

Diocese of San Jose
Laudato Si Action Plan, 2023-2024, Report
August, 2024

Stewards of Our Common Home

Introduction

The implementation of the Laudato Si Action Plan for the Diocese of San Jose in California rests with the Office of Life, Justice and Peace and the Stewards of our Common Home Committee (Stewards).

The Stewards organized the second-year plan under the headings of the seven goals of the Laudato Si Platform and we included actions of Stewards and other committees and groups within the diocese. Our biggest challenges are

- communicating the goals through in-person meetings and the diocesan website
- highlighting the engagement that is already happening,
- and capturing the results of our initiatives.

On December 6, 2023 Bishop Oscar Cantu' published a Diocesan Pastoral Plan stating that the people of the Diocese of San Jose value...

- Living and proclaiming the Gospel as disciples of Jesus Christ
- Welcoming and engaging liturgies and other opportunities for spiritual growth
- Caring for the poor and vulnerable
- Celebrating the rich diversity within our communities
- Collaborating between lay and ordained in ministry
- Partnering among Catholic parishes, schools, ministries, and other organizations
- Caring for the Earth as God's sacred creation and our common home.

These values align very well with the goals of the Laudato Si Action Platform. The most obvious are:

- Caring for the Earth as God's sacred creation with Response to the Cry of the Earth
- Caring for the poor and vulnerable with Response to the Cry of the Poor
- Celebrating the rich diversity and collaborating with Sustainable Lifestyles
- And Partnering with Community Engagement.

In all our outreach in the first half of 2024 we referred to these values.

Summary of the Actions

Response to the Cry of the Earth

- Promote solar installations in parishes – in conversations with parish teams
 - No known new installations

- Promote Creek Cleanup Day – published on diocesan website
 - Bellarmine College Prep Christian Service Program had a group of students participating.
- Season of Creation Mass and Program – September 23, 2023
 - Representatives from 18 of our 56 parishes gathered for this event. This included witness talks related to all the goals by parish Social Justice Committees, a Green Team, a St. Vincent de Paul conference, a Laudato Si Circle, and Life Justice and Peace committees. This was a good time for information sharing and collaboration among the participants. We published a list of the resources after the gathering.

Response to the Cry of the Poor

- Strengthen solidarity with the Life, Justice and Peace teams
 - participation in “*Journey Together*” meetings hosted by the Office of Life Justice and Peace.
- Eucharistic Discipleship – topic postponed by Office of Evangelization
- Rice Bowl and CRS Chapters – CRS Team during Lent
- JustFaith group on Race – St Francis of Assisi and St. Simon Parishes, on DSJ calendar
 - *The Land is Not our Own: seeking repair Alongside Indigenous Communities*
 - *Faith and Racial healing: Embracing Truth, Justice, and Restoration* at St. Clair Parish Jan 20-June 4
- Support for Refugee Minors – Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, California
- 40 Days for Life - Pray to Protect Human Life, Jan 16-24 promotion DSJ website
- Mental Health Education –
 - Shared “Mental Health and Our Changing Climate: Children and Youth” report, 2023 (American Psychological Association, Climate for Health, and ecoAmerica) <https://www.apa.org/pubs/reports/climate-change-mental-health-children-2023> <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2023/10/mental-health-youth-report-2023.pdf>
 - 10 parishes have Mental Health Ministry
 - Jan 13 all day diocesan meeting at St. William Church
 - May – Mental Health Month (diocesan website banner)
Anxious Nation on May 9 at 6:30 pm at St. William Hall
 - Sanctuary for Catholics, 8-week program
- Support for Small Business – CCHD

Ecological Economics

- **Research Divestment Opportunities –**
 - prepared and presented a presentation for divestment of fossil fuels to Chancery leadership. Learned that the Chancery is already active in the four “asks” of the presentation.

- shared this article with the Office of Life Justice and Peace, April 2024
<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2024/04/19/earthday-2024-diocese-decarbonization-laudato-si-247709>
- **Promote Fair Trade and Compostable Resources**
 - Information shared and published for participants in September workshop
 - On-going notices at some parishes
 - List of suppliers shared with Department of Evangelization, October 2023
 - worked with several parishes to support and promote Fair Trade and use of compostable resources.

Sustainable Lifestyles

- **Assist Parishes and Schools with Laudato Si Actions** This action includes
 - Promoting Fair Trade and Compostable Resources – in conversations
 - Promoting solar installations – in conversations
 - link for the Laudato Si Movement Advent calendar, December 2023 and Laudato Si Week, May 2024, was shared via website and email distribution.

Ecological Education

- **Assist Parishes and Schools with Laudato Si Fairs**
 - Speaker, Dr. Paul Schutz, from Santa Clara University on Care of Creation
 - St. Simon Parish
 - St Francis of Assisi Parish
 - Fair at St. Julie Parish and follow up 6-week study Of Laudato Si and Laudate Deum
- **Share Resources from “Throwaway Culture” Series** – on website
- **Sponsor Speaker, Peter Fiekowsky, on Climate Restoration**
 - Logistics issues – numerous attempts made in fall 2023 to collaborate with Santa Clara University and Stanford.
 - Speaker was able to make a presentation at Stanford but we had no opportunity to publicize it.
- **Co-sponsor Showing of *The Letter***
 - St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
 - St. Simon Parish – one showing for youth and one for adults with discussion afterwards
 - St. Nicholas and St. William Parish – French Community
- **Collaborate with Catholic High Schools** - Introductory conversations
 - Vice Principle of Mission and Catholic Identify, Presentation High School
 - Director of Mission and Ministry, Notre Dame High School
- **Follow-up on the California Catholic Conference Curriculum** – no action
- **Distribute and Train with Maryknoll Affiliates’ Worksheets** –
 - Sample binder prepared for parish fairs. No training this year due in part to the health of the presenter.
- **Feature Story on Sustainability** – no action

- Communications Department calendar was changed
- **Witness Stories** – Green Team member from Santa Teresa Parish, Jan 2024
- **Presentation to Catechists and Institute for Leadership in Ministry**
 - Catechists – Director of Life Justice and Peace, Sept, 2023
 - ILM – director and member of Stewards, winter, 2024

Ecological Spirituality

- **Promote Blessing of Animals** -
 - Promoted on diocesan website and via internal bulletin
 - no survey was conducted this year
- **Promote Stations of the Cross with Spirit of Laudato Si**
 - List with links, diocesan website with Lenten Resources
 - no survey was conducted this year
- **Offer Time of Recollection and Prayer**
 - May 22, 2024, St Nicholas and St. William Parish garden and Hall
 - 16 participants from 7 parishes
 - Potluck salad supper
 - Stations of Creation from St. Mary of the Virgin, Cardiff, UK
<https://stmaryscf10.com/stations-of-creation/>



- **Provide Sample Intercessions for Parishes** – no action
- **Support Laudato Si Circles**
 - Participated in Season of Creation program
 - Participated in May evening of Prayer and Recollection

Community Engagement

- **Advocacy** – no action
- **Promote City of San Jose Environmental Services**
 - Published in resource list, Sept 2023
 - 29 parishes are in the city of San Jose
- **Encourage Engagement with City Sustainability Plans**
 - Published in resource list, Sept 2023
 - There are 13 cities in the diocese of San Jose and each one has a plan
- **Develop Connections with Santa Clara University**
 - Not successful in co-sponsoring speaker on Climate Restoration

- Engaged Speaker of Care of Creation for two presentations

Closing

In summary, our best outcomes were:

- September Season of Creation Mass and Program
- Collaboration with committees of the Life, Justice and Peace Office
- Speaker on Care of Creation
- Presentation to the Institute in Ministry Class
- Gathering in person for prayer and a shared meal in May

Many actions consist of building and sustaining relationships with parishioners across the diocese when we can speak of the goals of the Laudato Si Action Platform at meetings and informal contacts. These actions are included above under several goals:

- Promote solar installations in parishes
- Promote Fair Trade and Compostable Resources
- Assist Parishes and Schools with Laudato Si Actions and Fairs
- Co-sponsor speakers and *The Letter*
- Promoting seasonal prayer opportunities

Our county library system sponsors *Silicon Valley Reads* each year and in the winter of 2024 the topic was climate change. While this was not included in our plan, we took advantage of this opportunity to promote it through our parish contacts. We also promoted *Climate Fresk* programs at libraries throughout the diocese.

Members of Stewards are engaged with other organizations that are working on the connection of faith and climate response. These include Laudato Si Movement, Catholic Climate Covenant, Parliament of World Religions, the Federation of Christian Ministries, and Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action.

Our challenges continue to be those we began with a year ago:

- communicating the goals through in-person meetings and the diocesan website
- highlighting the engagement that is already happening,
- and capturing the results of our initiatives.

Going forward we hope to strengthen our feedback network through the Office of Life, Justice and Peace so that we learn about the effect that our initiatives have within the diocese. We are encouraged by the values of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan, especially care for the poor and care for the Earth along with collaboration and partnerships.

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