

Laudato Si' Action Plan

Parish Name: Good Shepherd

Address: 70 Shepherd Way, Frankfort, KY 40601

Diocese: Lexington, Kentucky

Date: October 4, 2024

Laudato Si' Action Team Members (Names): Deacon Bob Amato, Mary Beth Robson, Father John Lijana. This individuals can be contacted at the parish office: 502-227-4511

Parish Laudato Si' Statement:

Good Shepherd is called to care for creation and be good stewards of our common home, the Earth.

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

1. Compost program
 - a. This program would consist of composting all of the food waste from the school cafeteria and utilizing the resulting soil in the gardens of the campus.
 - b. The anticipated time frame for this program is the fall semester of 2025.
 - c. Person responsible is unknown but would likely involve the school cafeteria manager, maintenance, and volunteers.
 - d. Franklin County solid waste office offered free composters in 2024; we are hopeful they will again next summer.
2. More reflective film on windows
 - a. This project will involve soliciting bids and analysis of the effectiveness of reflective film at reducing energy consumption. If the installation is deemed effective then we would contract to have the film installed.
 - b. The time frame is unknown due to budgetary considerations.
 - c. The responsible party is unknown at this time but would likely involve the facilities manager and the school security committee.
3. Idle reduction program for school pick up and drop off
 - a. This project involves communicating with school parents about the environmental benefit of turning off their cars while idling, especially while waiting in line (sometimes for hours) to pick up their children after school. The Division of Air Quality might be able to assist with signs.
 - b. The time frame for implementation of this program could be as soon as the Spring semester of 2025.
 - c. The school principal or designee would be responsible for this activity.
4. Other goals not yet fully developed: Conduct an energy audit

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

1. Start a helping hands group to assist parishioners
 - a. This group would be available for home and yard chores to help ailing parishioners.
 - b. Activities could be driving to appointments, light cleaning, and light yard work.
 - c. This program is conceptual and needs a champion to see it to fruition.
2. Continue supporting St Vincent de Paul Society
 - a. Good Shepherd Parish supports the St. Vincent De Paul Society– Good Shepherd Conference by having a collection after mass one Sunday per month, collecting food donations and clothing at the parish for distribution to the needy, participating in a giving tree for Christmas gifts to the needy, and parishioners are the primary officers and volunteers for the society, food pantry, and thrift shop.
 - b. This program is ongoing.
 - c. The St. Vincent De Paul Society– Good Shepherd Conference (Stephanie Sims, President) will remain responsible for this program.
3. Continue serving lunches several times a month at Kings Daughters Apartments
 - a. Good Shepherd Parish prepares and serves lunch at the low income apartments in South Frankfort. Teams serve three Saturdays each month.
 - b. This program is ongoing.
 - c. The existing team leaders will continue to organize this ministry.

Goal 3: Ecological Economics

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

1. Continue purchasing biodegradable plates etc. when possible
 - a. This existing program is an effort by the facilities manager to purchase green products such as compostable plates for parish events. This does not extend to the school cafeteria, but we will look for ways that it could.
 - b. This is an ongoing effort.
 - c. The facilities manager and the cafeteria manager will be encouraged to support this effort.
2. Hold a Share-a-Ride Sunday
 - a. This program would encourage parishioners to share rides to Mass together to reduce the amount of gasoline used for travel. It would also encourage social interaction among the parishioners. It would include promoting the idea at Mass and in the bulletin and other school and parish communications.
 - b. Implementation time unknown
 - c. Responsible party unknown
3. Buy local produce (or grow it) for school cafeteria
 - a. This program would involve contacting local food producers to determine the feasibility of using their produce in the school. It will also require direction from the diocesan school superintendent as to the legality and the effect the program may have on government funding for school lunches.
 - b. Time frame is unknown
 - c. Responsible party is unknown
4. Other goals not yet fully developed: Support local businesses with ethical ways

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

1. Reduce disposable, single-use utensils, plates, cups, etc.
 - a. This program involves encouraging all parish functions and staff to use “real” cups, plates, and utensils instead of disposable. This would reduce waste to the landfill and the need to manufacture the products.
 - b. This project is in line with the Franklin County proposal to ban single-use plastics and styrofoam.
 - c. This project could be initiated this fall with consideration to the proposal being given to the school principal and parish staff.
 - d. Responsible party is unknown
2. Have more trash cans and recycle bins outside
 - a. This initiative would combat trash from outside groups that rent our soccer fields. Trash is sometimes left behind.
 - b. Additional trash and recycle bins (lidded?) could be placed around the fields.
 - c. There may be grant funding or other from the Franklin County Solid Waste Department or the Division of Waste Management.
 - d. Timeline unknown
 - e. Person responsible unknown
3. Other goals not yet fully developed:
 - a. Promote recycling in the parish
 - b. Have a produce swap
 - c. Build a community or school garden
 - d. Use less paper in the classrooms

Goal 5: Ecological Education

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

1. Promote the concept of Laudato Si' In the parish
 - a. This element is a regular spot in the church bulletin, once a month, discussing Laudato Si' and ways to live it.
 - b. We will also post the same information on social media.
 - c. The Laudato Si' action committee will prepare these blurbs; the parish office manager will ensure that they are published.
 - d. Timeframe: begin January 2025
2. Other goals/ideas not yet fully developed:
 - a. Read and discuss Laudato Si in parish and school
 - b. More visuals about ecological education
 - c. Host a speaker on Care of Creation themes
 - d. Care for creation in school science and religion curriculum
 - e. Create terrariums for classrooms
 - f. More education time outdoors
 - g. Have environmental speakers (air quality, KAEE)
 - h. Environmental trips

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

1. More prayer experiences outdoors
 - a. We have a good start; with several processions into Mass such as on Palm Sunday and during Holy Week
 - b. We could come up with more activities in cooperation with Liturgy Committee
 - c. Timeline: begin during Lent 2025
 - d. Person Responsible: Liturgy Committee
2. Earth Day blessing with outdoor Mass, outdoor Rosary
 - a. This activity would require special permission
 - b. Timeline: April 22, 2025 Tuesday 8:15 am Mass
 - c. Person responsible: Pastor and the school Mass planning committee for that week
3. Other goals/ideas not yet fully developed:
 - a. Bless gardens
 - b. Have a harvest blessing

We commit to the following efforts to embrace this goal as a parish:

- Submitted on: (Date) 10-4-24

Fr. John J. J. J. J.

