



# STEWARDSHIP *Creation*

## A Guide to Stewardship of Creation

Creation is not just our environment—it's God's first gift, a sacred trust we are called to cherish, protect, and pass on.

Catholic stewardship of creation recognizes that the natural world reveals the beauty, order, and generosity of the Creator. To care for creation is to live gratefully. To misuse it is to forget the Giver.

Pope Francis teaches in *Laudato Si'* that creation is not a resource to be exploited, but a common home to be stewarded for the good of all—especially the poor and future generations.

Stewardship of creation means:

- Time: slowing down to contemplate God in nature and live simply.
- Talent: using your voice, skill, or influence to protect life and the environment.
- Treasure: supporting ministries, efforts, and habits that sustain God's creation.

## Best Practices

- Make thoughtful choices about what you buy, consume, and discard. Prioritize quality over quantity and avoid wasteful habits.
- Cultivate awe and thankfulness for nature as God's gift. Begin and end your day with a moment of gratitude for the created world.

## STEWARDS OF CREATION OPPORTUNITIES



### Stations of the Cross

Praying the Stations of the Cross outdoors at the retreat center unites us with Christ's journey while deepening our reverence for creation as sacred ground.



### Parish Ground Clean Up

A living expression of stewardship of creation—caring for God's earth while cultivating beauty, community, and gratitude.



### Catholic Charities

Donating gently used clothing to Catholic Charities is a simple act of stewardship that supports human dignity, reduces waste, and serves those in need with love.



### Community Gardens

A way to practice stewardship of creation—cultivating food, beauty, and fellowship while caring for God's earth together.

Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is  
essential to a life of virtue. - *Laudato Si'*, 217



# Creation Care Checklist for the Catholic Home

## Daily Living

- ☐ Turn off lights and unplug electronics when not in use
- ☐ Use reusable water bottles, shopping bags, and containers
- ☐ Limit single-use plastics and packaging
- ☐ Reduce food waste—plan meals and compost scraps
- ☐ Buy only what you need and choose quality over quantity

## Water & Energy

- ☐ Take shorter showers and fix leaks
- ☐ Run full loads in the dishwasher and laundry
- ☐ Adjust your thermostat a few degrees to save energy
- ☐ Use energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances

## Waste Reduction

- ☐ Recycle paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum where possible
- ☐ Donate or repurpose used clothing and household items
- ☐ Choose products with minimal packaging or made from recycled materials
- ☐ Compost at home or participate in a local composting program
- ☐ Host a swap or share event in your parish or school

## Creation & Catholic Social Teaching

- ☐ Pray for those affected by environmental injustice
- ☐ Support fair-trade and ethically sourced products
- ☐ Learn about Church teachings on creation (Laudato Si', Catechism, Genesis)
- ☐ Walk, bike, or carpool when possible
- ☐ Plant native trees or pollinator-friendly flowers in your yard

## Faith & Family Actions

- ☐ Celebrate a “Screen-Free Sunday” or “Energy Fast Day” as a family
- ☐ Pray a Rosary in thanksgiving for God’s creation
- ☐ Observe a family “Creation Walk” and pick up litter along the way

## Personal Commitment

This month, I will:

*(ex: start composting, walk to church, pray for the environment, etc.)*

Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God. - St. John Paul II