

## Creation Care Ministry

<p>Need help?</p> <p>Contact our Creation Care Officer: Norman Lévesque <a href="mailto:norman.levesque@dsjl.org">norman.levesque@dsjl.org</a></p> <p><b>Two outcomes when your parish takes care of Creation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reduction of the ecological footprint of the parish,</li><li>- Discovery of a spiritual dimension towards all of Creation (like the monks).</li></ul> <p><b>Seven fruits</b> (other benefits) when your parish takes care of the Creation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the presence of <b>young</b> people in the committee and activities,</li><li>- the hiring of new <b>volunteers</b>,</li><li>- the attractiveness of a new stimulating <b>project</b> for the community,</li></ul>	<p>In the Diocese of St-Jean-Longueuil, we care for our common home. Our natural environment is a gift from God. It is through balanced ecosystems that our Father provides for our needs (Mt 6:33). Thus, Christians are called to "cultivate and keep" (Gen 2:15) their environment and "to bring the good news to all creatures" (Mk 16:15).</p> <p>On October 4, 2011 (feast of Saint Francis of Assisi), Bishop Lionel Gendron appointed Norman Lévesque Creation Care Officer in the diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil. That was a first in the Church of Quebec. Since then, the parishes of our diocese have organized more and more activities that allow us to care for the environment which is not perceived as a landscape to look at or a resource to be exploited, but as the Creation of God to be contemplated.</p> <p>On June 19, 2015, our diocese held a press conference to mark the publication of the new encyclical Laudato Si. There was our bishop, Monsignor Lionel Gendron, the DG of Equiterre (environmental charity) and a meteorologist, to demonstrate the desire for dialogue that will allow us together to care for our common home.</p> <p>Why care for Creation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Because it is the <b>work of God</b>, created with Wisdom. It is through the Word that everything was created (Jn 1), and we know the Word: It's our Lord Jesus Christ! Every creature is a word and these words form a Book that we can read and listen to. Before the Holy Scriptures, Creation itself already revealed God (Rom 1, 25).</li><li>- Because the most <b>vulnerable</b> are the first to suffer from environmental degradation. Low-income people (without air conditioning) live in treeless neighborhoods where heat waves are amplified by heat islands. Farmers have to contend with more and more droughts and storms. Poor countries cannot adapt.</li><li>- Because our <b>descendants</b> will be impacted by our choices today. Rising sea levels threaten coastal cities and island</li></ul>
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- short and long term money **savings**,  
- **dialogue** with other Churches and other religions,  
- outreach to the neighborhood and  
- positive **media** coverage.

countries. Recurrent droughts threaten the ability to feed a growing world population.  
- Because several **species**, our brothers and sisters as Saint Francis of Assisi called them, are threatened with extinction if we do not conserve their habitats. Beluga whales and peregrine falcons could disappear like the passenger pigeon and the great penguin already have. If they disappear, their own way of praising God will be lost.

## RESOURCES

### ENCYCLICAL LETTER LAUDATO SI' OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

On the Vatican website:

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

Printed book:

<https://esubmitit.sjpg.com/cccb/index.aspx?component=ProductDetails&id=184-900>

Learn more:

<https://greenchurches.ca/tools/spirituality/laudato-si/>

### PLATEFORME D'ACTION LAUDATO SI

Your parish, family or religious community can sign up to take footsteps in the spirit of *Laudato Si* and join this international community of committed Catholics. You will receive recognition for your progress.

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

### GREEN CHURCHES NETWORK

The Green Churches Network provides practical tools to Christian communities who want to improve their environmentally friendly practices. These tools oriented towards action, education and spirituality enable them to successfully integrate the ministry of Creation care into their day-to-day church life.

It is possible to register your parish and benefit from plaques, advice, workshops and forums.

<https://greenchurches.ca/>

**CREATION CARE SCHOOL**

This school is for Christians who want to get involved in environmental action and awareness in their own local church. When a whole faith community starts caring for Creation, your church gets new media coverage and youth want to participate.

Start with a free course. Then move on to other inspiring courses about ministry, theology and spirituality.

<https://creationcare.teachable.com/>