

Laudato Si' Action Platform

Parish Experiential Overview A Facilitator's Guide



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR PRESENTATION

- 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 24" x 36" posters on)
- Set of 7 24" x 36" posters** with each of the talking points
- Set of 7 12" x 18" floor cards** of Integral Ecology Themes
- Set of 7 12" x 18" floor cards** of LS Goals
- Set of 7 12" x 18" 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)
- 5" x 7" 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/suggested (as determined by facility)
- 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 handout 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-19 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 list are typically brought by the facilitator

- 7 large 24" x 36" posters with talking points for each diagram to display on easel
- 12" x 18" 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 of the encyclical for display

ADVANCE AND DAY OF EVENT ACTION STEPS

BEFORE EVENT

- Kindly ask the parish host champion to send out invitations far in advance and follow up with personal calls and emails. See invitation template located in the back section of this guide.
- Reserve spaces and collect materials and supplies ahead of time. Give host the Host Parish Materials and Tips for a Successful Gathering, located in the back section of this guide.
- Recruit several people to help with setup in advance.
- If more than one facilitator, determine which section each will facilitate ahead of time.

DAY OF EVENT

- Arrive at least 1 ½ 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.
- Prior to participants arrival, invite facilitators, host and the Holy Spirit to a short encouraging prayer circle moment to ask for wisdom, guidance and the opening of hearts throughout the presentation.

INTRODUCTION: FORMAT AND SCRIPT

1. Welcome and brief. Informal introductions of Vicariate leaders/facilitators.
2. Thank you for taking the time to grow in our faith.
3. The goal of the meeting is to learn about the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform.

NOTE: The facilitator presenting the adoration should remain seated with the participants during this entire section so the community's focus remains on Christ. Speak loud and clear with emphasis and pause deliberately where appropriate.

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 center 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 and Script 1

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 AND POINTS TO INCLUDE

- Say “The 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 and Script 2

Laudato Si' Integral Ecology Cards

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 AND 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 neighbor 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 and Script 3

Action Platform Goals Cards

ACTION AND 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 and Script 4

Parish Laudato Si' Creation Care Committee

1. Action and 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.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform

laudatosiactionplatform.org

Points to Communicate

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a web-based medium developed by the Vatican in a unique collaboration with an international coalition of Catholic organizations and scientific experts from around the world. The Archdiocese of Chicago was chosen as one of the nine dioceses within the universal Church to develop and model this approach.

The LSAP serves as a vehicle to bring to life the teachings of Laudato Si' along a seven-year journey. It is a structure for your parish community (and other sectors including educational institutions, organizations, healthcare, economics, religious, parishes, dioceses and families) to progress on a journey towards integral ecology.

LSAP sets a path for parishes to embrace a new collaborative, Christ-centered approach to Care for our Common Home. A primary step on the path is the development of a Creation Care Committee, which includes members from across parish ministries, staff and clergy working towards integral ecology, as you learned about today (point to the posters).

Reflection on the seven Laudato Si' Goals is the first task of the integrated committee and one that needs to be shared across all ministries as they work together to break down any "silos" and set collaborative goals to respond to the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."

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 a dashboard to map, discern and implement your parish journey.
- Practical guidance on ways to take transformative actions to build a better future through the Laudato Si' Goals.
- Resources to develop trusted communities of practice.

Pope Francis has declared, "Laudato Si' Action Platform is walking the synodal path."

In our diocese, Cardinal Cupich supports LSAP and recognizes it is inherently integrated with Renew My Church, Building the New Reality.

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."

Enroll your parish onto the LSAP before September 1, 2022, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

Say "The parishes that enroll before September 1, 2022 will be the first cohort of parishes experiencing the LSAP."

Say "Next, I will be explaining how we put this LSAP process into action."

Ask "Do you have any questions before we move ahead?"

Action, Activity and Script 5

The Process

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.

Action, Activity and Script 6

Parish Creation Care Committee, 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:

- What is one key “take away” from your experience today?
- What is one thing you will do to bring LSAP to your parish?
- What support do you need?
- 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.

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* below.

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'."

Distribute the handout packets and welcome participants to refreshments and social.

FACILITATOR RESOURCES

Invitation Template

Note to facilitator: Please give this to the parish host champion.

Dear Friends,

I have spoken with many of you regarding new opportunities for our parish to work together in caring for our common home and you have expressed an interest in learning more. The purpose of this email is to ask for your input as to a “best date/time” for an informational meeting/presentation here at (Parish Name), to be facilitated by the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity, Creation Care Ministry. This is not about making a commitment, but rather to dialogue about and discern how the possibilities of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform can serve our parish community. The options for the meeting/presentation are as follows. (List suggested dates/times)

Please use this link to make your preferences by (soon specific date). If you are not familiar with Doodle and would rather just send me an email, that is fine too. We will select a date that most people can attend. (Attach Doodle Poll link here)

Laudato Si’ is Pope Francis’ insightful encyclical on Caring for Our Common Home. It stresses how all life on earth is interconnected in an intricate web called “integral ecology” where everything is connected. Recognizing this integral ecology, we—individually and collectively as parish communities—are urged to hear and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

The Laudato Si’ Action Platform is a web-based medium developed by the Vatican to implement the mission of Laudato Si’. It offers planning guides and a resource library to help parishes, schools and families discern and implement their response to Laudato Si’ over a seven-year timeframe. It sets a path for parishes to embrace a new collaborative, Christ-centered approach to Care for our Common Home. A primary step on the path is the development of a Creation Care Committee, which includes members from across parish ministries, staff and clergy working towards integral ecology. Reflection on the seven Laudato Si’ Goals is the first task of the integrated committee and one that needs to be shared across all ministries as they work together to break down any “silos” and set collaborative goals to respond to the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

Why This Is Important Now

As Pope Francis states in Laudato Si’, “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and at the same time protecting nature.” (LS 139)

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” (LS160)

I thank you for your interest and support in bringing the Laudato Si’ movement to life here at our parish. My hope and prayer is that the care for all of God’s Creation can be a fruitful avenue for bringing new life to all ages in our faith community as we find ways to renew our church together.

Blessings,
(Name/Title/phone)

Host Parish Materials and Tips for a Successful Gathering

Note to facilitator: Please give this to the parish host champion.

The Vicariate Facilitator will review this and other important information regarding the presentation. Please communicate with the Facilitator any parish needs or accommodations, the number of people expected to attend, customized requests and any other questions you may have at any time.

- Send out invitation far in advance and follow up with personal calls and emails. Ask your facilitator for an Invitation template.
- Please allow two hours for the LSAP Experiential Overview.
- Facilitators will arrive at least one hour ahead for preparation.
- The experience begins with a communal Adoration of the Eucharist.

Please Reserve

1. The chapel/church or sacred space.
 - With the monstrance, Luna and Host. If no access, please set up something like a prayer table in a spiritual space separate from the main gathering circle activity.
 - Tall candles on either side of monstrance.
 - Crucifix standing behind monstrance.
 - Flowers/vines surrounding monstrance if possible.
 - Holy water placed near monstrance (bring your own glass container and fill if necessary).
2. An additional meeting space.
 - With plenty of floor space for 1 large group circle activity and 2–4 smaller side areas for smaller circles depending upon the number of participants.
 - Chairs for each participant placed in a large circle.
 - 3–4 banquet sized tables: 1 welcome/sign-in table, 2 reception tables, 1 round table for monstrance/candles if not in chapel/church and 1 table for facilitator supplies.
3. 7 large standing easels (or something to lean 24" x 36" posters on).
 - Coat racks/hangers near welcome/sign-in table.
 - Hand sanitizer pumps at welcome table and at each end of serving tables.
 - Reception area and light refreshments. Important: Please be aware of any parish COVID-19 protocols for serving food (homemade may not be allowed at this time). 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, cups, napkins, trays of cookies, cheese and crackers, grapes cut into small portions, veggie tray. Ask participants you know to help bring something simple.

Lean on the facilitator for a successful gathering and share in the excitement of bringing LSAP to your parish!

Answers to Questions People May Have About The Archdiocese of Chicago's Parish LSAP Process

Is there a model to follow in developing an Integral Creation Care Committee?

Yes, the model uses an "integral ecology" approach. The Creation Care Committee, comprised of the parish community, collaborates in using the LSAP structure and goals as vehicles to fulfill the parish's mission, ministry and operations as it relates to the care of creation. Every stakeholder group (ministries, committees, staff, etc.) is responsible for administering the LSAP goals that are applicable to their function. The Creation Care Committee serves as an umbrella over all ministries in guiding the direction of focus and planning toward the Laudato Si' Goals through a collaborative, inclusive process. It is suggested that this committee will initially meet every other week to reflect/ assess, plan and put initiatives into action.

Make an in-person appointment to meet with the pastor. Prepare ahead of time materials that show what the LSAP is about, the importance of getting involved soon and how developing a Creation Care Committee with members from across the parish has many benefits. Bring the letters from H.Em. Cardinal Turkson, Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery of Promoting Integral Human Development and H.Em. Cardinal Cupich's LSAP Letter of Invitation to Pastors — Renew My Church to demonstrate the Church's support.

Benefits include:

- Evangelizing the Gospel of Creation
- Being in union with our Church and each other
- Caring for the Earth and the poor
- Bridging gaps between ministries
- Networking with sharing parishes and other vicariate parishes
- Increasing parishioner involvement
- Engaging youth and young adults
- Amplifies education, sustainability and spirituality across the parish
- Inherently interconnected to Renew My Church and the Synod
- Supported by the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Vatican
- Provides LSAP Theology and Liturgy components and support
- Includes a LSAP resource library, community and guidance
- Connected to a Vicariate network of Creation Care Committee Champions also bringing this integral approach to their parish
- Once a month Vicariate parish Zoom meetings
- One-on-one support, resources and presentations from Vicariate Facilitators along this journey
- Using the LSAP as a structure for the parish along this journey

How do I find members for a Creation Care Committee?

Finding members involves reaching out and talking to others across the parish community. A pastor/ministry/school staff/parish staff/parishioner/parish council member may have someone in mind. In the beginning, it may just start with 2–5 people and include the pastor. As the Creation Care Committee grows, it will have representation from several key areas from across the parish.

How do I educate others about integral ecology and the LSAP across my parish?

Vicariate Facilitators will support you along this journey. It is recognized that every parish has unique needs and levels of participation. By attending the monthly Vicariate Zoom meeting, you will be able to network with other Creation Care Committee members to share resources, suggestions and successes, solve problems and create solutions that might work best for your parish. Additionally, the Vicariate Facilitator can schedule an appointment with you to present materials about the LSAP to a parish leadership group, make suggestions and help you plan the next steps.

Who specifically enrolls and maintains the parish dashboard on the LSAP?

The Creation Care Committee co-chairs can enroll and maintain the parish dashboard and is in collaboration with the parish's business manager. It is important to have input from all areas of the parish to reflect and assess what is currently being done related to the Laudato Si' Goals and determine where the parish would like to go along this LSAP journey. Ideally, two parish representatives will work together with the business manager on inputting and maintaining the LSAP parish dashboard. The work planned for the LSAP should be shared and should involve all of the different parish stakeholders every step of the way.

Will enrolling on the LSAP make ministry work more effective?

Yes! With a Creation Care Committee, each parish component will grow and share their ministry and area of expertise focused on the Laudato Si' goals and LSAP. The actions and initiatives chosen from the LSAP builds on an interconnected parish response which creates solidarity between various parish functions and ministries to amplify and reinforce each other's efforts.

For example:

- **The Immigration Ministry** identifies how environmental degradation including climate change, loss of arable land, potable water and communal violence impacts the reality of refugees seeking asylum in foreign countries, and communicates those realities to the parish community. Examples of engagement activities include lectures, films, art, stories, documentaries, the Archdiocese's La Posada, etc.
- **The Faith and Justice Action Ministry** is planning a fair-trade sale event. Members of that committee learn how unjust economic practices adversely affect people in low-income countries and how sustainably grown fair trade items positively impact the planet while providing a living wage for the growers. Members of the Committee provide this information through multiple mediums, including bulletin inserts, homilies, tabling, lectures, inter-parish experiences, etc.
- **The Respect Life Ministry** is planning a march and invites the entire parish because Care for Creation is inherently grounded in a pro-life ethic.

The LSAP supports and eases the work of parish ministries, committees and functions. It encourages collaboration between currently silo'd entities. For example, it amplifies the parish's effectiveness as each stakeholder group pursues efforts to care for the poor, advocate for respect life, justice and our work for the common good. Each parish ministry, committee and function establish its own objectives, using the LSAP activities identified within each of the seven LSAP goals. The Creation Care Committee's co-chairs will enter the objectives onto the LSAP. The Creation Care Committee comprised of stakeholders of the parish ministries, committees and functions will together monitor and calibrate actions throughout the seven-year journey. Other parishes will be inspired and encouraged by the progress made by our parish.

What resources are available to implement the suggested LSAP activities?

- The LSAP provides a list of activities that each parish's ministries, committees and functions can use to achieve its parish goals.
- Once enrolled, users will have access to a library of resources made available by entities promoting and advocating for the care of creation plus other parishes and dioceses.
- Archdiocese of Chicago Vicariate Facilitators are available to accompany you in your parish's LSAP engagement process. Vicariate Facilitators will support you in presenting the creation care integral approach/LSAP to your pastor, parish council and others.
- You are joining a network of parishes that are using the LSAP process to advance the Care of Creation within their community. These parishes will share how they are enrolling and engaging their community in this LSAP process.

What specifically is involved in the enrollment process?

- Two people take on the role of "Laudato Si' champions."
- Those champions learn about the LSAP process and solicit the pastor's full support and engagement.
- With the pastor, the champions introduce LSAP to the parish council and other key stakeholders.
- The LSAP Parish Experiential Overview, the Parish Essentials Slide Deck and Vicariate Facilitators are resources available to support the Creation Care Committee in this journey.
- Champions begin to enroll onto the platform followed by discussion and reflection with a wide variety of parish stakeholders for input.

A parish reflection piece and action plan are established and uploaded before September 1, 2022.

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?

LSAP has a selection of concrete activities that your parish can choose to craft a parish action plan. Using your reflections, your parish selects what activities it wants to pursue. Your parish is empowered to do what works best across the community.

How does the LSAP foster community?

LSAP 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.

