

From Archdiocese of Washington's Laudato Si' Action Plan Released Aug 2021

Download the pdf of the ADW plan at
<https://adw.org/living-the-faith/social-concerns/laudato-si-action-plan/>

MARKER 2:

Response to Cry of Those Who Are Poor/Vulnerable

- Listening to *'the cry of those who are poor or vulnerable'* means actively engaging all members of the Archdiocese of Washington in implementing *Laudato Si'*. This engagement means actively ensuring all communities; especially our cultural communities are consulted, listened to, and empowered to make decisions on environmental issues that affect them. Persons of all income levels including low-to-moderate income, the elderly, children, immigrants, people with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, racial and ethnic minorities, and indigenous people must be included in discussions and decisions related to their communities. There are people in the Archdiocese of Washington who are suffering from the effects of structural environmental consequences due to climate-change such as: rising temperatures, rising sea levels, intense flooding, severe drought, and dangerous fires. These consequences have resulted in water scarcity, devastated many farming communities, and people forced to flee their countries for better lives as climate refugees. Such climate refugees (e.g. from Central America and Africa) can be found in our communities, and some of them encounter discrimination in the archdiocese and this country.
- The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted additional injustices, as people of color¹³ were more likely to work in jobs that put them at risk along the food supply chain, in hard-hit meatpacking and food processing plants, and in grocery stores. People of color also were more likely to lose their jobs and become food insecure due to their disproportionate representation in sectors of the economy that could not be shifted to working from home during the pandemic's shutdowns.
- As we work towards environmental justice, we must also work towards ensuring racial justice. We must be mindful of the Church's teachings that God created the Earth, and all people are made in God's image and likeness and therefore, deserve to be treated with dignity.

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes and schools:

- Create or expand parish and school libraries to feature a variety of voices and experiences on the impact of watershed pollution on low-income communities (easy)
- Explore local ecological educational opportunities in your community to learn about environmental justice (e.g. Tour [Blue Plains](#) in Washington, D.C., the largest advanced wastewater plant in the world; [Chesapeake Bay Foundation Educational Tours.](#)) (easy)
- Volunteer to do a parish clean-up (easy)
 - Assist vulnerable persons (easy to advanced)
 - Know your neighbors, develop relationships with one another (easy)
 - Run errands for those who need assistance in your neighborhood (easy)
 - Develop awareness of programs that can assist vulnerable persons (easy)
 - Support local charity programs to help and assist vulnerable persons, such as [Catholic Charities DC](#), [Catholic Relief Services](#), [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) (easy to advanced)
 - Contribute food or financial donations to your parish food pantry (easy to advanced)
 - Develop or expand parish emergency funds to help individuals with energy, water, and other bills (moderate to advanced)
- Volunteer with a local clean the waterways project: [Sweep Sligo Creek](#), [Chesapeake Bay](#), and [Anacostia River projects](#) (moderate)