

Laudato Si' Project

Newsletter

Restoring Our Natural Connection



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

Spring 2018



Spring's a great time *Care for Our Common Home*

There is nothing like spring to get you outside. Despite the emotional rollercoaster that was Wisconsin's spring this year, it still offered many chances to pay attention to the subtleties that make this season great. The first flowers popping up, a robin nesting or even finding morel mushrooms.

We were blessed this spring to help several schools connect their faith to *Care for Our Common Home* through retreats and stewardship projects. We also helped our native pollinators by planting 5 butterfly gardens for schools, preserves and private landowners.

St. Jude 6th Graders on Retreat at Schoenstatt



As we enter the summer months, I pray that you may encounter Christ both through your interactions with people and our natural world.

-Joe Meyer, Executive Director

Laudato Si' Project

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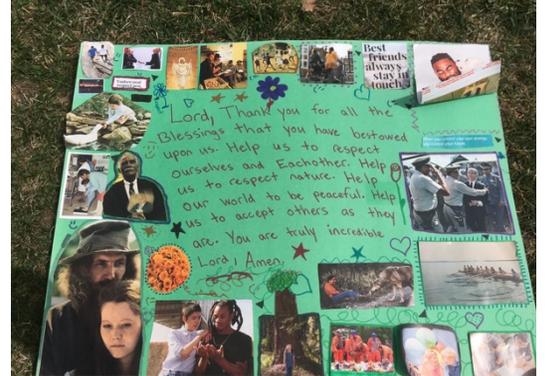
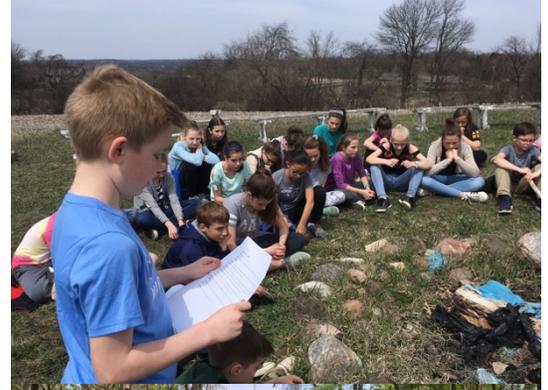
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Laudato Si' Retreats

Laudato Si' Project led both the 6th and 7th graders of St. Jude the Apostle in their retreats this spring. This is part of a continued partnership with Marquette University High School, Laudato Si' Project and middle schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The 6th grade retreat focused on *Respect, Peace and Acceptance*. The weather could not have been better and the students were able to experience a fun, faith-filled retreat that drew them closer to God, one another and creation.

The 7th grade retreat focused on *Leadership*. Students explored prayer and journaling to grow in their faith. In the afternoon, students showed leadership through stewardship of our woodland site at Schoenstatt Retreat Center.



Care for Creation

Live Animal Program with Wanakia Wildlife



We just began our new partnership with Wanakia Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The Richfield-based center takes in injured animals with the ultimate goal of being able to release them back into the wild.

Our partnership with Wanakia allowed us to run a Care for Creation campaign and educational program at St. Gabriel Catholic School in Hubertus, WI. Students and families donated items to be used in the rehabilitation efforts at the center. Students got to see and learn about birds and mammals in their backyards and how to better care for them.

Wildlife Monitoring and Ecology

In an effort to allow for hands-on wildlife encounters and connect more people to actual ecology research, LSP hosted an event focused on showing the various ways biologists use to study and monitor our wild animal populations. This gave an opportunity to see some unique Wisconsin species up close. Monitoring and live trapping included small mammals, snakes, turtles, salamanders, fish and birds.



Native Butterfly Gardens

Spring is planting time and this spring was all about butterfly gardens. These gardens are part of an effort to boost our native pollinator populations and educate people about using beneficial native plants in landscaping.

Although the monarch butterfly has become the poster child for the decline in pollinators, the diversity of Wisconsin bees, wasps, butterflies, and other pollinators is staggering. These native plantings not only support those larvae that are obligated to a particular plant but allow for a source of pollen/nectar and overwintering habitat.

We planted our 3rd butterfly garden at Milwaukee Parkside School for the Arts. This time it was the 5K and 1st grade classes sponsoring and assisting with the planting. We also planted a butterfly garden at St. Dominic Catholic Parish in Brookfield. This project was part of an 8th grade graduation service project.

Lastly, we completed the Schoofs Legacy butterfly garden on the Schoofs Preserve, owned by Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.

GET TO KNOW POLLINATORS

WITHOUT POLLINATORS, THE WORLD WOULD BE LESS DIVERSE AND LESS DELICIOUS!

BUMBLEBEES
The champions of food-crop pollinators! Bumblebees are threatened by habitat loss, pesticides and the spread of bee diseases.

FIREFLIES
Common visitors to sunflowers, fireflies are threatened by light pollution, pesticides, pollutants and loss of habitat.

HAWK MOTHS
Night-time pollinators with a super-long tongue to pollinate papayas, orchids and more. They are threatened by habitat loss, insecticides and possibly light pollution.

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES
Majestic migrators that travel up to 3,000 miles one way. They are threatened by deforestation and the loss of California's native milkweeds.

HUMMINGBIRDS
Important pollinators of some wildflowers, hummingbirds are threatened by loss of habitat and insecticides.

WFM.COM/POLLINATORS

WHOLE FOODS MARKET



LSP in the Media

Laudato Si' Project was blessed to be able to share what we do to national audiences both on Relevant Radio's Morning Air with John Harper and the National Catholic Reporter. What a privilege to be able to spread the message of integral ecology and how our faith calls us into action. Both messages centered around the theme that environmental stewardship is essential to a life of virtue in Christianity.

On Relevant Radio, Joe Meyer discussed Care for our Common Home and how it can be put into action at schools and parishes. The NCR article highlighted the sustainability fair that took place last summer, as well as, our work at Schoenstatt Retreat Center and retreats for St. John Vianney Middle School.



100.1 FM / 1640 AM

relevantradio.com



Service Projects and Stewardship

St. Alphonsus, Cristo Rey and MUHS

We had several stewardship projects this spring. St. Alphonsus 7th graders came out to Schoenstatt Retreat Center as part of a service project to better understand our role as Catholics who care for creation.

We really enjoy our partnership with Tall Pines Conservancy. We joined forces to work collaboratively with the Town of Merton at the Oconomowoc River Conservancy Park. MUHS students, LSP volunteers, and Tall Pines Conservancy worked to create a hiking trail there that will allow hikers to access the 2nd highest point in Waukesha County.

Cristo Rey High School joined LSP at Schoenstatt Retreat Center for the 4th season in a row to continue stewardship on the land. Students continued invasive buckthorn removal to restore the woodland to a better ecological state.



Farewell to John Azpell; LSP Board Member

LSP Board of Directors

John Azpell has been part of LSP board of directors since its founding over 2 years ago. He was instrumental in organizing many of our stewardship work days and our partnership with Cristo Rey High School in Milwaukee.

We are happy for John and his family who will be relocating to Colorado where he will continue his career in Catholic education. We thank him for his work, faith, and passion. We pray that God may guide him in this next chapter of his life.

Nate Lasnoski *Chairman*
Ryan Grusenski *Secretary*
Andy Schoofs *Treasurer*
John Azpell
Matt Vogel
Quentin Maxwell

Upcoming Events

****Dates are subject to change: call if interested or check facebook for up to date information*

June

Mon.-Thurs., June 11-14th
Catholic Camp Volunteers

Sat., June 23rd
Clean Water Festival on
Pewaukee Lake

July

Sat., July 7th Milwaukee Youth
Ecology Hike

Sat., July 21st Prairie Ecology
Hike, more details to come

August

Sat., August 25th Wildlife
Monitoring and Ecology,
more details to come

By The Numbers: Spring Care for Our Common Home

Education

Laudato Si' Project has conducted **28 hours** of presentations, interpretive hikes and educational tours.

Stewardship

Laudato Si' Project has contributed **295 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!