Becoming Laudato Si’ As Dominicans
Join Us on the Journey

The Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas generously shared their Lenten process with us and inspired our Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee to create our own Amityville Dominican guide.

This creation is a simple prayer/study aid. It supports our new priority for Year 2 - *To become more aware of and committed to ecological spirituality*. We hope that you find it helpful. For each of the seven weeks of Lent we focus on one of the goals of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform.

This guide is meant to help us all learn more about Laudato Si’ and be in sync with our sisters and brothers of all faiths all over the world who recognize the urgency of Pope Frances’ invitation. The numbers next to the quotes are where you can find it in the encyclical in case one wants to look deeper into that section.

We are distributing it mainly on: FACEBOOK, TPC, and our Website. We suggest you download it or use it on your device.

Brought to you from JPIC and in particular

Mary Pat Neylon, OP ≈ Maureen Muir, OP ≈ Honora Nolty, OP
Goal One

Response to the Cry of EARTH

Our Common Home has fallen into serious despair. (#61)
We are called to respond to the Cry of the Earth.

Reflection Questions

1. How are you already caring for EARTH?
2. Where have you seen serious harm inflicted on the Earth in the local Long Island community?
3. Which environmental crisis cries the loudest?

Suggested Actions

1. Read the Introduction to Laudato Si’ and Chapter 1 – What’s Happening to Our Common Home
2. Click here
3. Think about the Native American Proverb --- “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” Name three things you specifically can do to help sustain and preserve Earth’s natural resources in our local community, for the next generations.

Lent 2023
Goal Two  

Lent Week 2

Response to the Cry of the Poor

In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the common good immediately becomes logically and inevitably a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters (#158)

Reflection Questions

1. In 1992 Columbus Day was changed to Indigenous Peoples’ Day. How do you feel about this and why?
2. What needs of the poor, present in your community, are due to environmental injustices?
3. Is there any need you are aware of and willing to address, even in some small way?

Suggested Actions

1. In 1992 Columbus Day was changed to Indigenous Peoples’ Day. How do you feel about this and why?
2. Visit LSAP Year 1 report, to see what has been done in your name to help those who are poor on Long Island. Click here
3. Is there any need that you are willing to address in some (even small) way?
4. How can you become more aware of the various ways the current environmental crisis negatively and unjustly impacted the poorest in our global society? In our local environment?
Goal Three  

Lent Week 3  

Ecological Economics

Many intensive forms of environmental exploitation and degradation not only exhaust the resources which provide local communities with their livelihood, but also undo the social structures which, for a long time, shaped cultural identity and their sense of meaning of life and community. The altering of ecosystems and the impositions of a dominant lifestyle are extremely harmful. (#145)

Reflection Questions  

1. The ecological crisis that we are in will not be solved by technology but by a change of individual hearts. What can you change in your life?  
2. What caused the water in Hampton Bays to need a re-furbishing with kelp to clean it up?  
3. How do the ways you spend money demonstrate your concern for the environment, a commitment to workers, and to people most vulnerable to the harm of climate change and environmental degradation?

Suggested Actions

1. Could you discuss/suggest Meatless Mondays as a practice in your local community?  
2. Take an inventory of all the plastics you personally use and see if there is some way you can decrease this.  
3. Shop locally.  
4. Learn about and support the project of reintroducing kelp into the waters off Hampton Bays  
5. When possible, research the business practices of the brands you buy.

Lent 2023
Goal Four  

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

The current global situation engenders a feeling of instability and uncertainty, which in turn becomes “a seedbed for collective selfishness.” In this horizon, a genuine sense of common good also disappears. As these attitudes become more widespread, social norms are respected only to the extent that they do not clash with personal needs. (#204)

Our lifestyle choices impact the world around us.

Reflection Questions

1. Living a simple lifestyle is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and “sobriety” in the use of resources. What small actions can you take to live more simply?

2. How will your actions to live more simply allow others to simply live?

Suggested Actions

1. Read The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis in Laudato Si’
   
   click here

2. When pondering the concept of “adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles”, what does the following statement mean for you specifically?

   “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

   (Mahatma Gandhi)

Lent 2023
Goal Five

Ecological Education

A sharpened basic awareness of our common origin, our mutual belonging, and a future to be shared with everyone, would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes, and forms of life. (#202)

Reflection Questions

1. How does the call to ecological education fit into our congregational vision? Our charism of preaching? [click here]

2. To what are you being invited?

Suggested Actions

1. Take some time to review a few websites dedicated to ecological education such as:

   [Click here] Education for EARTH” Live in the Multiverse
   [Click here] Catholic Climate Covenant

Lent 2023
Goal Six  

Lent Week 6

Ecological Spirituality

“All of creation is soaked with divine presence.”
(Brian Pierce, OP “We Walk the Path Together”)

Reflection Questions

1. How do you integrate ecological spirituality into your prayer life?
2. In a small group read and reflect on the Creation Story in Genesis – each of the 7 days. Share your thoughts on how you understand this reading considering the crisis effecting our world and common home.
3. How does seeing all of creation as connected change the way you see the world?
4. What effects has increased awareness of climate change had on my spirituality?
5. How might “less is more” guide my choices?

Suggested Actions

2. Integral Ecology - A Holistic, Community-Based Approach to Saving Our Environment - Bing video
3. Include Laudato Si themes in community, personal and ministerial prayer opportunities.
4. Unplug from technology and consumerism one day a week; take a walk in nature.

Lent 2023
Goal Seven

Lent Week 7

Community resilience and empowerment

Encourage the development of cultures and policies that protect our common home and all who share it.

Reflection Questions

1. Are you open to learn about other cultures and their ways?
2. If so, what is something you have learned about another culture that has changed your view or understanding of something?
3. Because we have come so far, we sometimes forget that because we can do something, possibly we should not do it for bigger and better reasons. Can you think of something that this may apply to?

Suggested Actions

1. Watch a movie this week that is about people of another culture other than your own.
2. View Welcome to the Anthropocene at Welcome to the Anthropocene - Bing video

Lent 2023