

called to justice & peace

SEASON OF CREATION

September 1 - October 4, 2020

This year our connectedness has become even more apparent with the coronavirus pandemic revealing how our structures and demands on the earth's resources have continued to disproportionately impact vulnerable communities. Yet amidst this suffering we have experienced moments of hope: carbon emissions dropping, new neighborhood connections formed, recognition of using only what we truly need.

Let us take one *Laudato Si'* Goal each day as a starting point this Season of Creation (and every day thereafter!) as we pray and work towards equitable, healthy, safe communities for all and not just a temporary, but a lasting rest to our Earth.

The Season of Creation

From Sept 1 (Day of Prayer for Creation) to Oct 4 (Feast of St. Francis) each year, faith communities from around the world take time to slow down, focus on what matters and restore relationships with each other and with all creation.

Laudato Si' Goals

To mark the **Special Fifth Anniversary Year of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*** (May 24, 2020 - May 24, 2021), the Vatican outlined seven themes to respond to God's call to justice and peace for the earth and for each other.

LAUDATO SI' GOAL

ACTIONS FOR JUSTICE & PEACE

M

Mondays

Respond to the
CRY OF THE EARTH

Lord, give us courage to treat your creation not as a given, but as a gift.

- Take action for your water ([Clear Choices](#))
- Build a rain garden, install a rain barrel
- Reduce use and be responsible when using fertilizers; don't use fertilizers that contain phosphorus
- Landscape with [native plants](#)
- Eliminate bare spots in your yard
- Create a wildlife habitat garden
- Pick up litter / Scoop the Poop
- Take hazardous household items (oil, paint, solvents, etc) to a [ToxDrop site](#)

T

Tuesdays

Respond to the
CRY OF THE POOR

Lord, move us to act wisely and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters.

- Donate unneeded items to St. Vincent de Paul rather than throwing them away
- Volunteer with [Catholic Charities](#)
- Sponsor a youth in a vulnerable group for the 2021 [EarthCharter Indiana's Climate Camp](#)
- Give thanks and welcome others to your table



called to justice & peace

LAUDATO SI' GOAL

ACTIONS FOR JUSTICE & PEACE

W

Wednesdays

Participate in
**ECOLOGICAL
ECONOMICS**

Lord, strengthen us to trust in your providence and takes action toward an economy where all have enough.

- Shop for food locally and get to know the people behind your purchases
- Use **Fair Trade Certified** products
- Look for minority-owned businesses
- Invest in renewable energy
- Support a **business that follows green practices**
- Sponsor youth entrepreneur programs

Th

Thursdays

Adopt
SIMPLE LIFESTYLES

Lord, free us from the desire to consume and inspire our hearts toward a just and sustainable way of living.

- Cook simple meals at home
- Reduce consumption of beef and cheese – two of the top three **highest carbon footprint**
- Buy clothing second-hand or from ethically-sourced clothing brands
- Avoid excess packaging and plastic
- Do a zero-waste day (or week!)
- Learn how to DIY something you would normally buy (clothes, storage, etc.)

F

Fridays

Encourage **ECOLOGICAL
EDUCATION**

Lord, guide us as we re-design educational curricula to create ecological awareness and action, especially in young people.

- Encourage your parish/school to offer a **program on Laudato Si'** or a **module on climate change**
- Collaborate with schools to offer hands-on ecological education (how to garden, compost, recycle, enjoy nature etc.)
- Read an article about environmental justice in a country outside of the U.S.

S

Saturdays

Encourage **COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT &
PARTICIPATORY ACTION**

Lord, we pray for projects in the universal church and local communities so that You help us in being good stewards of all You have given us.

- Encourage your local municipality to participate in the **EarthCharter Indiana Resiliency program**
- Be an advocate for policy that supports the environment (**HEC** or **H-IPL**)
- Work on joint actions with other congregations in your area
- Support efforts to eliminate food deserts and advocate for clean air

S

Sundays

Discover **ECOLOGICAL
SPIRITUALITY**

Lord, inspire us to rediscover a religious vision of God's creation, in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude.

- Create a sacred space outside and reflect on God's gift of Creation
- Encourage your parish to host a retreat outdoors; visit an **Indiana sacred space**
- Read portions of *Laudato Si'* using a **study guide**
- Reflect with the *Laudato Si'* **5th Anniversary Card** or **Common Prayer**