

*"[S]ome committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them.*

***Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. -Pope Francis, Laudato Si***

## Putting Laudato Si into Action



Through an initiative entitled the **Laudato Si Platform**, Pope Francis and the Vatican are inviting Catholic families, institutions and communities around the world to "learn and grow together as we journey towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology."

The Laudato Si Platform is calling on Catholic families, parishes, religious congregations, schools and other institutions to put Pope Francis' encyclical into action.

The Platform gives us seven areas of focus:

- Ecological education**
- Response to the cry of the Earth**
- Response to the cry of the poor**
- Ecological economics**
- Adoption of sustainable lifestyles**
- Ecological spirituality**
- Community engagement and participatory action**

These topics will be covered at our upcoming Diocesan Social Ministry Conference, when we'll launch the Laudato Si Platform in our diocese. →

The recent report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns of the damage climate change is doing right now, and that countries are not doing enough to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

If that's not stark enough, consider: The current war in Ukraine highlights what a dictator whose country supplies fossil fuel to a continent can get away with.

It's long past time our households and parishes took more seriously the moral imperative to protect the environment. See [www.laudatosiactionplatform.org/](http://www.laudatosiactionplatform.org/), and watch Pope Francis [here](#), and please plan to attend the social ministry conference on May 25.

### Laudato Si Platform Launch



at our



### Annual Diocesan Social Ministry Conference

Wednesday May 25  
on Zoom  
9:00am-Noon



### SAVE THE DATE!



## Protecting God's Creation Here in New York State: Have you ever heard of cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency is a type of money-like asset that is managed and exchanged primarily over computers. Tens of millions of people around the world use it. But that means billions of people don't use it, so you may never have come across it. While there are many types of cryptocurrencies, BitCoin is one of the biggest and most well known.

The creation of cryptocurrency such as BitCoin might sound innocuous enough, but the reality is quite complicated. The term "cryptocurrency mining" is used to describe it, but that's misleading, as no one is digging underground to unearth BitCoin. Instead, this "mining" refers to the computer process of generating the complex mathematical problems that create units of cryptocurrency.

Here's why this matters for environmental protection:

Cryptocurrency mining has devolved into business ventures which utilize thousands of computers running 24 hours a day to crunch those numbers. In New York State, companies have begun buying up de-commissioned power plants and factories, often powered by electricity generated from fracked natural gas, and turning them into cryptocurrency mining operations.

The energy use of these operations is staggering.

According to an [article](#) in the New York Times last year, the process of creating Bitcoin to spend or trade consumes around **91 terawatt-hours of electricity annually**. A terra watt is a unit of power equal to one trillion watts. That is approximately the annual electricity usage of the entire State of Washington, with its over 7.5 million residents.

This situation is particularly relevant and alarming to us here in the Diocese of Rochester because of the Bitcoin operation within our borders, located in Dresden, on Seneca Lake, called Greenidge Generation. Learn more about it in this [article](#) from Grist.

Our Diocesan Public Policy Committee has chosen cryptocurrency mining as one of our education issues for the year, as part of our participation in the Laudato Si Platform. Check your parish bulletin in coming weeks for more information. If you want to take a deeper dive, you can learn many more details about cryptocurrency's energy use in this [article](#) from Forbes.

## Stop the Execution of Melissa Lucio

The state of Texas plans to execute Melissa Lucio on Wednesday, April 27, for the 2007 death of her two-year-old daughter, Mariah Alvarez, despite strong forensic evidence and eyewitness accounts that Mariah's death was accidental. Please contact Gov. Abbott and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles NOW and urge them to stop the execution. Use this link: [www.catholicismobilizing.org/action/2022-02/stop-execution-melissa-lucio-1](http://www.catholicismobilizing.org/action/2022-02/stop-execution-melissa-lucio-1)



CNS photo/courtesy Melissa Lucio's defense team

### Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

**Monroe:** Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 ext. 6202 Marcus.Ebenhoe@cfrochester.org;

**Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga:** Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; Kathy.Dubel@dor.org

**Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne:** Robert Vona 315-789-2235 ext. 112; Robert.Vona@dor.org

**Livingston/Steuben:** Leigh Shepard (585) 658-4466 ext. 11; Leigh.Shepard@dor.org

**Tompkins:** Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org

**Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator:** Shannon Kilbridge 585-328-3228 ext. 1218 Shannon.Loughlin@dor.org