



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops
Secretariat of
Justice and Peace

Ten Years of U.S. Catholic Engagement on **Laudato Si'**

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis challenged us to seek integrated solutions to combat poverty, restore dignity to the excluded, and protect nature. The following is a snapshot of how the Church in the United States has taken action over the decade to protect our common home through education, conversion, advocacy and more. More information is available at usccb.org/environment.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The USCCB has a long history of education and advocacy for our common home. Both just before and after the release of *Laudato Si'*, USCCB held press conferences, Congressional briefings and meetings, convened conferences to highlight the teaching of *Laudato Si'*, encouraged advocacy for our common home, and issued more than 110 bishop statements.

The USCCB continues to educate Catholics on integral ecology activities through study and prayer, and advocates for policies that protect our common home from climate change, pollution, and nature loss. The USCCB meets with lawmakers, writes letters and statements, and encourages U.S. Catholics and global church leaders to advocate with Congress and the Administration.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the domestic, anti-poverty work of the bishops in the U.S. and has invested in more than 80 organizations led by low-income people who are working to address environmental issues in communities across the United States in over 28 states and 42 dioceses.





Catholic Climate Covenant

The Catholic Climate Covenant helps U.S. Catholics respond to the Church's call to care for creation and the poor. Since *Laudato Si'*, the Covenant has equipped and supported more than 400 creation care teams, many grassroots advocates, and the Inter-Diocesan Creation Care Network. They strengthen youth- and young adult-led actions for our common home focused on formation and spirituality. The Covenant hosts U.S. Catholic *Laudato Si'* action plans from parishes, religious orders, schools, and dioceses. The Covenant also started the Catholic Energies program to support dioceses and parishes to adopt solar energy.



Catholic Charities USA

Catholic Charities USA carries out *Laudato Si'* through education, advocacy and essential services by supporting disaster resilience, response and recovery from extreme weather, adopting renewable energy, building climate resilient food systems, and workforce development opportunities in low-income urban and rural communities. Some local agencies adopted *Laudato Si'* action plans, installed solar panels, or became 100% plastic free facilities.



Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian and development agency of the U.S. bishops, works in over 100 countries to save lives and build lasting resilience. In addition to education and advocacy opportunities for U.S. Catholics, CRS provides lifesaving aid to sisters and brothers around the world helping confront the growing challenges of climate change through emergency response, reducing disaster risks, and long-term development planning such as resilient agricultural livelihoods.



Catholic Rural Life

Catholic Rural Life leads the program, "The Vocation of the Agricultural Leader" that has been presented to thousands of farmers in the U.S. and internationally. The program incorporates *Laudato Si'* and the role farmers and food leaders play in stewarding our natural resources while feeding a hungry world. CRL has presented to dioceses, parishes, colleges and seminaries on *Laudato Si'* and the countryside, focusing on the responsibility of Catholics to both learn the rich teaching of *Laudato Si'* and how to apply it in rural settings.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Across the country, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conferences and Councils operate 450 thrift stores that are committed to minimizing consumption by maximizing the reuse of clothing, furniture, and other goods. Communities with SVdP thrift stores divert thousands of materials from landfills. Hundreds more Vincentian locations operate food pantries and dining programs which, in addition to fighting hunger and ensuring neighbors are well fed, help to redistribute unsold food from grocery stores that would otherwise be discarded. In 2017, the national councils of the U.S., Mexico, and Canada approved the joint statement, "Environmental Stewardship and Ecological Conversion," underscoring the importance of collaboration to protect our common home.



Catholic Health Association

The Catholic Health Association serves communities by healing the sick, serving the poor and vulnerable, and leading by example. CHA has produced *Laudato Si'* focused reflections, videos, education materials, and webinars, including on the plastics crisis. In 2021, CHA joined the Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, in which Catholic institutions commit to goals in seven areas to address the ecological crisis. In 2021, Catholic health systems were among the first to sign up for the U.S. Government's Health and Human Services voluntary climate pledge. They have issued climate resiliency plans anchored in community health and equity. They partner with Catholic organizations, Health Care Without Harm, and the American Hospital Association to ensure the values in *Laudato Si'* are reflected in healthcare environmental sustainability practices and policies.



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