

# Laudato Si' Project

Newsletter

Restoring Our Natural Connection



**Mission: To restore humanity's connection to the natural world through education, stewardship and recreation**

Fall 2017



## Furthering Our Mission

We have worked very hard in the last 2 years to further our mission of "Restoring humanity's connection to the natural world through Education, Stewardship, and Recreation." Infused in everything we do is a faith-based approach to helping instill a conservation ethic among people based on Church teaching and realized through experience. Our philosophy is that if someone encounters Christ through nature and recognizes our call to participate in its stewardship, then they are much more likely to infuse this into their lifestyle and decision making.

This is what we call Living *Laudato Si'*.

**Thank You** to our members who are a crucial part to the success of our mission!

Consider giving the year-long gift of a LSP membership to a family member or friend this year.

-Joe Meyer; Executive Director



Laudato Si' Project

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# Prairie Planting

Fall is a really busy season in regards to prairies because it is the time to collect seed and one of the best times to plant. We have worked on many prairie projects this Fall season including:

- The seeding of a 2-acre oak opening at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center with 2 school groups
- Planting of a butterfly garden at Milwaukee Parkside School for the Arts with the kindergarten students
- Beginning preparation for the Ralph Schoofs Memorial Educational Butterfly Garden on the Schoofs Preserve.
- Prairie plantings for 2 private land-owners



# Land Stewardship

We have continued our stewardship work with various groups including St. John Vianney School, St. Theresa of Calcutta Parish, Marquette High School and Cristo Rey High School



# Living *Laudato Si'* Highlights

## Fall Retreats

Canticle of Creation Skit



St. Dominic Students



This Fall, *Laudato Si'* Project collaborated with two Catholic schools, St. John Vianney and St. Dominic, to offer a middle school retreat experience focused on prayer, relationships and stewardship. The retreats were based on the message of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and integrated care for the poor and care for creation. Over 200 students participated! See our quotes and prayers on page 6.



SJV 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



Principal Mr. D

SJV 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



# From LSP Retreats

"GOD NEEDS OUR HELP TO CARE FOR THE EARTH" -AMELIA

"We need to care for and protect the intricate works of God in nature" -Sara



"It was a great time away from the pressures of the world to think about God's Creation" -Adam

I believe this experience as brought me closer to God and my faith. I learned that I can just sit in nature and listen to God"

"It was really fun to connect with God. I heard him speak to me about how to serve him and to go out and do things for the needy" Michael

Dear God,

We praise you for all the wonderful things you have made in Nature.

Thank you for all your beautiful creations that you have given us.

Please give us the guidance to be caregivers of God's beauty so that we become good people.

Amen.

Dear God,

Please give us the leadership to show respect to your creation, and give us the strength to love the people and animals living in it.

Amen.





# LSP 2 Year Anniversary



In February of 2018, Laudato Si' Project will be turning 2 years old! In 2015, Pope Francis built upon Church teaching with his writing of *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. The following year, Joe Meyer founded Laudato Si' Project. Within 2 years of the organization's birth, Laudato Si' Project created partnerships with over a dozen schools and parishes, reaching over 1000 students. Countless projects around WI and elsewhere in the country have begun as a result of these partnerships.

All of these accomplishments are because of the grace of God and our generous members! Membership creates a consistent revenue base for Laudato Si' Project and allows us to create more partnerships, more projects, and reach more people- **Thank You!**

**Consider giving the gift of a LSP membership to a friend or family member this year. Individual \$35, Family \$50, Business \$100**

## Laudato Si' Project Wish List

Keep Laudato Si' Project in mind this Holiday Season

*From the Garage*

- Bypass Loppers
- Hand Saws
- Chain Saw
- Backpack Sprayer
- Truck

*From the Store*

- Menards
- Home Depot
- Hardware Store

Gift Cards to

- Amazon
- Lowe's
- Wal-mart

## By The Numbers: Fall Care for Our Common Home

### Education

Laudato Si' Project has conducted **24 hours** of presentations, interpretive hikes, and educational tours.

### Stewardship

Laudato Si' Project has contributed **231 volunteer hours** in stewardship projects to better the ecological value of our world's outdoor places.

### Recreation

Laudato Si' Project has sponsored **5 hours** of recreational outings to visit, explore, and learn about our natural world.

*Laudato Si' Project* is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization that depends on membership and donations to continue its vital mission. Thank You!