECTION WITH A REFLECTION FOR LAUDATO SI' ELEMENTS**

**Invite** participants to please be seated for reflection and prayer

*"The creation accounts in the book of Genesis contain, in their own symbolic and narrative language, profound teachings about human existence and its historical reality. They suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin." (LS 66)*

*"We are not God. Although it is true that we Christians have at times incorrectly interpreted the Scriptures, nowadays we must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. The biblical texts are to be read in their context, with an appropriate hermeneutic, recognizing that they tell us to "till and keep" the garden of the world (cf. Gen 2:15). "Tilling" refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while "keeping" means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. "The earth is the Lord's" (Ps 24:1); to him belongs "the earth with all that is within it" (Dt 10:14). Thus God rejects every claim to absolute ownership: "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with me" (Lev 25:23)." (LS 67)*

**Conclude** with a 'Hail Mary'.

## ACTION, ACTIVITY & SCRIPT 3

# ACTION PLATFORM GOALS CARDS



Please reveal this poster only at the **conclusion** of this activity section indicated in the text below.

### ACTION & SCRIPT:

1. **HAND OUT** the 7 Laudato Si' Action Platform Goals Cards.
2. **ASK** each person/group holding a goal card to read it aloud **and** display to others.
3. **AFTER EACH GOAL IS READ**, invite each participant to place the goal card on the floor (on top of the integral ecology petals/web).
4. **SAY** *"I invite you to take out your Post-it notes and place them on the goal card petal where you think they fit best. If not sure, just ask, some things may fit in more than one area. Please walk around the web to find which goal to place your note on."*
  - **SAY** *"Notice, everything we care about fits within this. No matter what our calling is, no matter what our ministry, or who we are, what stage in life...we are all included in this integral ecology. It is interconnected to the **WHY** of all we love and care about."*
  - **SAY** *"This is the invitation to you to work together in solidarity to bring to life the teachings of Laudato Si'."*
5. **ASK** *"What observations or reflections do you have about this experience?"*  
(Pause for reflection/discussion)
6. **SHOW** the next large poster board of the Laudato Si' Goals; and **SAY** *"This is the **HOW**. This is how we bring Laudato Si' to life."*

## **CLOSE SECTION WITH A REFLECTION FOR LAUDATO SI' GOALS**

**Invite** participants to please be seated for reflection and prayer

*"Today... we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." (LS 49)*

*"Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.*

*In the end, a world of exacerbated consumption is at the same time a world which mistreats life in all its forms." (LS 230)*

**Conclude** with a 'Hail Mary'.

## ACTION, ACTIVITY & SCRIPT 4

# PARISH LAUDATO SI' CREATION CARE COMMITTEE

Please reveal this poster only at the **conclusion** of this activity section indicated in the text below.



### 1. ACTION & SCRIPT:

- SAY *"We have covered the WHY, the WHAT and the HOW. Now we will cover the WHO."*

### 2. HAND OUT the Parish Laudato Si' Creation Care Committee (parish stakeholder) cards. Participants read aloud...then place over the web on the floor.

- SAY *"What do you notice?"*
- SAY *"Laudato Si' includes everyone. We are united in our mission to build the Kingdom of God. That's what Christ calls us to do. Love God and love your neighbor as yourself with all your heart, soul, and mind."*
- ASK *"When you look at your parish...who's involved?"*

### 3. SHOW the poster with the Creation Care Committee graphic.

- SAY *"A parish LS Creation Care Committee is comprised of the different functions and ministries within the parish. It is important that the LS Creation Care Committee integrates the parish community, rather than be organized as a separate ministry. The Parish LS Creation Care Committee connects the dots with WHY, WHAT, HOW, and WHO."*

**RECAP:**

**Point to** the WHY Poster and **SAY** *"The WHY is why we care."*

**Point to** the Integral Ecology Poster and **SAY** *"These are the elements of Integral Ecology as expressed in Laudato Si'. This is WHAT the LSAP is focused on."*

**Point to** the Laudato Si' Goals Poster and **SAY** *"The goals are HOW we bring Laudato Si' to life."*

**Point to** the Parish Laudato Si' Creation Care Committee Poster and **SAY** *"This is WHO is being included on the Parish Laudato Si' Creation Care Committee."*

- **ASK** *"What observations or reflections do you have about this experience?"*

**CLOSE SECTION WITH A REFLECTION FOR PARISH LAUDATO SI' CREATION CARE COMMITTEE**

*"God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him!"*  
(LS 245)

**Conclude** with a 'Hail Mary'.

## ACTION, ACTIVITY & SCRIPT 5

# THE PROCESS

Please reveal this poster at the **beginning** of this activity section indicated in the text below.

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**The Process**  
Process incorporates the principles of:

- Synodality
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity

LAUDATO SI'  
Action Platform  
OFFICE FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

SEE  
JUDGE  
ACT  
Reflect/  
Act/  
Evaluate/  
Celebrate

### ACTION:

#### 1. **SHOW** the Process poster

2. **SAY:** *"This is the See, Judge, Act process used throughout our Church. It includes the principles of synodality, solidarity and subsidiarity."*

#### 3. EXPLAIN THE CONCEPTS

- **SYNODALITY:** Collegiality—Putting the Church and its people in motion together through dialogue, planning and action.
- **SOLIDARITY:** We are united in our mission for the Common Good.
- **SUBSIDIARITY:** Involves the decisions of those who are the most affected at the lowest levels.

#### 4. POINTS TO COMMUNICATE:

- The LSAP is structured the same way the encyclical is structured. It **SEES** what is currently happening..this is the current reality. It **JUDGES** in terms of what we are doing to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. And lastly, it calls us to **ACTION**...what are we going to do about it?
- **SEE/JUDGE/ACT**...fundamental to Catholic Social Teaching
- This is *"Building a Better Future Together"*!

- **ASK** *"What observations or reflections do you have about this experience?"*  
(Pause for reflection/discussion)

# THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

(See Laudato Si' Action Platform at [www.laudatosiactionplatform.org](http://www.laudatosiactionplatform.org))

## POINTS TO COMMUNICATE:

### The Laudato Si' Action Platform

The Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and "all men and women of good will." (LS 3) Taking a truly ground-up approach, it is rooted in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take "decisive action, here and now" as we journey towards a better future together. (LS 161)

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a website that serves as a vehicle to bring to life the teachings of Laudato Si' along a **seven-year journey**.

### Three Elements of the Laudato Si' Action Platform

- Laudato Si' Planning Guides and dashboard to map your journey.
- Practical guidance on ways to take action.
- Resources to develop trusted communities of practice.

### Laudato Si' Plans

Laudato Si' Plans support your community's journey towards integral ecology.

#### The platform offers:

- Laudato Si' Planning Guides, which your institution, community, or family can use to discern and implement your response to Laudato Si'.
- A process-oriented approach that responds to the charism of your institution, community or family.
- Guidance on transformative actions that help build a better future through the Laudato Si' Goals.
- Recognition of your progress.

### Practical Guidance

The Creator of all calls us to practice a new way of living, one that is "good, true and beautiful." (LS 205) We commit to take action together because it is "urgent and necessary." (LS 57)

#### The platform offers:

- A library of resources to provide practical, concrete guidance on ways to take action.
- Webinars on actions and events.



## Community

This road will challenge us, and the ideas and support of our sisters and brothers in Christ will strengthen us along the way. "We were made for love," and deeper relationships will nourish us wherever the Holy Spirit leads. (LS 58)

### **The platform offers:**

- Resources to strengthen your community.
- Ways to connect directly with other participants.
- Inspiring stories of people who are taking action.

**SAY** *"The Laudato Si' Action Platform empowers the universal Church and all people of good will to respond to Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home."*

**INVITATION** Enroll your parish onto the LSAP by April 22, 2022 (Earth Day).

**SAY** *"The parishes that enroll before Earth Day will be the first cohort of parishes experiencing the LSAP."*

**ASK** *"Do you have any questions?"*

# USING THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

## QUESTIONS THAT MAY EMERGE:

***How does my parish use the LSAP to reflect about what we are currently doing to care for our common home?***

The platform guides your parish through a series of in-depth questions that allows you to reflect about what your parish is currently doing to care for our common home.

***How does our parish achieve the LSAP goals?***

The platform has a selection of concrete activities that your parish can choose to craft your parish plan. Using your reflections, your parish selects what activities it wants to pursue. Your parish is empowered to do what works best for you.

***How does the LSAP foster community?***

The platform provides guides to help your parish foster LS community. The Archdiocese of Chicago LSAP Community will also accompany you and your parish in your Laudato Si' journey. The local Church is united in our mission to live Laudato Si'. We are united on our Laudato Si' journey.

***What resources does LSAP provide me and my parish?***

The platform is a repository of resources to support your parish's LS journey. The LSAP library is open.

# PARISH CREATION CARE COMMITTEE



Please reveal this poster at the **beginning** of this activity section indicated in the text below.

## THE LAUDATO SI' JOURNEY

### ACTION:

1. **SHOW** The Parish Creation Care Committee poster

2. **SAY** *"Here's six steps on how a Creation Care Committee can get started and enroll your parish onto the LSAP."*

**READ** the six steps on the poster.

**SAY** *"How your parish enrolls onto the platform will be determined by your Creation Care Committee. Your parish is empowered to enroll, use the platform in an integral way, and use it in the manner that works best across the parish. We are called to be one human family connected with all of creation along this seven-year journey."*

**SAY** *"The Archdiocese of Chicago LSAP Committee Vicariate Facilitators will accompany you in introducing LSAP to your parish."*

- Monthly LSAP Zoom meetings to answer your questions
- One on one consultation
- Parish site visits
- Parish LSAP presentations
- Network and support within the Vicariate

**SAY** *"We are the united in Christ, Renewing our Church to Build the New Reality."*

**SAY** *"As Cardinal Cupich explicitly communicated, 'The implementation of the Laudato Si' Action Platform is a tangible way to witness to our faith as we renew our local Church and care for our common home.'"*

3. While people are sitting, pass out one index card and pen to each participant.

**ASK** participants to answer four questions:

1. What is one key “take away” from your experience today?
2. What is one thing you will do to bring LSAP to your parish?
3. What support do you need?
4. Who are two people within your parish that you will speak to about the LSAP?

**SHARE** your thoughts with 2-3 people near you (optional)

**SAY** “Do you have any questions before you begin writing?” (Repeat the questions for reference)

#### 4. ACTIVITY:

- **Invite** participants to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a circle.
- **Invite** participants to toss the ball of string across the circle.
- **Only toss** six to eight times for large groups.
- **Invite** everyone else to link/hold onto the web.
- **Read** Pope Francis' *A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation*.

**READ: A CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION**

*Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.  
Praise be to you!*

*Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature  
in your risen glory.  
Praise be to you!*

*Holy Spirit, by your light  
you guide this world towards the Father's love  
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.  
Praise be to you!*

*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.*

**Conclude** with a 'Hail Mary' and Glory Be...

*SAY "We want to thank you on behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the LSAP Committee. We look forward to accompanying you on this journey. Laudato Si'."*

**ACTION:** Distribute handout packets.

Welcome participants to refreshments and social.

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