

Laudato Si' Activity Packet

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Spring 2020

On the occasion of the

5th Anniversary of *Laudato Si'* On Care for Our Common Home 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

In this season of the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* On Care for Our Common Home and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, when there is a lot of attention to care for creation, we have a special opportunity to bear witness to how the life of the Church includes our work to care for God's creation.

A key part of the message of *Laudato Si* is "Integral Ecology" - whereby we think of both natural and human ecology, and where we realize that care for people is related to care for creation.

While this is a time of crisis regarding the coronavirus pandemic, this time of social distancing is providing us with a chance to slow down, reconnect with families, stop and smell the roses, (get outdoors), and reconnect with God. Ironically, now that we're all supposed to rely more on electronic communications, more people are taking respite outside!

St. Francis provided the origin of the title of *Laudato Si'* in his posture of praise and thanksgiving for all of creation - Praise Be! And in this time of social distancing, an exercise of extreme charity by keeping a safe distance out of love for our neighbor, we have a special opportunity to appreciate the blessings of God's creation - all things give praise to their creator, and quiet time in nature, like Jesus frequently practiced, helps rejuvenate us, helps us remain centered and close to God, provides us beautiful spaces for prayer, and for joining creation's chorus of praise to God.

In thanksgiving for God's blessings of life and creation, we respond with care and celebration - we care for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, we work for justice to advance the common good, we work to reduce waste, we work to reduce pollution, we come together to plant gardens to feed ourselves and feed the hungry, we seek solidarity and a larger dialogue with others about the care of our common home.

Please make use of the activity packet developed by our diocesan Creation Care Team to help us embrace the gifts we've been given - praise be!

Packet Contents:

- Prayer Suggestions
- Family Activities to Care for Creation
- School Lessons and Activities
- Get Outside Game
- Voices of Laudato Si' Student Project: Teachers Guide

For additional resources, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/care-for-creation