

RESPONDING TO THE OPIATE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC

HOME & FAMILY

- Support individuals and families struggling with substance use disorder and the disease of addiction. Especially pray for and comfort those who lost a family member due to a fatal overdose.
- Start talking. Keep family members informed about the dangers of substance abuse as well as the opportunities for help. Participate in Ohio's Start Talking program, visit www.starttalking.ohio.gov.
- Engage in family life affirming activities. Use resources promoted by the diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life at www.colsdioc.org.
- Lock up medications at home. Properly dispose of unused prescription drugs. Find a disposal location in your community. <http://pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/DrugDisposalResources.aspx>.
- In a crisis? Call 911 or use the Crisis Text Line, a free, confidential, 24/7 text line for people in crisis. Text 4HOPE to 741741. Call 1-877-275-6364 for information and referral.
- Seek treatment. Substance use disorder (the most severe form of which is referred to as "addiction") is a chronic brain disorder from which people can and do recover.
- Encourage ongoing participation in recovery programs for those with substance use disorder and members of their families.

SCHOOL

- Pray. Help students have a regular encounter with Jesus Christ that can transform lives.
- Review and implement the Ohio Joint Study Committee on Drug Use Prevention Education recommendations. www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/DrugUsePreventionEducation
- Provide substance abuse education to all students (K-12). Offer consistent, age-appropriate, evidence-based substance abuse education. Work with local agencies to support substance abuse education in schools, including mental health recovery board and local boards of health.
- Spread substance abuse education across the curriculum. Consider integrating beyond health class into science, language arts, and religious education. Also refer to the Religion Course of Study for materials and consult the diocesan Office of Religious Education & Catechesis and the Office of Catholic Schools at www.colsdioc.org.
- Survey students. Conduct school and community surveys to monitor students for warning signs and measure success.
- Support before- and after-school programs that increase protective factors in children and reduce risk factors.
- Support youth-led prevention programs.

PARISH

- Host prayer vigils for individuals and families struggling with substance abuse. Include petitions for courageous and compassionate law enforcement officers, health care providers, counselors, and treatment center staff in your prayers of the faithful.
- Foster effective strategies for parish youth. Consult the diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at www.colsdioc.org.
- Inform the parish. Make referrals to community services. Publish resources in parish bulletins. Invite an addiction specialist to lead a discussion about this chronic disease.
- Train parishioners to respond to an overdose with Naloxone. Mount Carmel Health offers Project DAWN training at www.mountcarmelhealth.com/projectdawn or find a site near you at www.odh.ohio.gov/health/vipp/drug/ProjectDAWN.aspx
- Partner with service providers like Syntero for at risk families, St. Vincent Family Center for pediatric behavioral health, Maryhaven for addiction treatment, and Catholic Social Services for assisting vulnerable seniors. Host a Narcotics Anonymous meeting or form a family support group. Invite a parish nurse through Mount Carmel Church Partnerships or a local program.
- Join with your community opiate addiction taskforce and other organizations like the diocesan Office for Social Concerns to garner support for prevention and treatment efforts.

COMMUNITY

- Find out about what Ohio is doing to fight opiate abuse. <http://fightingopiateabuse.ohio.gov>
- Host a community forum at your parish. Invite service providers, law enforcement, and other experts to speak. For help to put a forum together, email HeroinUnit@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.
- Collaborate with your local anti-drug coalition on community efforts to address the drug problem.
- Partner with local law enforcement agencies and emergency medical personnel. Support their efforts to fight the scourge of drug trafficking.
- Support a continuum of care by strengthening resources for local ADAMH boards. Partner with faith-based and community treatment and recovery programs.
- Advocate for evidence-based treatment and recovery programs, mental health services, sober housing, and increased access to diversion for those who struggle with the disease of addiction, both inside the criminal justice system and in our broader community, www.usccb.org/jphd.

GOD'S CREATION, OUR COMMON HOME

“**LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore**” – “**Praise be to you, my Lord.**” These are the words that open Pope Francis' encyclical on ecology and care for God's creation. These words, quoting St. Francis of Assisi's beautiful canticle, remind us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

Pope Francis addresses Laudato Si' to “every person on the planet,” for we all share a common home—the earth. He focuses on a number of important themes.

- **A Moral and Spiritual Challenge.** The ecological crisis, Pope Francis writes, is a summons to profound interior conversion—to renew our relationships with God, one another, and the created world.
- **Care for God's Creation.** God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. Now we have the responsibility to care for and protect it and all people, who are part of creation. Protecting human dignity is strongly linked to care for creation.
- **We are All Connected.** We are connected to the rest of the human family, to the created world, and to those who will come after us in future generations.
- **Impact on the Poor.** People in poverty have contributed least to climate change, yet they are disproportionately impacted by it. As a result of excessive use of natural resources by wealthy nations, those who are poor experience pollution, lack of access to clean water, hunger, and more.
- **Called to Solidarity.** We are one human family and have a shared responsibility for others and for creation. Wealthy countries have a responsibility to reduce consumption of non-renewal resources and should help poorer nations develop in sustainable ways.
- **Technological and Economic Development** must serve human beings and enhance human dignity, instead of creating an economy of exclusion, so that all people have access to what is needed for authentic human development.
- **Supporting Life, Protecting Creation.** Concern for nature is incompatible with failure to protect vulnerable human beings, such as unborn children, people with disabilities, or victims of human trafficking.
- **A Time to Act.** Pope Francis calls for a change in lifestyle and consumption. We can make important changes as individuals, families, and communities, and as civil and political leaders.
- **Hope and Joy.** “Injustice is not invincible” (no. 74) and we act knowing that we seek to live out God's vision of renewed relationships with God, ourselves, one another, and creation.

Excerpted from USCCB Bulletin Insert – *Laudato Si'*: On Care for our Common Home.

“**Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.**”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*



RESOURCES

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Put your faith in action.

www.colsdioc.org

Office for Social Concerns

Creation Care Team

Office of Development & Planning

Stewardship Resources

Catholic Charities

For help or to support:

Catholic Social Services

J.O.I.N.

St. Francis Center

St. Stephen's Community House

St. Vincent Family Center

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Catholic Conference of Ohio

Care for Creation Resources.

Be a faithful citizen.

www.ohiocathconf.org

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Be a Christian steward.

www.usccb.org/environment

www.usccb.org/stewardship

Catholic Climate Covenant

Take the St. Francis Pledge.

Start a creation care team.

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

Catholic Relief Services

Be in global solidarity with our neighbors.

www.crs.org/climate-change

www.confrontglobalpoverty.org

Catholic Rural Life

Read Vocation of an Agricultural Leader.

www.catholicrurallife.org

Shepherd's Corner

Volunteer and learn at this ecology center of the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

www.shepherdscorner.org

Ohio Interfaith Power and Light

Learn about what faith communities can do.

Conduct an energy audit. www.ohipl.org

Columbus Green Spot

Go green at your home, parish, and school.

www.columbus.gov/greenspot

Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center

The Ohio State University

Organize a parish or school tour.

<https://bpcrc.osu.edu>

A CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Prayer from *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis.

Creation Care Guide - Diocese of Columbus
To access a copy of this practical resource, visit the Office for Social Concerns webpage at www.colsdioc.org or email socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org.



LOVING WHAT GOD HAS MADE WHAT YOU CAN DO

HOME & FAMILY

- Pray before meals in gratitude for God's gift of creation.
- Encourage young children to help with garden chores (including creation of a compost pile) and older children to participate in 4-H or Scouting.
- Shop carefully, avoid unnecessary purchases, and bring reusable bags.
- Buy food grown locally and do not waste food.
- Fast during Lent and continue with meatless Fridays during the rest of the year. Participate in CRS Rice Bowl.
- Be mindful of your vacation travel and its ecological impact.
- Carpool, take public transportation, walk, or bike to work, school, and Sunday Mass.
- Use energy efficient LED lighting.

SCHOOL

- Determine current energy performance, set a goal to reduce usage, and implement a plan to accomplish it. Make it a service learning project.
- Reduce, re-use, and recycle and eliminate unnecessary purchases. When purchases are necessary, consider products made from natural, sustainably-sourced, recycled, and recyclable materials. Conduct an electronics recycling drive: mobile phones, computers, etc.
- Reduce indoor water use by retrofitting kitchen and bathroom plumbing and repairing leaks. Avoid serving bottled water.
- Create or expand your library and use what you learn to change behaviors.
- Purchase sustainable goods and services that support the dignity of all human persons, especially the poor and vulnerable.
- Schedule a field trip to Project Aquastar at St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus to learn about a working aquaponics center.

PARISH

- Read *Laudato Si'*, host a parish session to discuss it, and form a Creation Care Team.
- Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis in collaboration with your parish's youth ministry and religious education program.
- Reconsider your landscaping, including planting trees and reducing lawn size.
- Purchase a more fuel efficient/energy efficient model next time the parish makes a large purchase, such as a furnace, appliance, lighting system, or vehicle. Consult the diocesan Facilities Office.
- When applying for grants from The Catholic Foundation or other funders for energy efficient improvements, use rebate programs from utilities such as AEP and Columbia Gas to be good stewards.
- Install a bike rack for parishioners to use.

COMMUNITY

- Know who in your parish and community are most vulnerable, and provide assistance to these individuals and families through parish social ministries, diocesan Catholic Charities agencies, and local programs. Support these outreach ministries with your time, talent, and treasure.
- Work together as a deanery to accomplish long range goals.
- Tend a community garden and provide the harvest to food pantries or families in need. Join a community composting program.
- Become informed about environmental issues, and encourage parishioners to visit their elected representatives.
- Volunteer to maintain Ohio's many natural treasures.
- Be in global solidarity with our brothers and sisters who live in extreme poverty or suffer from disaster. As a human family, we are all connected. Support Catholic Relief Services and missions throughout the world.