

“Our goal is not to amass information... but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.” (Laudato Si’#19).



PROVINCE OF ST. JOSEPH COMMITS TO *LAUDATO SÍ* ACTION PLATFORM

The crystal-clear springs in Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls, Montana take approximately 26 years to travel from the Little Belt Mountains to the Missouri River. This process is a great metaphor for the patience, prayer, and grace we need on our journey with God on the path toward integral ecology. The acceleration of increased global average temperatures is most recently noted by the August 2021 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The [report](#) makes clear that *we must act now* to avoid further irreversible damage to our Common Home.



With the support of our Provincial Minister and Council, the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission invites you to join us on a seven-year journey known as the [Laudato Sí Action Platform \(LSAP\)](#). Launched by the [Vatican’s Dicastery of Integral Human Development](#), the LSAP initiative began on the fifth anniversary of the encyclical to encourage institutions, religious communities, and families to make concrete goals with measurable outcomes toward a living and integrated ecology ([i.e. LSAP seven goals](#)).

What exactly is the Laudato Sí Action Platform?

It’s a call to take real steps toward a sustainable future informed by the spirit of *Laudato Sí*. On November 14th, the fifth World Day of the Poor, the LSAP site opened enrollment for the various institutions and religious communities that have been making [public commitments](#) in recent months. Next, communities like ours will use the first year of the process to discern and plan how they would like [to address](#) the seven goals of LSAP—(1) *Response to the Cry of Earth*; (2) *Response to the Cry of the Poor*; (3) *Ecological Economics*; (4) *Simple Lifestyles*; (5) *Ecological Education*; (6) *Ecological Spirituality*; and (7) *Community Involvement and Participatory Action*)—given their own charism, resources, and manageability.



[Watch Pope Francis’ LSAP invitation!](#)

International and local groups such as the Conference for Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), Laudato Sí Movement (formerly Global Catholic Climate Movement), Union of Superior Generals (UISG and USG), the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), etc. will coordinate support for religious communities implementing their plans.

What has our Province done thus far related to Laudato Sí?

In the summer of 2015, a retreat on *Laudato Sí* was held at St. Joseph Parish in Appleton, WI. At the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit, Earthworks Urban Farm has encouraged us to respond to the cry of the earth, while On the Rise Bakery with its social entrepreneurship has done so responding to the cry of the poor. Capuchin Community Services in Milwaukee has advocated for ecological economics and education, a call echoed by the Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investments and one of their founders, our brother +Michael Crosby. The aims of LSAP build on these and other efforts.

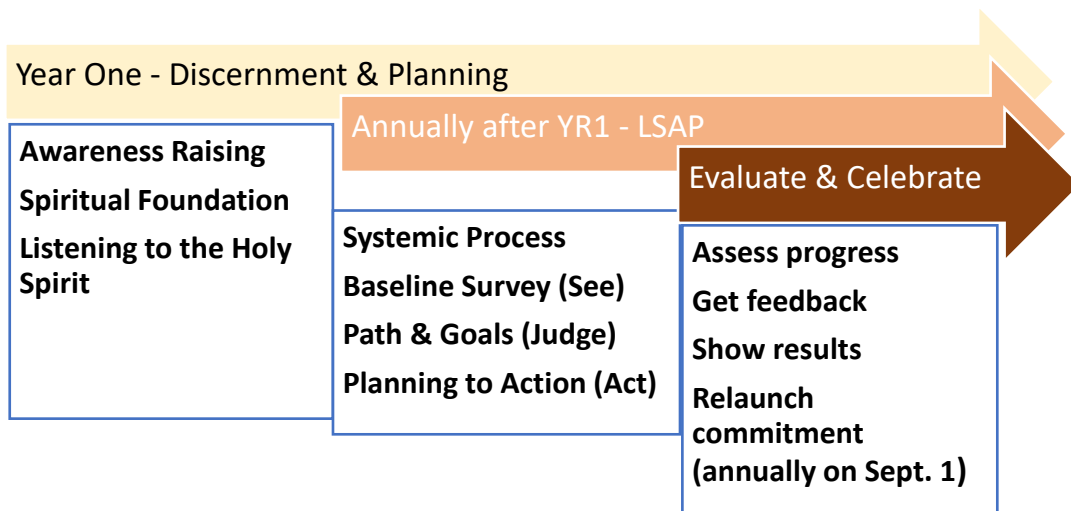
Why our province needs LSAP now...

As the climate change crisis intensifies, our world is faced with unprecedented challenges and transitions. To cultivate hope, we have an opportunity to set our sights on a path of [integral ecology](#). It's not about creating more work, but ensuring that our work will more intentionally, faithfully, and accountably reflect our charism and to respond to the signs of our times.

Social inertia is powerful. If we don't take this opportunity now, then this year will simply lead us to yet another year, and so on.... Pope Francis and the Holy See are calling us to respond not to a single issue like gun control, immigration, or abortion, but to develop a more comprehensive approach to address a fundamental threat to human life and our environment. Changing light-bulbs, recycling our cans and bottles, composting, combining errands to limit driving, installing solar panels, and other practices are a good start. But they cannot be the end of our efforts.

By making a LSAP public commitment, what are we required to do?

By making [this pledge](#), we're committing to planning, implementing, evaluating, and sharing our results with the rest of the Laudato Sí Action Platform community. CMSM has indicated that our first year through November 14, 2022—can remain solely a time to discern and plan what we as a province can do to fulfill the seven goals of LSAP by December 31, 2028. Once our plan is created, years 2 thru 7 will involve an annual process of assessment, evaluation, and re-commitment.



The JPIC Commission will take the lead on animating LSAP with individual friars and their regions or communities. We are blessed to know that we will be part of a broad coalition of men's and women's religious communities and dioceses, including the Order of Friars Minor, OFM Conventuals, Jesuits, Maryknoll missionaries, School Sisters of Notre Dame, 17 U.S. dioceses thus far including the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. If you have questions, please contact Br. David Hirt brodavid@thecapuchins.org or Br. Mike Dorn brmikedorn@gmail.com.

