

**PRAYER CHAIN**



pray for others

request prayers

Be a link in our parish email prayer chain contact Lee Griggs in the parish office 812-425-1577 x207 or lgriggs@evdio.org

**COURAGE** is a Catholic organization that offers hope and support for men and women with same-sex attraction who wish to live chaste lives. For more information go to their website; couragerc.org or email Courage@evdio.org

Wanting to schedule a Wedding at St. Mary Church? Please contact the parish office for more information 812-425-1577



**Sts. Mary & John Parish Council**

- Christy Baker
- Carolyn DiLegge
- Der'rik Hardin
- Kody Johnson
- John P. Radez
- Richard Burek
- Dawn Dixon
- Chris Jackson
- Pauline Kothe
- Margie Schellhase

**Diocesan Policy: Report and Inform**  
Immediately report suspected abuse or neglect of a minor (under 18yrs old) to the Department of Child Services (DCS) Toll-free: 800-800-5556. or to local law enforcement 9-1-1  
In the event of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by diocesan personnel, report the allegation to authorities, and inform the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the diocese. Toll-free: 866-200-3004, local: 812-490-9565. To report allegations of sexual misconduct involving bishops of the United States, or to report their intentional interference in a sexual abuse investigation, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting service. Toll-free: 800-276-1562, or report online: ReportBishopAbuse.org.

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stsmaryandjohnparish.org



**Pentecost Sunday**  
May 24, 2026



**Sts. Mary and John Catholic Parish**

St. Mary Church

613 Cherry Street, Evansville, IN 47713  
Office: 812-425-1577 fax: 812-426-1416

**STAFF**

- Fr. Eugene Schmitt, Pastor**  
eschmitt@evdio.org | 812-425-1577 ext. 205
- Deacon Dennis Russell**  
drussell@evdio.org | 812-425-1577
- Deacon John McMullen**  
jmcmullen@evdio.org | 812-425-1577
- Kim Kuehn, Office Manager**  
kkuehn@evdio.org | 812-425-1577 ext. 210
- Pat Fitzsimmons, Director of Outreach**  
pfitzsimmons@evdio.org | 812-425-1577 ext. 225
- Lee Griggs Communication and Membership**  
lgriggs@evdio.org | 812-425-1577 ext. 207
- Tina Schutte, Music Director**  
tkraibley@evdio.org | 812-425-1577 ext. 208
- Marcela Guivas, Youth Coordinator**  
mguivas@evdio.org | 812-425-1577
- Bret Mitchem, Maintenance/Custodian**  
812-425-1577

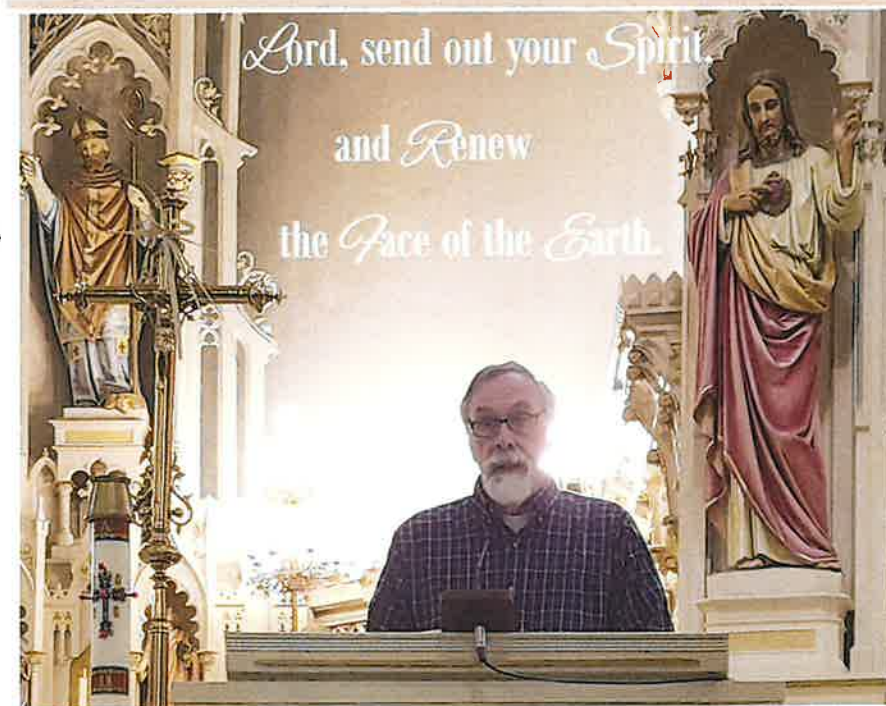
**Turn in bulletin items Tuesdays by 4pm**  
**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8 am- 4 pm  
**Food Pantry Hours:** Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 9 am-Noon and 1-3 pm

**WEEKEND MASSES**

Saturday Mass 4:00 pm | Confession 3:15-3:45 pm  
Sunday Mass 10:00 am | Confession 9:15-9:45 am  
Sunday Mass 4:00 pm | Confession 3:15-3:45 pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
Adoration 11:00 am | Confession 11:30-11:55 am | Mass 12:05 pm



**Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation** Please contact the Parish Office about sacramental preparation, to schedule a Baptism or info on sacrament schedules.

**Become Catholic - OCIA** We welcome you and are here to help answer all those questions from the call that God is inviting you to follow. Contact the Parish Office.

**Marriage** Couples planning to marry need to contact the parish office at least 6 months prior to their anticipated wedding date.

**Anointing of the Sick** Offered first weekend of each month after Masses. Or to schedule a time to be anointed please contact the Parish Office.

A diverse, welcoming and vibrant Catholic community committed to living out the Good News of Jesus Christ through word, sacrament and service.

**project rachel**  
post abortion healing ministry  
begin to heal  
email: projectrachel@evdio.org Peace starts here  
phone: 812-483-7821

**BROWNING**  
Every life has a story to be told...  
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738 Diamond Ave. Evansville IN 47711

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evansville@fibrenew.com Fibrenew.com/Evansville

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Central: 626 First Ave.  
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Jerry and Daniel Ziemer

Our parish reaching out...  
Food Pantry and St. Vincent de Paul  
Your generosity is helping those in need. Thank you!

**CK**  
United Sheet Metal & Mechanical Inc.

4612 First Ave.  
812-428-0005  
North Park Shopping Center

**Daniel A. Gaffney MBA**  
Financial Advisor  
C: 812-457-5145  
O: 812-518-9090  
F: 812-602-6390  
dgaffney@oneindianafinancial.com



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DunnHospitalityGroup.com

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220 Kirkwood Drive  
HIExpress.com

**Hampton Inn**  
EVANSVILLE AIRPORT  
(812) 464-1010  
1701 U.S. 41 North  
HamptonInn.com

**Riverwalk COMMUNITIES**  
Adult Day Services/Assisted Living Facility  
• Medicaid/VA Accepted  
• Daily Activities  
• Medical/Nursing Services  
• Assistance with ADLs  
• Therapy Services  
• Transportation  
• In-Style Meals  
• Out Trips  
Riverwalk is the Tri-States only VA provider for Adult Day Care Services and one of the only Medicaid Assisted Living Facilities. Come in for a tour or visit our website at www.riverwalkcommunities.org  
401 S. 10th Street Evansville IN 47713 (812) 425-1041

**State Farm**  
Dan Watzlavik • Paul Watzlavik Agency  
• Your Local Agent -  
- Knights of Columbus  
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace  
- 100 Guys Who Care Evansville  
- Walking for Dreams  
• Parishioner  
8688 Ruffian Lane, Newburgh, IN  
Bus 812.422.1195 Cell 812.270.0540  
daniel.watzlavik.vaajl9@statefarm.com

"committed to every guest...every time"

**This Week in the Parish**

Sunday 5/24	Monday 5/25	Tuesday 5/26	Wednesday 5/27	Thursday 5/28	Friday 5/29	Saturday 5/30
<b>Pentecost</b> Confession 9:15-9:45 am Mass 10:00 am  Confession 3:15-3:45 pm Mass 4:00 pm	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of the Church Memorial Day</b> Parish Office and Food Pantry closed Adoration 8 am Confession 8:30 Mass 9 am	Food Pantry 9-12 and 1-3 Adoration 11 am Confession 11:30 Mass 12:05 pm  <b>St. Vincent de Paul in Ministry Center 5pm</b>	Food Pantry 9-12 and 1-3  <b>Choir Practice 6:30-8 pm</b>	Food Pantry 9-12 and 1-3  Adoration 11 am Confession 11:30 Mass 12:05 pm	Adoration 11 am Confession 11:30 Mass 12:05 pm <b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON</b>	Confession 3:15-3:45 pm Mass 4:00 pm



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS...**

Again this week it was busy assisting our neighbors with their needs. We helped 8 families with their CenterPoint bills. We had 5 people reach out for help with their rent. One family was in need of some furniture so we helped them with a furniture voucher from the St. Vincent de Paul Store. Please keep these Neighbors in your prayers. They appreciate all we are able to do for them. Thank you for your caring for our neighbors, your prayers and generosity.

**Food Pantry needs clean empty egg(12) cartons and grocery bags**

**Corpus Christi Procession**

On The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Sunday, June 7 after the 10:00 am Mass there will be a procession with the blessed sacrament around the parking lot and then back into church for Benediction. We ask you to join us in the procession or remain in church until we return for the benediction.

A Catholic parish is the single most important part of our Catholic church. This is where the mission of Jesus Christ thrives, we publicly express our faith, and join together with others to give witness of our connection with God and one another.

**WHY REGISTER IN A PARISH?**

- ~It gives a sense of belonging and identity in a parish community.
  - ~Gives parish community a way to welcome and connect you in the parish.
  - ~For the support of a faith family in times of joy or times of struggle.
  - ~It is a commitment to practice your faith
  - ~To be counted and heard in the parish.
  - ~Being included in demographics of the parish and helps in the planning for the parish needs.
  - ~In order to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, or Holy Matrimony you will need to be a registered member.
  - ~For religious education instruction and Sacramental preparation, the families of those attending must also be registered parishioners.
  - ~Will facilitate and help complete the registration if you have children who plan to attend a Catholic school.
- To register in the parish, please contact Lee Griggs in the parish office to receive a registration packet or pick one up from the table in church hallway.  
812-425-1577 x 207; lgriggs@evdio.org

**The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity  
May 31, 2026**

1st Reading; Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9  
2nd Reading; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Gospel: John 3:16-18

**Mass Intentions**

Sat. 5/23	4:00 pm	Rose Weiss
Sun. 5/24	10:00 am	Deceased members of the Burek and Supinsky families
	4:00 pm	Cecilia Phillips
Mon. 5/25	9:00 am	Deceased members of Jeff Payne family
Tues. 5/26	12:05 pm	Jerry Marx
Thurs. 5/28	12:05 pm	Rest of the soul of Timothy Mahoney
Fri. 5/29	12:05 pm	Alan Groves
Sat. 5/30	4:00 pm	Rest of the soul of Gene Thweatt
Sun. 5/31	10:00 am	Rest of the soul of Kathy Weinzapfel
	6/1	4:00 pm Catherine Bausch
Mon. 6/2	12:05 pm	William T. Collyer
Tues. 6/3	12:05 pm	Mary Ann Eickhoff
Thurs 6/4	12:05 pm	Mark Weber
Fri. 6/5	12:05 pm	John Weber

**MASS INTENTION envelopes in church. Please fill out and drop in the stewardship basket at Mass, or contact Lee Griggs in the parish office 812-425-1577 or lgriggs@evdio.org.**

*Prayer Request*  
Karen McBride, Catherine Jaramillo, Ramses & Ricardo Guivas, Jackie Eli, Henry Sibaja, Joe Stagg, Charles and Therese Asher, Marti Barrett, Gene Warren, Carolyn Skelton, Jaya Dodd, Basia Bazell, Lovella Martin, Chuck and Diane Hirsch, Dan DiLegge, Jean Ann Priestly, Jim Wall, Cap Berg, Paul Walker, Jim Lance,

**Pray for our loved ones in the Military...**  
Connor Day Staff Sgt. Shaun Nelson  
William Russell Staff Sgt. Nathan Ulrich  
Lt. Noah Huelsing LT Noah Algee  
Captain Corey Cannon Staff Sgt. Andrew Hicks (deployed)

**Hello and Welcome to our Parish!**

New to the area? Been attending here for some time?  
We invite you to become a registered members.  
Contact Lee in the parish office 812-425-1577 ext. 207 or email lgriggs@evdio.org.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026**

Annual Collection Budget \$ 578,060.00  
Year to date collection budget \$ 511,382.00  
Year to date actual collection \$ 518,334.45

**May 16-17, 2026 Collection**

Weekly Budget \$ 11,117.00  
Actual Weekly Collection \$ 11,685.83

**Alms \$0 StVdP \$2,603.54**

\*Summer Hours begin Friday May 22. The office will close at Noon on Fridays through July.

\*May 25 the office will be closed and Mass at 9:00 am

**LET US PRAY...**

That through gratitude and generosity, we as Christian stewards learn to open our heart and invite the Holy Spirit into our life!

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 5/23 Connor Day
- 5/24 Daighman Carter
- 5/25 Diane Hirsch, Jacob Purdy
- 5/26 Brenda Walling
- 5/27 Ed Goebel
- 5/31 Mark Michael, Jon Woebkenberg

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- 6/2 Dr. Daniel Brown
- 6/3 Leon Fendel, Kathryn Morris
- 6/5 Jerry Riley
- 6/6 George Stanley, John Williams

**Next Week Ministers for Mass**

**Sat. May 30, 4:00 pm**  
**Lector** Marge Schellhaus **EMHC-** Shery Lemmer, Sandi Render **Server-** Shery Lemmer **Ushers-** Daryl Schutz  
**Sun. May 30, 10:00 am**  
**Lector-** Der'rik Hardin **EMHC-** DeeDee Seib, Angela Smith **Usher -** Joe McConnell  
**Sun. May 31, 4:00 pm**  
**Lector-** Laurie Ewers **EMHC-** Brad Sims, Kody Johnson **Ushers-** Kody Johnson

**Creation Care...**

Thank you to all of you for your enthusiastic responses that made the Litany of Creation prayer possible. Please pick up a Litany Prayer bookmark to incorporate it into your daily prayers.

**May is National Mental Health Awareness Month.**

Founded by Mental Health America in 1949, this month is dedicated to educating the public, reducing stigma, and highlighting the importance of mental well-being.  
<https://namievansville.org/crisis-info>

On Easter Wednesday, April 8, 2026, the Bishops of Indiana published a pastoral letter, Integral Ecology; A Sacramental Vision. It is the fruit of a years-long consultation and study on the environmental issues impacting Indiana

"The care for our Common Home affects all people in our beautiful state and transcends political and ideological opinions and controversies. We and future generations need clean air, clean water and uncontaminated soil to live and thrive. This letter addresses the need to look at threats to these natural resources and encourages people of goodwill to seek common sense solutions to preserve the precious gift of God's earth. The Lord has entrusted to us the stewardship of our world: it is a stewardship we must all take seriously. \*Visit our website to view the letter and other info [stsmariandjohnparish.org](http://stsmariandjohnparish.org)

**Upcoming Events Around the Diocese**

St. Joseph Church Vanderburgh County Giant Parish Rummage Sale, Friday, June 5, 3-7 pm (Friday Shoppers pay double price - except for furniture) and Saturday, June 6, 7 -11 am (bag sale begins at 9:00 am). Food and drinks will be available KUCHENS are on sale.

**Pentecost - Stewardship Spirit**

*"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7*  
To receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and invite Him in! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words and actions every day! Be grateful for all the gifts God has given you! Regardless of our individual circumstances, God has given all of us many blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God! By generously sharing everything we have and everything we are, we become more "God-centered stewards" and less "self-centered" and our lives truly reflect God's light, love and mercy.

# INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

## A Sacramental Vision Summary

From the Indiana Catholic Conference



### Introduction

We, the Bishops of Indiana, offer *Integral Ecology: A Sacramental Vision* to expand on our previous teaching to Indiana Catholics, namely “Care for the Earth” (2000) and “Poverty at the Crossroads” (2015). The National Eucharistic Congress, held in Indianapolis in 2024, gave us a beautiful example of the love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The concept of **integral ecology** unites all these themes and helps us understand how human and natural ecology are interrelated.

Here in Indiana, we delight in the natural world, filled with a multitude of natural features: a Great Lake, rivers, streams, forests, prairies, wetlands, caves, sand dunes, and farmland. We are at home in this natural world yet also keenly aware that we are pilgrims journeying to our true home in heaven. Therefore, we are citizens of both creation (ecology) and of the Church (ecclesiology). Our particular home is a parish, which is rooted in a geographic place in the natural world while also rooted in the ecclesial order.

The Eucharist unites all the faithful into the one Body of Christ, the Church. It also gathers what is created (wheat and grapes) and offers it to the Creator himself. Indeed, “the Eucharist is the fulfillment of integral ecology,”\* where the human and natural are united in Jesus Christ himself.

### The Theology of Watersheds and Creation

Our ecological citizenship encourages us to understand that our homes are situated within a watershed, which is that area of land that sheds off its water to form a river. Most of the watersheds of Indiana eventually drain into the Ohio River, which joins the Mississippi River and empties into the Gulf at New Orleans. The smallest of many Indiana tributaries are connected to water that mingles with the oceans of the Earth.

Our common modes of living in a technological, digital, and urban age can drastically impact our ability to live well as earthly and heavenly citizens. While technology may have the ability to enhance our knowledge of the created world, a physical encounter with nature is what most transforms our ability to see the natural world as the prophets and saints did. A sacrament is a sign that points to a reality beyond itself, nature is a sign that points to God’s presence and loving care.

### The Natural and Human History of Indiana

Knowledge of the natural and human history of Indiana helps us better appreciate the beauty of our state, understand our place with-

in the created world, and reflect on our use of the goods of the Earth.

Most of Indiana’s landscape resulted from the last Ice Age, which ended around 10,000 years ago. The glaciers left behind abundant ground water, rich soils, and the flat land that make up the northern two-thirds of the state. Indigenous peoples, including the Potawatomi, Miami, Shawnee, Wyandot, and Kickapoo began inhabiting Indiana following glacial retreat.

The first Europeans in Indiana were French fur traders and Catholic missionaries. In 1834, Pope Gregory XVI, established the diocese of Vincennes which was renamed and moved to Indianapolis in 1898.

At the time Europeans first entered Indiana, they encountered primarily natural areas—forests, prairies, wetlands. Today, less than 1 percent of these natural areas remain. Changes to the natural environment reflect Indiana’s population growth: from 5,600 in 1800 to an estimated 6.9 million in 2024.

### Understanding Human Impact on the Natural World

#### *Biodiversity and Habitat Loss*

Our best knowledge today shows that humans are indirectly and directly driving to extinction some of the creatures entrusted to our care. Since the settling of Indiana, a few native species are now extinct, and dozens more are no longer found in Indiana or are considered endangered or threatened.

One of the most drastic ecological changes in Indiana since its settling is the loss of wetlands. The Grand Kankakee Marsh, once one of the largest wetlands in the world, was prolific with plant and animal diversity and abundance. Only 3 percent of the marsh remains after drainage and conversion to farmland began in 1852. Wetlands once covered about 24 percent of the state; today, only 0.03 percent remains.

#### *Agriculture*

Although Indiana is the smallest continental state west of the Appalachian Mountains, it is the ninth largest farming state in the country. The Church recognizes the vocation of farming to feed the human community but also points out the side effects of mechanization and other technological changes to increase food production. As the Bishops of Indiana, we advocate for farming that meets both human and ecological needs. Good farming does not degrade farmers and farmland nor animals and livestock. Rather, it restores relationships and treats people, land, and ani-

mals in accord with their God-given way of being.

Eating food is not merely about bodily nourishment. It is also about human relationships and communion. The Eucharist is a redemptive meal that restores us to friendship and communion with the Trinity. This heavenly meal is connected to the natural world; the “fruit of the earth” and the “fruit of the vine” become the body, blood, soul, and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The constitutive elements of sacramental bread and wine come about through sunshine, rain, soil, seeds, wheat, grapes, farmers, vintners, and agricultural laborers.

#### *Water*

Water gives life. It renews and refreshes. Our lives as Christians begin with the “clean and natural” water of Baptism. However, Indiana has some of the most polluted water in the country; 73 percent of streams/river miles are impaired and not suitable for full body contact. The impact of water quality on human health is considerable: decades of industrial pollution remain in rivers and channel sediments. *E. coli* contaminates almost 75 percent of Indiana streams and rivers, nutrient run-off from agricultural fields leads to serious problems.

Research on the long-term environmental impact, and the health effects of contaminants’ accumulation in the human body, is ongoing. Forty-five percent of drinking water sampled in the United States has detectable contamination—which can be transferred from mother to child in breast milk.

#### *Human Fertility, Marriage, and Family Life*

Atrazine, the second most commonly used herbicide in the United States, is an endocrine active chemical (EAC) that poses significant risks to plant and animal communities, including the feminization of male animals and the disruption of male sexual development. Atrazine in drinking water has also been associated with reproductive and developmental health problems in humans.

The most active and potent EAC is the synthetic estrogen found in the birth control pill. Experiments have shown that the addition of this synthetic estrogen at levels found in natural bodies of water caused fish populations to crash. The impact of these synthetic chemicals on the natural environment and human bodies is significant and intertwined with the Church’s teaching on married life and human sexuality.

#### *Energy Production and Consumption*

While fossil fuels, particularly coal, have provided a stable source of reliable energy for 175 years, have supported the welfare of many Hoosier families, and have bolstered Indiana’s economy, current estimates indicate that world coal resources will be depleted in about 100 years and that natural gas and oil supplies will be depleted in about 40 years. Burning fossil fuels effects human health (e.g., asthma, cancer) and environmental health (e.g., air/water pollution) far beyond local impact to regional and global levels. As we assess the current situation and look to the future, it is prudent to develop renewable energy sources while recognizing the limits of any technology.

### Cultivating a Serene Attentiveness

After addressing only some of the many challenges facing Indiana in caring for our common home, we, Bishops and teachers of the faith, focus primarily on a spiritual renewal that is foundational for all other responses to our ecological and human challenges. After all, the primary cause of the current ecological and social crises is a human heart enclosed in upon itself, alienated from God, neighbor, and creation. The conversion experience that we propose includes the following:

- We must recover our ability to rest on the Lord’s Day, which can help renew our ability to encounter creation.
- We, like Adam, can share the joy of naming God’s creatures, by getting to know those creatures that exist around us within the watershed in which we live.
- We must cultivate an attitude of “serene attentiveness” to God, ourselves, neighbor, and creation. We encourage parishes to celebrate the newly established Mass for the Care for Creation and to engage in prayer and in action during the Season of Creation (September 1-October 4).
- We must open our hearts to communal responses to caring for our common home, including learning from individuals and institutions in Indiana who have already taken concrete steps to better live in harmony with their natural environment. These actions can include installation of solar panels, cultivation of sustainable farms/gardens, and ecological restoration/reforestation.
- We encourage parishes, schools, institutions, groups, and individual people to engage the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform (LSAP) established by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. LSAP provides a structure for people to assess their relationship with both natural ecology and human ecology and to make commitments to actions that sustainably care for our common home.

### Conclusion

Biblically, our human life originated in the Garden of Eden, a Paradise of holy and just relationships among God, ourselves, and creation. Gardens are places of life, death, and rebirth that connect us to the Paschal Mystery of Christ in the Eucharist. May we learn daily to cultivate the garden of our hearts, so that the Holy Spirit might find fertile ground for the bearing of much fruit.

**A complete list of references contained in this summary may be found in the full text of *Integral Ecology: A Sacramental Vision*.**

\* Christopher Thompson, *The Joyful Mystery: Field Notes to a Green Thomism* (Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Road, 2017), 173.