



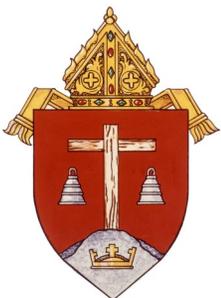
EXPLORING GOD'S BACKYARD

The very first story in scripture is that of God creating the world we live in. In the creation story, God instructs man to take care of all of his creation—which is a big responsibility! With the help of technology we understand how connected we are to everyone and everything on earth. We know that the choices we make will impact someone or something, because we are all connected. Especially in these difficult days, we are keenly aware of that connection. The week of May 16-24, Catholics around the globe celebrated the 5th Anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. An encyclical is a form of communication that the Pope uses to highlight some aspect of Catholic teaching. This encyclical focuses on our care for God's creation, and challenges us to pray and act for our common home.

We are pleased to offer a family centered Vacation Bible School inspired by *Laudato Si'*. The four themes of Air, Earth, Space and Water are full of ideas to help your family connect the Catholic faith to science. There are tidbits of facts, conversation starters, craft and snack ideas, websites to explore and reflections on how your family can respond to what they have learned.

The curriculum is created as a resource that can be adapted to meet your family's needs. Our suggestion is that you choose one topic for the week. There is no order to the topics. As a family, put together an exploration kit. Find a basket or backpack that you can store things like, journals, colored pencils or markers, binoculars, a magnifying glass, snacks, whatever you need to do your exploring. Whether you go to a park, take a walk on your street, or go into your backyard, there are numerous ways to discover God's creation.

Have fun exploring!



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