

Be Inspired! A Spotlight on Diocesan Laudato Si' Efforts (Part 1)

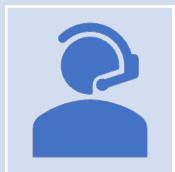
May 24th, 2022



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Be Inspired!

A Spotlight on Diocesan Laudato Si' Efforts (Part 1)



The webinar is being recorded and a link to the recording will be sent to everyone who registered within the next 24-48 hours.



Please type your questions in the Q/A box. If you know who the question is directed to, please add that information to your question.



The background is a vibrant blue with a decorative border of hands in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green) reaching towards the center. The hands are surrounded by stylized green leaves and blue flowers. At the bottom, there are green hills and white flowers. In the center, there is a small illustration of a sun with rays, a white cloud, and a white bird flying.

COMMON PRAYER

for the 7th anniversary of

Laudato Si'

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your own image and made us stewards of all your creation.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.
Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all of your
creatures and to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.
Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope and fraternity so that we may
experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global
pandemic,
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common
good,
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected and interdependent,
Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we make this prayer through
Christ our Lord.

Amen



LAUDATO SI'
WEEK 2022

Be Inspired! A Spotlight on Diocesan Laudato Si' Efforts (Part 1)



Susan Varlamoff
Co-author - Archdiocese of Atlanta
Laudato Si Action Plan
and a biologist and writer



Michael Terrien OSB
Archdiocese of Chicago



Cindy Cramer
LSAP Assistant Volunteer Coordinator
Archdiocese of Chicago



Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan
Catholic Climate Covenant

Brian Savoie
Sustainability Coordinator
Archdiocese of Atlanta



Tony Quintanilla
LSAP Committee, Vicariate Facilitator
Archdiocese of Chicago



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Catholic Climate Covenant
Diocesan Laudato Si Efforts
May 24, 2022

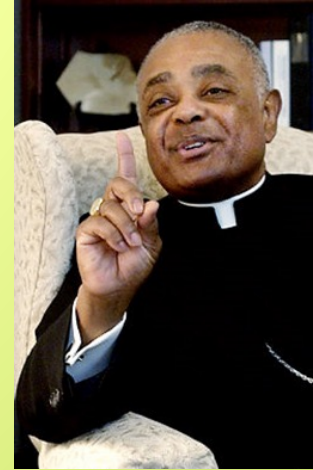
How the Archdiocese of Atlanta Created a Laudato Si Movement

By Brian Savoie and Susan Varlamoff





Genesis of Atlanta Laudato Si Action Plan



- June 2015 Pope Francis released Laudato Si.
- Atlanta responded. Archbishop Wilton Gregory suggested Susan Varlamoff write an Action Plan for Georgia.
- Dr. Rob McDowell and Susan Varlamoff wrote the Laudato Si Action Plan. University of Georgia scientists reviewed it.
- April 4, 2016, Archbishop Gregory released the Action Plan at the UGA Catholic Center. All scientists were present. 200 - 300 people attended, from school children to sisters and priests from throughout the Archdiocese.

Kickoff - A day of celebration



A day of glory



What is in the Action Plan?

- **Introduction**
- The Judeo-Christian tradition of care for God's creation
- **10 chapters** - Menu of actions aligned with issues from Laudato Si – rated “easy,” “moderate” and “advanced” that parishes and parishioners can take. Many local resources listed.
- **Conclusion** – call to action by Archbishop Gregory



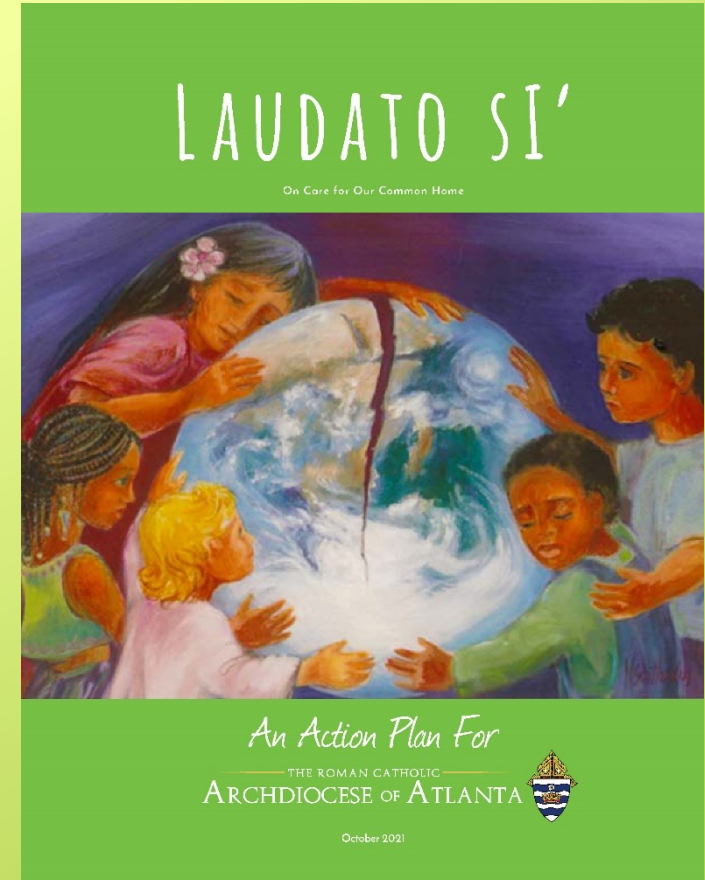
Atlanta Action Plan

- Begins in prayer – St. Francis Canticle of the Sun
- Ends in prayer – Pope Francis Prayer for the Earth
- Bookended with a call to act in love.



2021 Action Plan Chapters

1. Engage Parishioners and Students
2. Conserve Energy
3. Conserve Water
4. Purchase Wisely and Recycle
5. Buy and Share Food Thoughtfully
6. Make Smart Mobility Choices
7. Use Land Sustainably
8. Embrace Environmental Justice and Equity
9. Advocate for the Earth and the Vulnerable
10. Adapt Laudato Si For Young People



Strategy to implement the Action Plan

- To harness the power of the pulpit.
- To offer practices that churches, synagogues, temples and their faithful can use to care for creation and one another.
- To offer actions so everyone regardless of their resources and skills can do something.
- To offer local resources to implement the practices.
- To create a replicable model for other Archdioceses and faiths to follow.
- To have the church serve as a demonstration site for the community in creation care.

Action Plan Dissemination

- 2016 – Archbishop sent hard copies of the Laudato Si Action Plan to all parishes and US bishops.
- Susan sent copies to Atlanta environmental movers and shakers and philanthropists.
- 2017 - Catholic environmental philanthropist Rutherford Seydel offered to fund a pilot project.
- Funding covered a part time program manager and energy audits for 12 churches and schools.

St. John Neumann – first adopter



St. John Neumann achievements

After five years:

- Reduced greenhouse gases by 38%
- Reduced waste by 50%
- Reduced water by 70%
- Reduced the cost of maintaining the parish by \$9,000/ year
- Conducted Archdiocesan retreat, use sustainable landscaping, recycle, wash dishes for small receptions, host creation care lecture series etc.
- Offer creation care tips in Sunday Bulletin.

Small Team to help lead, support, coordinate

**Archdiocese
of Atlanta
Laudato Si
Initiative
Team
(10/2021)**



2017 Pilot Project

- Worked with 12 parishes and schools across the Archdiocese
- Long-term goal to reduce each parish/school's carbon footprint by 30%
- Increase energy and water efficiency and conservation by 25%.
- Near-term goals were to:
 - conduct energy and water audits
 - create Creation Care Teams
 - help each parish/school to develop 3-year Energy and Water Conservation Improvement Plans.



2017 Pilot Project -- Results

- Gained Involvement, Built Momentum – Involved 50 people; impacted 8,500 people in 430,000 sq. ft of facilities at 11 sites.
- Conducted Audits, Prepared Plans – near-term potential 16% energy reduction and 10-year energy savings of \$900K. Potential 15% reduction in water use. Long-term: 25% reductions.
- Inspired Funding and Pro-Bono Work -
 - Donations/grants from Seydel family, Kendeda Fund and GIPL
 - Large donations of time and expertise
 - \$34K of Energy Efficiency Matching Grants to pilot members.
- Improvements Made or Underway – 1000's of LED lamp change outs. 50% reduction in energy in the gym at St. Mary Catholic School. Parishes/schools wrote 3-year improvement plans.

Solidarity: Time, Talent and Treasure

- People will often donate their Time if you define and communicate a clear need, show how they can help, and value their time.
- Key to getting Talent, define the need, listen and communicate it. There are resources out there.
- Don't be afraid to ask for money. If people believe in a cause, they may be willing to contribute funds.

Subsidiarity, with Leadership and Support

- Subsidiarity: Seek to have leadership , decisions and work done from the "lowest, local level possible," by people close to the point of the change.
- Work with those who are **ready, willing and able**.
- No “forcing” from the top.
- Pastors, principals, business managers, operations managers, CCT leaders.

Find “Seed” Personnel and Funding to Start, Keep Working at It

- Need funds and personnel to cover 1 year (audits, coordination, training, some gatherings)
- Use a multi-prong personnel strategy → Archdiocese staff, interns, professional services (discounted/pro-bono) from individuals, partners.
- Fundraising strategy, consider → Archbishop, parishes, schools, large/small donors, major funders, Annual Appeal, iGiveCatholic, Donate button, grants, rebates, partnerships, Green Fund.
- “Loaves and Fishes” approach – ask, receive, multiply, share. Example:
 - Donor Funds Energy Audits + GIPL Discounts Audit Cost
 - Parish Sees Energy/\$ Savings Opportunity
 - Parishioner Donation + GIPL Matching Grant + GPC Rebate
 - Parish contributes to help pay for other energy audits

Seek Like-minded Partners and Collaborators

Seek Help from Experts

- Partners and Collaborators
 - Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
 - US EPA
 - US Green Building Council
 - University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
 - Captain Planet Foundation
- Experts
 - Auditors – Energy, Water, Waste
 - Renewable energy attorney
 - Archdiocese Communications Director and staff

Take Action

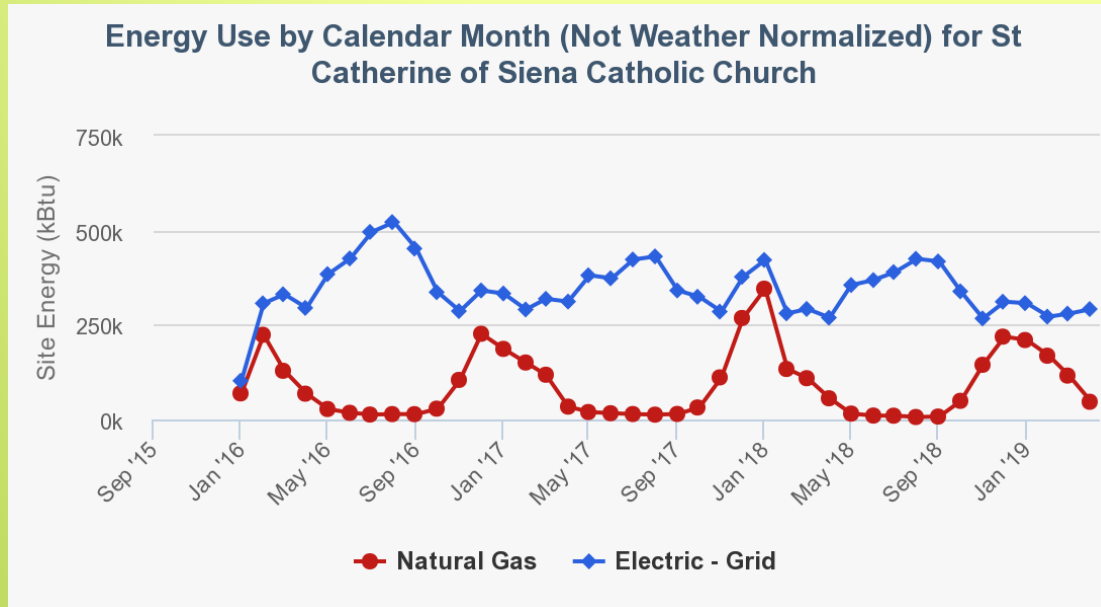
- Build trust by doing
 - Pilot Project (2017) → Laudato Si Initiative (2020)
 - 12 parishes/schools → 24 in 2020 → 36 by 2022
 - 6 authors for 2016 LS Action Plan → 23 authors in 2021
- Success breeds success
 - Mentions in the media help attract more resources
 - Progress by early adopters inspires participation
 - One part-time program manager in 2017 → Four part-time team members in 2022
 - Bootstrap funding / personnel → a bit of formal today

Include Prayer, Spiritual and Liturgical Activities

- Pray at CCT meetings, tree plantings, gardening projects
- Encourage personal discernment on the path to ecological conversion and Laudato Si action.
- Plant prayer gardens and involve the youth
- Build Stations of the Cross in the forest
- Creation Care retreats
- Archdiocesan Green Mass



Set quantifiable goals, objectives, and performance metrics.



Metric	Jan 2017 (Energy Baseline)	Apr 2019 (Energy Current)	Change
ENERGY STAR Score (1-100)	29	41	12.00 (41.40%)
Source EUI (kBtu/ft ²)	149.8	134.7	-15.10 (-10.10%)
Site EUI (kBtu/ft ²)	61.1	55.4	-5.70 (-9.30%)
Energy Cost (\$)	156,463.23	139,958.39	-16,504.84 (-10.50%)
Total GHG Emissions Intensity (kgCO ₂ e/ft ²)	7.8	7.0	-0.80 (-10.30%)

Atlanta Laudato Si Initiative – Mission

To build greater solidarity among North Georgia Catholics to more fully hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor

To take urgent and impactful action to weave social, environmental and economic justice and sustainability into our Catholic way of life

- 1.2 million Catholics, 7 million people in North Georgia
- 120+ parishes and schools
- 340 diocesan and religious priests and seminarians
- ~ 400 buildings, with ~ 5 million square feet of space, on ~ 2000 acres

Atlanta Laudato Si Initiative – Objectives

1. Influence hearts, minds and behaviors of N. Georgia Catholics to align with LS
2. Create a culture of care for creation in each parish, mission and school
3. In the chancery, parishes, missions and schools:
 - Reduce energy by 25%
 - Reduce water by 25%
 - Reduce landfill waste by 50%
 - Reduce carbon footprint by 25%
4. Reduce the environmental impact of transportation
5. Improve how we access, buy, grow, and share food
6. Increase sustainability of land use
7. Acknowledge and accompany environmentally-vulnerable populations
8. Be active in the public square
9. Put into place infrastructure needed to maintain momentum and sustain LSI
10. Use Loaves & Fishes approach to funding.

Use a Realistic Approach: work plans, timelines, resource / cost estimates

Our approach for the Atlanta Laudato Si Initiative is built on:

- 108 of 128 parishes/missions/schools as active participants (80%)
- 7 Cohorts, with rolling start dates
- 3 Stages to cover 10 topics in the LS Action Plan
- 4-Phase improvement process for each parish and topic
- 3 years of assessment/planning support for each church/school
- 5 years of active LSI involvement by each church/school
- 7 - 10 years of support for the overall LSI.

Journey to the Atlanta Laudato Si Initiative (LSI)



The LSI is a 7 to 10-year effort based on the concept of integral ecology: meaning everything is connected. With Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si" as a moral compass, the LSI will build on the momentum of previous work.

Atlanta LSI – 2020 Accomplishments

Engaged Chancery, Parish/school Leaders

- Sustainability Coordinators engaged 12 more parishes/schools/Chancery

Coordinated Energy and Water Audits

- All 24 members of 2020 Cohort and 2017 Pilot have had energy audits. 20 had water audits. Some now plan to reduce energy use by 10 - 25% and water use by 20 - 50%!

Promoted the Laudato Si Initiative

- Georgia Bulletin, Inside Climate News, National Catholic Register, NPR/GPB.
- Radio Station WRFG, Eco-America Conference, UN Affiliate in Atlanta, UGA and GT university classes, etc.

Began Fundraising and Gathering Personnel Resources

- GIPL Energy Efficiency Grants: \$24,000
- Initiated relationships with collaborator organizations

Defined the Strategy and 7-year Plan for the LSI

- Made Progress during COVID, social unrest and Tropical Storm Zeta.





Building Momentum: 2022 and beyond

- Press release from Archbishop Hartmayer 2/10/22
- Align with Vatican Laudato Si Action Platform
- Increase resource availability of Sustainability Coordinators, Chancery, Partners, Collaborators to Parishes Schools
- Engage the 3rd Cohort of 12 parishes and schools
- Re-engage with 2017 and 2020 Cohorts
- Grow our fund-raising efforts
- Begin to investigate opportunities for Solar Energy

Celebrate Success!



"What kind of world do we want to leave to our children?"

Pope Francis



Atlanta Sustainability Program

Laudato Si Action Plan -

<https://archatl.com/laudato-si/>

Brian J. Savoie - bsavoie@archatl.com
404-909-9286

Susan M. Varlamoff – svarlamoff@comcast.net
770-618-9067

Questions?



Email us at: info@Catholicclimatecovenant.org

Catholic Climate Covenant
www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

Archdiocese of Atlanta
<https://archatl.com/laudato-si/>

Archdiocese of Chicago
<https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/care-for-creation-ministry/laudato-si-action-platform>



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.