

In response to Pope Francis' call to environmental sustainability in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*, we're creating worksheets for each of the seven *Laudato Si'* Action Platform goals. These worksheets are written especially for households (individuals, couples and families) in north American settings, although anyone can use them. We'll send them monthly between September 2022 and March 2023. You can also download them at: <https://godsplanet.us/sector/families-and-individuals>. By completing all 7 worksheets, you'll create an Action Plan for implementation over seven years. Journey with us!

JANUARY 2023: Goal #5 – Ecological Education: According to the Vatican, “Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights, fostering *Laudato Si'* themes within the community, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers), and ecological restoration activities.” (www.laudatosiactionplatform.org)

In this worksheet, we'll consider ways that each of us can participate in Ecological Education, whether we are trained teachers or not. We'll suggest ways that each of us can continue to learn, and each of us can find ways to share the Good News of Creation Care. **Are you ready?**

FOCUS AREAS for Goal #5

- **Learning** more about Creation Care values and practices. Many fine resources help to keep this simple.
- **Sharing** LS themes within personal networks and communities, encouraging ecological leadership. This can be done through sharing personal ecological and faith experiences, as well as by learning to simply communicate the “why’s” of environmental and faith practices.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS for Goal #5

Pray Pray for Ecological Conversion, described in *Laudato Si'*, “whereby the effects of (our) encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in (our) relationship with the world around (us)...(this conversion) calls for a spirit of generous care...gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God’s loving gift, and that we are called to quietly imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works...” (*Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home, Chapter 6, paragraphs 216 -221).

Act 2 short term, 2 longer term actions:

SHORT TERM ACTIONS

1. **Learn:** Consider what you’ve learned most recently about the environment, and consider what could be next. How has the experience of the first four LSAP worksheets piqued your curiosity? Take an hour to sit down and write two lists, the things you’ve learned already and the topics you want to know more about. How is the Holy Spirit guiding you?
2. **Share:** Consider why you decided to take this LSAP journey. How would you describe your reasons, including your hopes and fears, to someone else? How would you describe the experience differently to someone you know to be a skeptic or purposefully resistant? What formal and informal groups and networks do you belong to? Can you share Creation Care ideas with them?

LONGER TERM ACTIONS

1. **Learn:** Commit to “tithing” your learning and viewing time. One way is to read or watch at least one Creation Care/environmental resource for every 10 movies, books or documentaries. Add ecological news and eco-faith news to your normal news habits.
2. **Share:** Consider writing your personal experiences down to share with others. Consider learning how to simply tell “why” something is a good or bad environmental practice. Consider learning how to simply describe why caring for Creation is a requirement of faith.

Advocate

1. Add environmental and Creation Care dates to your calendar (Earth Day, Arbor Day, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, St Francis of Assisi Day, etc). Are there networks and communities in which you can call attention to these?
2. Advocate for Creation Care in Religious Education within your diocese.
3. Share the USCCB’s hand-out “Caring for Creation” with your pastor and parish staff.

MY/OUR PLAN FOR LS GOAL #5 – Ecological Education

NAME: _____

- **PRAY for Ecological Conversion**, described in Laudato Si' as, “whereby the effects of (our) encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in (our) relationship with the world around (us)...(this conversion) calls for a spirit of generous care...gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God’s loving gift, and that we are called to quietly imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works...” (Read Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home, Chapter 6, paragraphs 216 -221 or watch episodes 13 & 14 of Fr. Dan Horan’s Laudato Si' series, for a total of 32 minutes. See: https://youtu.be/fj-a5qVj3nY?list=PLQ2W1tFFtdJn9V9_DvEbz9Bygt7XsYXRj).

MY/OUR REFLECTION (What do you notice in the paragraphs, or in the Youtube videos?):

- **ACT for Creation: SHORT TERM – do these soon!**
- **Learn:** Take some time to consider what you’ve learned most recently about the environment, and then consider what you would like to learn next. How has the experience of the first four LSAP worksheets piqued your curiosity? How is the Holy Spirit guiding you?
 - Take an hour to sit down and make two lists: what you’ve recently learned about caring for Creation, and things you’d like to learn about next.
 - Sign up for at least one eco-faith newsletter or watch a related film or documentary or participate in a webinar. A suggested starting point is: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>
- **Share:** Why did you decide to take this LSAP journey? How would you describe your reasons, including your hopes and fears, to someone else? How would you describe the experience differently to someone you know to be a skeptic or purposefully resistant? What formal and informal groups and networks do you belong to? Can you share Creation Care ideas with them?
 - Take an hour to sit down in a quiet place and write your reasons for joining Creation Care. Alternatively, you can organize your thoughts using art or music.

MY/OUR ACTIONS (write down your activities for learning and sharing:

NOTE: We recommend making your two lists on a separate piece of blank paper and attaching it to this worksheet.

- **ACT for Creation: LONG TERM**
- **Learn:** Commit to “tithing” your learning and viewing time. One way is to read or watch one Creation Care or environmental book or documentary for every 10 book or movie you partake.
 - Write down a list of films, webinars or documentaries, books and internet resources about the environment and Creation Care which you’d like to watch or read.
 - Write down a list of organizations which seem to be good resources for learning about Creation Care. Schedule yourself to spend 30 minutes or so on their websites, discovering if they are good resources for you.
 - Find out if your newspaper has an environmental section. Subscribe if you can, or make a point of searching for it when it is published.

- **Share:** Consider writing your personal experiences down to share with others. Consider learning how to simply tell “why” something is a good or bad environmental practice. Consider learning how to simply describe why caring for Creation is a requirement of faith.
 - Take an hour to sit down in a quiet place and write your reasons for joining Creation Care, or organize your thoughts using art or music.
 - Consider writing your ideas into a short paragraph or essay which you can send to others in your network, or submit to a newspaper or journal.
 - Consider one or two ecological problems which most touch you. Can you learn how to describe the problems simply to others, in 30-60 seconds?
 - Consider how to ask others about their ecological experiences, and about how their faith feeds their ecological habits.
 - Consider how to really listen, and to recognize an opportunity to learn from someone else about their ecological hopes, fears and accomplishments.
 - Consider how you can respond to spontaneous opportunities. What if someone asks you why you bike instead of drive, why you compost, or why you praise God for Creation?
 - OR try some of the ideas above but use photos, pictures or music as your medium.
- **Explore your networks.** Where do you have influence and can help share the good news of Creation Care? In the family, in social groups, in professional groups. Write a list to help you consider this. Can you create new networks? Can you join existing networks?

MY/OUR ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

NOTE: We recommend adding extra pages to capture your thoughts.

□ **ADVOCATE for Creation**

1. Add environmental and Creation Care dates to your calendar (Earth Day, Arbor Day, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, St Francis of Assisi Day, World Ocean Day, etc). Are there networks and communities in which you can call attention to these?
2. Write to your Bishop and to the Office of Cathetical Ministries or Religious Education. Ask that Creation Care and Laudato Si' be incorporated in religious education in your Diocese.
3. Share the USCCB's 2020 hand-out “Caring for God’s Creation”, Liturgy Resources, with your pastor and parish staff. English: <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/ecology-resource-all.pdf> Spanish <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/ecology-resource-all-spanish.pdf>.

MY/OUR ADVOCACY ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

Congratulations! You're making a difference by committing to learning more about faith and the environment, and by finding ways to communicate those ideas to others! Give yourself a big pat on the back.

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, saying to Zion, “Your God is King!” Isaiah, 52:7