

## St. Ignatius Parish

The work to care for our common home is ongoing in the context of the history of our parish.

- St. Ignatius is a Diocesan parish, staffed by Jesuits, neighbor to Boston College with parishioners from over 50 zip codes.
- Catholic teachings and practices are enriched by Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit initiatives: Spiritual Exercises, the Examen, the Universal Apostolic Preferences
- The Social Outreach Commission and the Peace, Justice & Reconciliation Commission are active in charitable work and presenting Church teaching on social justice.
- *Laudato Si'* and the 4<sup>th</sup> Apostolic Preference: Caring for our Common Home, are the basis for the work of the Green Team.
- Fr. Joe Costantino enrolled St. Ignatius in the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, November, 2021.
- We are working to become a "*Laudato Si'* Parish".

## Collection process

The Green Team organized a series of events and discussions for parishioners and parish representatives. Notes from these meetings are the source for the values and principles gathered in the reflection.

### Variety of voices in a variety of places

- Meetings and discussions with Fr. Joe Costantino, past pastor, and Fr. Jim Erps, current pastor
- Meetings with representatives of parish commissions: Faith Formation, Peace, Justice & Reconciliation, Social Outreach
- Meeting with student leaders of Boston College's Eco Clubs
- Meetings with parishioners: screening of *The Letter*; ecological examen; *ad hoc* discussion group

### Basis of discussion

- Review of mission and values the participants have shared publicly
- Presentation of principles in *Laudato Si'* – care for our common home; hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor
- Discussion and collection of values and principles important to St. Ignatius parish as we continue our journey to sustainability according to integral ecology

## Values and Principles

These are the values and principles for ecological action expressed by the church at St. Ignatius. They are arranged in sections, headed by either a quote from the Bible or from *Laudato Si'*. The name of the participants who expressed these thoughts is included. Some ideas were expressed in multiple discussion groups.

"Believers themselves must constantly feel challenged to live in a way consonant with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions." *Laudato Si'* 146

- Our work for the environment is enriched by a foundation of faith and animated by Ignatian spirituality. In caring for each other and creation we can encounter Jesus Christ. *Faith Formation and Parishioners*

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Chestnut Hill, Mass  
*Laudato Si'* Reflection – Parish Values and Principles

- Living and worshiping in an inclusive community enriches our faith and nourishes our daily lives with a variety of stories. *Parishioners and BC Student Leaders.*

“... everything is interconnected ... genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others.” *Laudato Si'* 70

- We must respect and protect all creation, recognizing the inherent dignity in all living things. *Fr. Joe and PJ&R Commission and Social Outreach Commission*
- From this dignity comes a recognition of the fundamental human rights due every person and all living things. *PJ&R Commission and Social Outreach Commission*
- We must care for ourselves and each other. Caring for the environment is a way to care for and support each other. *BC Student Leaders*

“... the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion.” *Laudato Si'* 217

- Our respect for all of creation, God’s gift, helps open our hearts and leads us on the journey toward ecological conversion. *Fr. Joe and PJ&R Commission and Social Outreach Commission*
- We must be thoughtful and careful participants in the exchange of goods and services. Consequences for the workers and the earth must be part of our choices in what we buy and how we care for the things under our control. *BC Student Leaders*
- We must pay attention to how ecological injustice, coming from our thoughtless actions, disproportionately affects the poor and the poorly represented. *BC Student Leaders and Parishioners*

“... I will demonstrate my faith to you by my works.” James 2: 18

- Faith and our work for justice are connected. Working for justice in partnership among parish groups and with other groups outside our parish helps build a vibrant community. *Fr. Jim, Parishioners and PJ&R Commission and Social Outreach Commission*
- There is a treasure house of church teaching on social justice, including ecological justice, that should be shared within our community of believers. *Parishioners.*

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” *Laudato Si'* 160

- Children are the first and most important students to learn about social justice. *Parishioners*
- Students and young adults, especially our BC neighbors, are a vital part of our work for ecological justice. They will bear the consequences of our past actions. *Parishioners.*

## Next Steps

At the same events, participants were asked to suggest activities that would bring to life the values they hold dear. These are collected and are the basis of the St. Ignatius *Laudato Si'* Action Plan.

This plan will be reviewed and updated annually, keeping in mind the values and principles gathered here.

As a member of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, the parish will continue its journey to become a *Laudato Si'* Parish.