



Diocese of San Jose
Action Plan, 2022-2023 Report
July 2023

Volunteer members of the Stewards of our Common Home Committee for the Office for Life, Justice, and Peace in the Department for Evangelization were the drivers of the actions this year. Included are the projects and connections that were deemed accomplishable.

These actions for 2022/2023 focused on raising awareness through programs, publicity, and networking.

PROGRAMS

During the *Season of Creation*, two presentations were sponsored, both on Zoom. The first was a speaker on diet and climate, “The Earth on Your Plate” by Mohan Gurunathan. The second was an introduction to the ***Laudato Si’ Action Platform*** and its seven goals. For each goal we presented, specific local actions were included that would be possible for others to do such as buying fair trade items, reading, being outdoors, praying outdoors, assisting local groups in outreach, attending city council meetings, supporting city sustainability plans, eating less meat, eliminating unused lawn, and so on.

A presentation on the Laudato Si’ Action Platform was held to an adult class in our Institute for Leadership in Ministry.

In Lent a meatless lunch was hosted for the staff at the diocesan chancery offices. Team members were introduced, and the goals of the platform were available.

Sample Intercessions for Sunday Masses during the Season of Creation, World Day of the Poor in November, and for the weekends close to May 24, the anniversary of Laudato Si’.

A team member, together with Maryknoll Affiliates produced family and individual worksheets for each of the seven goals in the Laudato Si’ Action Platform and were available to share at a parish Earth Day event(s).

PUBLICITY

The diocesan Department for Evangelization and the Office of Communications collaborated with the Stewards of our Common Home team to announce our programs and other activities

that were promoted throughout the year. This included continuous updates to the diocesan webpage, sending announcements via the diocesan intranet called The Vine. All diocesan staff including parishes and schools, have access to the Vine. The Office of Communication also provides social media on all the teams' events, activities, and stories.

Over the year promotion of speakers for the Season of Creation, a county wide creek-clean-up day, the Blessing of Animals approximately 50% of parishes, and the bi-annual national meeting, Laudato Si' and the US Church, sponsored by Creighton University and the Catholic Climate Covenant.

We asked Bishop Oscar Cantú to write a letter to the diocese announcing the enrollment of the diocese to LSAP. This was published in November, near the anniversary of the launching of the platform by the Vatican. In the letter the Bishop strongly encouraged parishioners to participate in any way they could. Based on this endorsement, we nominated the Bishop for Climate Champion of the year in the City of San Jose. He received this recognition at the City Hall in April 2023. This was noted on the diocesan and city social media.

NETWORKING

Diocesan networking was most successful with contacts at parishes. The team strengthened ties with our own parishes and three made initial steps to enroll in the Laudato Si Action Platform. Others became aware that their projects supported the goals of the platform. Resources and recommendations on speakers were provided to parish communities and individuals.

The team has connected with two elementary schools and three high schools. The California Catholic Conference sent curriculum for grades 4, 7, and 11 to the Diocese and asked that it be shared with principals and teachers. The Office of Life Justice and Peace also forwarded the curriculum from the Catholic Climate Covenant to the Department of Catholic Schools.

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/curriculum-laudato-si-laudato-si-can-change-world>

The team has established connections with several additional diocesan groups supporting the Laudato Si' goals. This included networking with the other committee members in the Life, Justice and Peace Office, and the chancery staff at the Lenten Luncheon. The Facilities director was introduced to a local non-profit that may be able to collaborate with funding on some projects.

The team continues to build a network of connections with local, state, and national groups both within and outside of the Catholic community. Locally connections have been made with the City of San Jose Climate Smart Program and the team will continue to look to the city as a resource for speakers and activities. An initial conversation with a local non-profit, Acterra, was

initiated with the goal being to provide programs and information to underserved seniors in our parishes.

Connections have been made with three Catholic groups in our diocese: BACAR, Bay Area conference of Affiliates and Religious which provides program on climate change, El Retiro, a Jesuit Retreat Center, and the Sustainability Program of Santa Clara University. Conversations on the possibilities of joint programs has begun.

In the state of California, the team is in touch with the California Catholic Conference, the Care for Creation Office of the Diocese of San Diego, and an email distribution messaging group for Catholics interested in Laudato Si'.

One of our team members is on the staff of Maryknoll Young Adult Empowerment program and another is a member of Maryknoll Affiliates.

The team also maintains connections with Catholic Climate Covenant and their Godplanet.us website, the Laudato Si' Action Platform, the Laudato Si' Movement, and Season of Creation and the USCCB.

EVALUATION

Zoom presentations did not bring in many new viewers. The team will use this vehicle less in the future.

The team will continue to work with the Department for Evangelization and Office of Communications for publicity, facilitated through the Office of Life, Justice and Peace. The team will look for ways to evaluate the reception of ebulletin announcements and sample intercessions as distributed, to ensure engagements of the materials.

The team will also compose the next Action Plan based on the seven goals, including programs, publicity, and networking that were initiated; as well as other programs and actions in the Diocese. The team hopes to be included in the curriculum of the Institute for Leadership in Ministry.

The team will continue to build relationships with groups within the diocese and in the community. The team will continue working with the diocesan Pastoral Plan and the Eucharistic Revival discipleship process as well as in a synodal way with the committees of our Office of Life Justice and Peace. And will continue to expand support for parishes and identify school programs that can be supported.