*All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.*

– Pope Francis, Laudato Si', *paragraph 14*

# 15 Ways Your Family Can Care for Creation

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.

Consider how you and your family will care for God's creation in 2025 and beyond. Check out the these ideas:

1. **PRAY.** Set aside time every day or week to pray as a family, thanking God for the gift of creation and the beauty of nature.

2. **LEARN.** Read *Laudato Si': On the Care For Our Common Home*, other books, or check out videos or podcasts about environmental issues.

3. **EXPLORE NATURE.** Spend more time outdoors. Go for walks. Take a hike. Sit under a shade tree. Observe the natural world around you!

4. **PICK UP TRASH.** Organize a community clean-up or go out as a family to clean up the earth.

5. **PLANT SOMETHING.** Plant a tree, a garden or even a pot of flowers. Check out what plants are native to Minnesota and add them to your yard.

6. **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.** Instead of throwing things away, consider if you or someone else could re-use, repurpose or recycle.

7. **SHOP LOCAL AND FAIR.** Shop your locally owned businesses, second-hand shops and look for fair trade items such as coffee or chocolate.

8. **SAVE WATER.** Take shorter showers, turn off water while brushing your teeth, only do a full load of laundry, etc.

9. **GET A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE.** Stop using single use plastic water bottles.

10. **REDUCE PLASTIC USE.** Look for ways to cut back on plastics, i.e. buy laundry soap in sheets vs. plastic bottles, use re-usable shopping bags.

11. **CUT BACK ON WASTE.** Try to purchase only the food you will need, use all you have and eat leftovers. Share your excess food with others!

12. **CONSERVE ENERGY.** Lower thermostat a few degrees in the winter, raise it a few degrees in the summer. Unplug appliances that use power continuously when not needed. Turn off lights when you leave the room. Unplug chargers.

13. **CARE FOR THE POOR AND THE VULNERABLE.** Donate your used items that still have good life in them to charities and thrift stores. Support or be a part of parish ministries that help those in need.

14. **SUPPORT CHARITABLE EFFORTS AND ORGANIZATIONS.** Join a movement or support a national or international organization that cares for the poor and vulnerable or environmental concerns.

15. **ADVOCATE.** Become informed about environmental issues. Urge your elected officials to work for a more sustainable future and care for the people and places throughout God's creation.