



## Caring for Creation: The Feast of St. Francis, October 4

- Who** Mission Integration, Marketing/ Communications, Green Teams
- What** Communication and activity opportunities for the Feast of St. Francis  
Create awareness of the Environmental Stewardship Program  
Opportunity to join the local Green Team
- When** October 4  
Plan 2-3 weeks in advance
- Where** Cafeteria or building lobby for booth  
Chapel for prayer service  
Community garden or facility grounds for community outreach

### Program Ideas

1. Distribute CHA prayer cards – free, order by September 26
  - a. Laudato Si' prayer cards, 5" x 7" (Pope Francis' encyclical, 2015)  
<https://www.chausa.org/store/products/product?id=3082>
  - b. Respect for Creation prayer cards, 5" x 8"  
<https://www.chausa.org/store/products/product?id=2683>
2. Suggested activities for Green Teams:
  - a. Link with local Mission Integration and Marketing/ Communications to plan communications and activities
  - b. St. Francis Pledge (now Laudato Si' Pledge) <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/pledge>
    - i. Opportunity for Executive Sponsor signing ceremony, kick off renewed Green Teams. See Page 2 for a list of actions to include in the commitment.
  - c. Integrate prayers to honor creation into planned liturgies, prayer services or broadcast prayers on public announcement system
  - d. Post-it Note Activity: Set up an easel or provide a whiteboard in the cafeteria or building lobby. Provide post-it notes and pens. Ask associates and visitors to write ideas for green projects and activities on note cards and display on the easel. Collect ideas and submit to the Green Team to review and implement.
  - e. Community outreach event ideas:
    - i. Assist a local garden
    - ii. Clean up facility grounds
    - iii. Advertise a local farmer's market
    - iv. Highlight community recycling policy/locations, including electronics recycling, hazardous chemical and drug take-back days
    - v. Organize a shoe collection drive and walking event such as the St. Vincent Walk for the Poor, September 30, <https://www.fopwalk.org/>

The Environmental Stewardship Program provides a framework for the organization to act as stewards of God's creation and operate at our full potential by identifying and implementing practical solutions to minimize the organization's impact on the natural environment and the communities we serve.

We are providing ideas for your facility to unite in prayer and action on behalf of creation as we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology.

For assistance with your Feast of St. Francis events, contact Lois Sechrist, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, [Lois.Sechrist@medxcelfm.com](mailto:Lois.Sechrist@medxcelfm.com), 314.733.8071

To learn more about the Environmental Stewardship Program, visit <https://ascension.org/about/community-impact/environmental-stewardship-program>



### Take the Go Green Pledge

Let us know what you will do at work and home to be a better steward of the environment.

To take the Pledge, individuals and communities commit themselves to:

- **PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God’s Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
- **ACT** to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
- **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

What are three commitments you can make at home?

- Replace fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs with LEDs
- Purchase Energy Star rated appliances
- Participate in your community’s recycling program for cardboard, plastic, paper and metal
- Install water-efficient shower heads, faucet aerators and low-flush toilets
- Walk or ride a bicycle to work
- Carpool or use public transit
- Plant drought-tolerant and native species in your yard
- Use nontoxic cleaners
- Reduce your consumption of meat — go meatless on Fridays
- Eat local, organic or chemical-free foods
- Purchase products from companies that are dedicated to environmental responsibility
- Use biodegradable trash bags
- Other (list here) \_\_\_\_\_

What are two commitments you can make at work?

- Turn off your computer at night
- Turn off lights after leaving a conference room or office
- Recycle paper, cardboard and/or plastic
- Re-use beverage containers instead of throwing a cup away every day
- Use dishes and silverware instead of single-use disposable food service items
- Bring your lunch in reusable storage containers
- Host green meetings using digital materials instead of paper copies
- Print two-sided
- Abstain from using Styrofoam products
- Don't purchase bottled water for meetings
- Pray
- Other (list here) \_\_\_\_\_