

# Vicariate LSAP Facilitator Toolbox

First Edition – November 2021

## Goal

To accompany vicariate parishes in the registration, implementation and journey on the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP).

## Objectives

1. Attend/participate in AOC LSAP Committee meetings.
2. Foster the AOC LSAP principles of synodality, solidarity and subsidiarity.
3. Adhere to the norms, practices, policies and procedures of the AOC.
4. Share your Zoom screen with the Community of Trust Guidelines and review with participants in order to establish an expectation of conversation that will stay on topic and be focused on the objectives.
5. Collaborate with co-vicariate facilitators in establishing cohesive communications with parishes, shared planning and meeting facilitation.
6. Coordinate regular communication with parish champions through monthly group Zoom meetings and one-on-one consultations.
7. Support building an inclusive Creation Care Committee.
8. Facilitate parish presentations about the LSAP as needed.
9. Network within the vicariate to build connections and grow the message of LSAP.
10. Encourage and support others with love in the spirit of Laudato Si'.
11. Develop a growing list of parish champions.
12. Establish a connection with the vicariate bishop to keep him updated on the latest actions, initiatives, etc. and invite his involvement in the process.
13. Report to AOC LSAP Committee.
14. Accompany parishes in their enrollment on the LSAP by April 22, 2022 (first cohort).

## Role

- Communicate
- Coordinate
- Facilitate
- Encourage and support
- Network within the Vicariate
- Accompany parishes on the Vatican Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) journey

## Tools

- [laudatosiactionplatform.org](https://laudatosiactionplatform.org)
- [archchicago.org/creation](https://archchicago.org/creation)
- [GodsPlanet.us](https://GodsPlanet.us)
- [catholicclimatecovenant.org](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org)
- [laudatosimovement.org](https://laudatosimovement.org)
- AOC LSAP Committee
- AOC Zoom platform subscription (allows for meetings of more than 45 minutes) Interactive presentation and/or in-depth Parish Essentials slide deck

Use the AOC official thank you letter (emailed and posted on the committee Google Drive) to copy, paste and fill out that message to the vicariate gathering parish participants. In that email, add the link to the survey poll you created. Please copy the AOC's Care for Creation Coordinator on this email and related correspondence.

### Free Survey Poll Sites

[doodle.com](https://doodle.com), [surveymonkey.com](https://surveymonkey.com) and [signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com).

Give participants a short 2–3 day deadline to commit to taking the poll so you can collect the results and confirm the meeting date with the group asap. If need be, personally call non-respondents and check-in!

## First Zoom Meeting Structure

The first meeting is key and sets the tone for creating a new support system and guidance for the LSAP. It is also the place to be positive about parish involvement in the LSAP. The Vicariate LSAP Facilitator is the guide and support for parish success.

Create an agenda, such as:

1. Welcome and brief introductions (name and parish). Record names, etc. of everyone who is in attendance.
2. Share and establish the Community of Trust Guidelines.
3. Prayer (see list on the Google Drive for examples or use your own).
4. Tell a brief success story about your experience on the AOC EWG and/or parish Creation Care Committee.
  - As a Vicariate Facilitator, share the importance of embracing the LS Goals on the journey to vivifying the themes of integral ecology throughout the parish.
  - Stories help connect people on a personal level.

5. Explain this is an important meeting place where ideas, resources, and support can be shared along the LSAP journey.
6. At the conclusion of your vicariate zoom gathering, ask attendees to consider these questions:
  - What do you see as the next step to bring the LSAP into your parish?
  - What support do you need?
 Encourage attendees to stay on the question so everyone can have a chance to share.
7. For anything that needs to be discussed further in detail with the Vicariate Faciliator, offer to set up an appointment connecting by email or phone at a future date.
8. Determine and suggest something specific for participants to work on before the next meeting.
9. Set up the next Zoom meeting date.
10. End with gratitude and a final prayer.

## **Community of Trust Guidelines**

- Give and receive welcome.
- Be as fully present as possible.
- Listen carefully offering our undivided attention.
- Share our truth with kindness.
- Welcome many perspectives and learning styles.
- Use “I” statements. (Take responsibility for what you express. Do not speak for “them”)
- Help all to participate.
- Stay on the topic and stay focused on Pope Francis’ message.
- Be respectful and charitable at all times.
- Trust and learn from the silence.
- Observe deep confidentiality.
- Be open to the spirit of God’s love.
- Know that it’s possible.

Adapted from Circle of Trust Touchstones, the JustFaith Group Guidelines and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Laudato Si’: On Care For Our Common Home* Discussion Guide.

## **Answers to Questions People May Have About the LSAP**

### **Is there a model to follow in developing a 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 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 approach. 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 your 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:

- Increasing parishioner involvement
- Engaging youth and young adults
- 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
- Using the LSAP as a tool for the parish

### **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.

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

The Creation Care Committee co-chairs can enroll and maintain the parish dashboard. 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 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 establishes 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 resources made available by entities promoting and advocating for the care of creation and 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 LSAP to your pastor, parish council and others.
- You are joining a network of parishes that are using the LSAP 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 platform 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 Overview Presentation, the Parish Essentials Slide Deck and Vicariate Facilitators are resources available to support you in this journey.
- Champions enroll onto the platform.

**See the Parish Overview Presentation and Parish Essentials Slide Deck for further information.**