



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. . . Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person, considered in himself and in relation to others.” - Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate

LETTER

from Jose Aguto & Dan Misleh

Dear Friends,

The year 2022 was pivotal for our world, our nation, and our organization, Catholic Climate Covenant. Globally, humanity's emission of greenhouse gases continues relatively unabated, harming vulnerable neighbors and ecosystems, while threatening the possibility of a thriving future for the generations to come. While COP27, the latest round of international climate negotiations, concluded without major commitments, a significant moral marker was still reached by leaders and peoples of developing nations after decades of advocacy.

Under the Loss and Damage Fund, developed nations which have contributed the most to the climate crisis recognized a moral responsibility to developing nations, the ones that contribute the least and suffer the most. Serious financial commitments to the fund were not yet made, but this statement of moral responsibility by one group of nations to another, is an unprecedented development in the history of international relations and establishes a foundation grounded in ethics rather than simply politics and national self-interest.

Nationally, the Biden Administration and the U.S. Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, and CHIPS and Science Act, the first significant national commitments to address the climate crisis. The IRA alone can help reduce U.S. emissions by 40% by 2030 and help meet the nation's global commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Our Catholic Church was part of this change. The Vatican participated in COP27 as a nation state, affirming our Church's moral authority in global affairs. The Covenant initiated the Encounter for Our Common Home campaign, in which 850 Catholics from 47 states and 11 national Catholic organizations joined for legislative visits and other interactions with U.S. Senators, urging them to address the climate crisis, consistent with our faith. The Encounter campaign is now a fixture of our work, especially in partnership with Catholics across the nation committed to cultivating care of our common home through our political institutions.



Your contributions to the Covenant's synodal listening sessions were noted in the USCCB's National Synthesis for the Synod on Synodality. The report says: "Young people also want the Church to speak out about issues that matter to them, especially justice, race, and climate change." Two of our own, Henry Glynn and Emily Burke, shared their thoughts with the Holy Father in a virtual consultation, inspiring him to support our youth and young adult efforts to engage more vigorously with church leaders, urging these leaders to embrace church teaching of creation care as an integral aspect of our faith.

Boosting these efforts, Diana Marin and Kayla Jacobs joined our team and are empowering Catholic young adults and youth across the nation, encouraging them to pray together, lift their voices, and support actions to advance creation care and climate action in their schools, communities, and dioceses.

Finally, through the tireless work of our staff, we keep working with an ever-increasing number of U.S. dioceses, parishes, and other institutions to implement *Laudato Si'* and lower carbon footprints through our one-of-a-kind Catholic Energies program.

We are blessed to work in close partnership with so many of you who, through the Holy Spirit, are the source of this success. Together we look forward to building on the enormous momentum from this year in our world, nation, and church. We will do so in faith, hope, and love, and in community as one body, one spirit in Christ.

In shared fellowship in Christ,



Jose Aguto, Executive Director



Dan Misleh, Founder

LETTERS

from Our Board Chair



Scott Hurd
Catholic Climate Covenant
Board Chair

U.S. Catholics and organizations promoting charity and justice often rely on the “See, Judge, Act” process to engage in “right thinking” to implement “right actions” within their local communities.

With regular and accelerating climate catastrophes and a narrowing window of opportunity to make things right in our common home, Catholics across the U.S. have a critical role to play in “seeing, judging, and acting” when it comes to local, national, and global efforts to care for creation and address climate change.

We see global patterns of refugees and migrants fleeing climate change, which is creating increased hunger, homelessness, poverty, hopelessness, and marginalization. Time and again we are reminded that “everything is connected.”

As board chair of Catholic Climate Covenant, I am proud of the work we do in partnership with creation care leaders from parishes, schools, volunteer groups and many others in leading our Church to care for our common home.

The resources, programs, and leadership Catholic Climate Covenant offers matter today, and help guide us into the future. And the growing community of conscientious Catholics working to protect our common home is fundamental.

Thank you for believing in our shared mission with Catholic Climate Covenant to promote human dignity, care for all creation, and hope and love for our planet and its people.

Scott Hurd
Vice President for Leadership Formation with Catholic Charities USA

from Our Episcopal Moderator



“The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast” (*Laudato Si'*, 217, citing Benedict XVI)

Recognizing and acting on God’s call to attend to both internal and external deserts is one of the most powerful drivers for our own eco-conversion. It is also the driver of the work of Catholic Climate Covenant.

The Covenant provides Catholic individuals and organizations the resources, support, education, and advocacy tools to protect Our Common Home as they urge both conversion and action. Together, let us walk in solidarity with Creation and with people struggling for a better life. Let us make the deserts bloom.

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson, Bishop of Yakima
Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Climate Covenant





OUR VISION

Catholic Climate Covenant envisions a world in which all humanity shares in both the responsibility and joy of our common home and all creation thrives with wholeness, abundant life, dignity, and justice.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Catholic Climate Covenant is to inspire and mobilize the U.S. Catholic community to care for creation and achieve climate justice through the lens of integral ecology.

About Catholic Climate Covenant

Founded with the support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2006, and in partnership with 20 national organizations, Catholic Climate Covenant seeks to enfold creation care as an integral aspect of Church practices and ministries.

EDUCATION

Our annual interactive Earth Day and Feast of St. Francis programs as well as our webinars, homily helps, bulletin inserts, monthly newsletters, and national conferences inform, involve, and inspire thousands of Catholics to advance creation care, climate action and environmental justice in the parishes, orders, dioceses, and other communities.

Our Catholic Energies Program helps Catholic parishes and other facilities install solar panels that reduce carbon emissions and utility costs, enabling them to fund their core mission and educate their constituents on Church teachings about creation care. The program is expanding to help institutions establish Net Zero emission pathways over several years.

Our Young Adult program developed and piloted the “Wholemakers” program – a curriculum to educate high school students, college students, and young adults on integral ecology, ecological conversion, Laudato Si’ and climate change, in prayer, word and deed. The revised program will launch in 2023.

ORGANIZING

The Covenant leads the efforts in the United States to implement the Vatican’s Laudato Si’ Action Platform – a seven-year journey to put the aspirations of an integral ecology into action.

We regularly convene people who advance create care in dioceses and parishes. This includes organizing for interested dioceses (20 and growing) and creation care teams for parishes and other institutions (400 and growing).

We created Godsplanet.us as the U.S. Catholic hub of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform to inform, educate and celebrate the inspiring efforts by schools, religious orders, parishes, dioceses, and others, in the care for our common home.



ADVOCACY

We encourage all Catholics to reach out to their own faith communities and to their political leaders to urge their support of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance the needs of vulnerable populations whose voices are not often heard.

Our collaborative “Encounter for Our Common Home Campaign” brings together Catholics to engage with their legislators from the lens of their faith.

Our new young adult “Common Home Corps” will offer engaged young Catholics the discernment and skills to dialogue with Catholic leaders and laity on creation care and implementation in ways consistent with our faith.

Learn more and join our mailing list for free resources www.catholicclimatecovenant.org.

2022 Key Highlights

JANUARY

We launch “Living Room Conversations,” virtual small group gatherings, to hear what is on hearts and minds regarding our mission to care for our common home.

Our Young Adult Mobilization program launches the first session of the Eco-Spirituality series.

We resource and assist some 400 Creation Care Teams in parishes, religious communities and schools with a dedicated monthly email, Facebook group, and online conversations.

MARCH

The grants program for 2022 is made possible by a \$75,000 contribution the Seelos Foundation, donated in thanksgiving to and for the canonization of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, C.Ss.R.

Catholic Energies announces its tenth project in the Diocese of Richmond with installations at their Pastoral Center, Sacred Heart School, and St. Pius X Church.

MAY

The Encounter Campaign “Week of Encounter” takes place from May 2-6. Many of the over 850 Catholics from 47 states meet with U.S. Senators to urge passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. The campaign also includes an action alert signed by thousands of U.S. Catholics.

The young adult-led Eco-Spirituality Nights features Sharon Lavigne, Catholic, founder of Rise St. James, a faith-led environmental justice organization in Louisiana, and awardee of the Laetare Award, Henry Fagan Award, and Goldman Environmental Prize.

Covenant Founder Dan Misleh delivers the commencement address to the Class of 2022 at St. Michael’s College in Vermont.

2022

FEBRUARY

We host the first of nine webinars hosted in 2022, reaching over 6,000 attendees.

Covenant staff and Creighton University representatives Henry Glynn and Emily Burke meet virtually with Pope Francis, asking him to support youth and young adult efforts to persuade U.S. Church leaders to take Laudato Si’ and climate change seriously.

We award 100 Catholic institutions up to \$1000 each in grants to implement creation care activities in their parishes, schools, and other institutions through the generosity of Victory Noll Sisters Small Grants Program. Half of the \$100K in funding is provided by Victory Noll Sisters.

APRIL

We launch Encounter for Our Common Home, a new national Catholic advocacy campaign for climate solutions, in collaboration with 11 of our partners.

The 2022 Earth Day program, “Integral Ecology: Pursuing the Common Good for Our Common Home,” is announced.

The Archdiocese of Chicago and the our Young Adult Mobilization program host a day-long Creation Care Retreat for Young Adults in Chicago.

JUNE

We support the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops action alert during Laudato Si’ Week, asking Senators to enact a proposed \$555 billion in ambitious climate solutions.

The National Catholic Reporter notes that the Encounter Campaign was “the most coordinated effort by Catholics” to support the climate legislation in the Biden administration’s “Build Back Better” agenda.

JULY

We speak out against the Supreme Court's decision to restrict the EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions under the Clean Air Act.

Young adult leaders pilot the *Wholemakers* Pilot Program, a new creation care curriculum resource for young adults.

SEPTEMBER

The theme for this year's Feast of St. Francis is announced: "Eco-Spirituality: Behold God in Everything" to support "eco-spirituality," a goal of the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

Covenant and global partner, Laudato Si' Movement, offer a bilingual *Season of Creation* liturgical banner for dioceses, parishes, universities, schools, and other groups in the U.S.

NOVEMBER

In collaboration with 10 national partners, we deliver a U.S. Catholic letter to the Biden Administration signed by over 4,000 people of faith asking for leadership at COP27.

We continue offering Homily Helps, Bulletin Inserts, Lenten and Advent Season resources, coordination of the Interdiocesan Network (some 31 dioceses working on creation care issues,) and promoting the Laudato Si' Action Platform in the United States (*God's Planet* campaign).

AUGUST

We celebrate passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest-ever federal effort to address the climate crisis.

We help organize nearly 300 U.S. Catholic institutions to send an open letter to each member of Congress in support of climate legislation for our common home.

We submit a report to the USCCB based on listening sessions with constituents and young adults for the Synod on Synodality. The clear message from participants is for more institutional Church action on creation care, climate change, and the environment.

OCTOBER

We support the release of the feature documentary film "The Letter," produced by Oscar-winning Off the Fence Productions in collaboration with Laudato Si' Movement and the Vatican and released by YouTube Originals.

We host "Texting for Creation" events to encourage voters to keep creation care in mind when they go to the polls.

DECEMBER

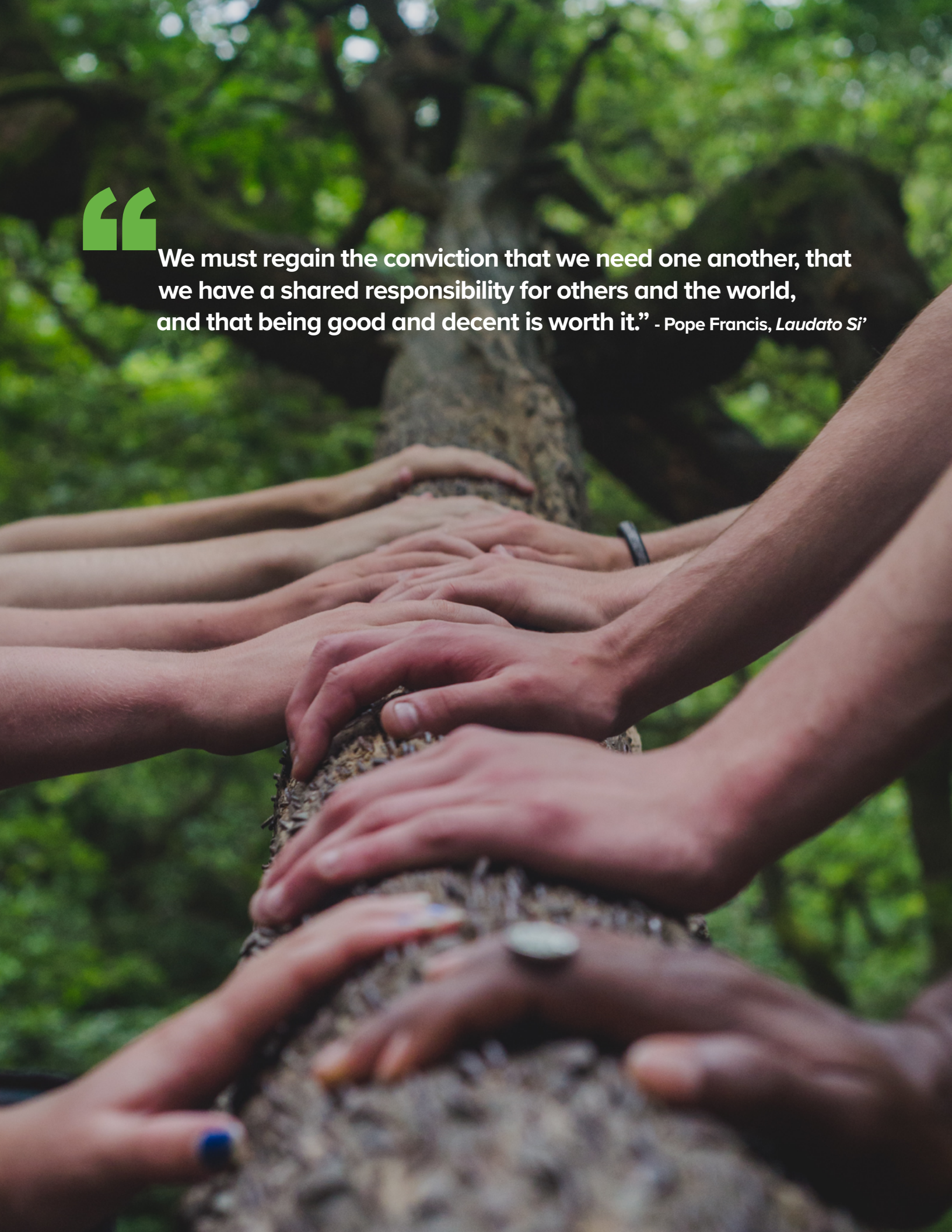
We continue working with a growing number of U.S. dioceses, parishes, and other institutions to implement Laudato Si', establish net-zero pathways, and lower carbon footprints through *Catholic Energies*.

We organize support for *Clean Cars* legislation, urging the EPA and Administration to act by advancing clean car standards and moving our nation to our 100% zero-emission vehicles.

2023



We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent is worth it.” - Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*



Giving is Believing

We appreciate the generous gifts from individuals, religious communities, and foundations that have sustained Catholic Climate Covenant's work on behalf of our common home. Donors from January 2022-December 2022.

PROTECTORS

(\$5,000.00 - \$9,999.00)

Catholic Health Association of the United States
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Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

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(\$1,000.00 - \$4,999.00)

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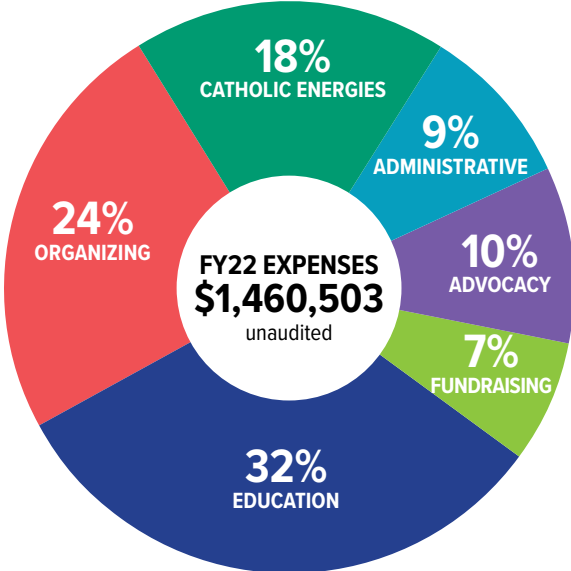
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Sr. Sr. Beth McCormick
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St. John's University
St. Thomas More Catholic Community
St. Williams Church
Stacey Main
Stephen Ruemenapp
Stewart Wilber
sue Wilder
Susan Hymel
susan minich
Susan Varlamoff and Ivan Varlamoff
Suzanne Paterson
Sylvia Russell
Tara Segal
Team Van Wambeke
Teresa Gerschutz
Teresa Redder
The Jesuit Community of Oakland
The Sisters of St. Francis
Thomas Hall
Thomas Marchetti
Thomas Nabelek
Thomas Prendergast
Thomas Tweed
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Tracey Steele
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Veronica Nagy
Vincent Bosq
Virginia McEvoy
Virginia Patrick
Vona Da Silva
Walter Kowalski
Wendy Mikkelson
William Braier
William Glenn
William Knapp
William Radinson
William Spangler

2022 Financials

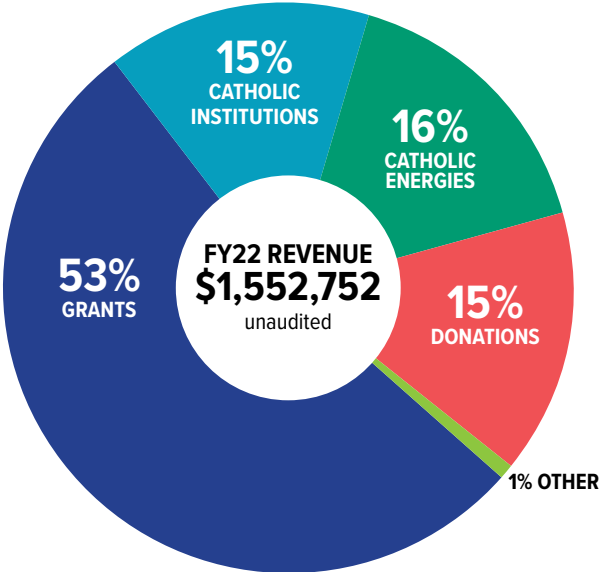
FY21 EXPENSES UNAUDITED

■ Administrative	\$131,445
■ Advocacy	\$146,050
■ Catholic Energies	\$262,890
■ Education	\$467,361
■ Fundraising	\$102,235
■ Organizing	\$350,521
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,460,503



FY21 REVENUE UNAUDITED

■ Donations	\$272,299
■ Catholic Energies	\$287,463
■ Catholic Institutions	\$274,634
■ Grants	\$967,923
■ Other Income	\$241,427
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,552,752



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