

Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

February 19th, 2019

CatholicClimateCovenant.org



Catholic Climate Covenantsm

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Control Panel >>>>

Your Participation

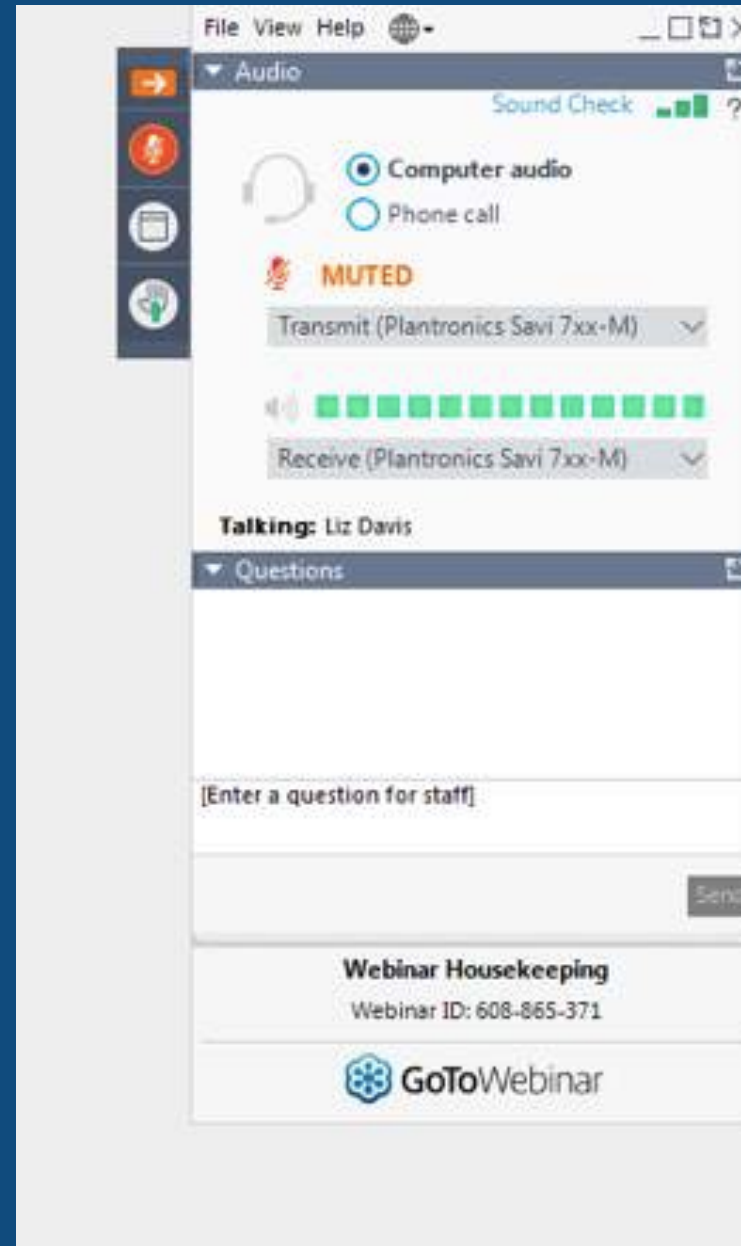
Open and close your control panel

Join audio:

- Choose **Mic & Speakers** to use VoIP
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Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel

Note: Today's presentation is being recorded and will be provided within 48 hours.



Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry



Fr. Bob Richter

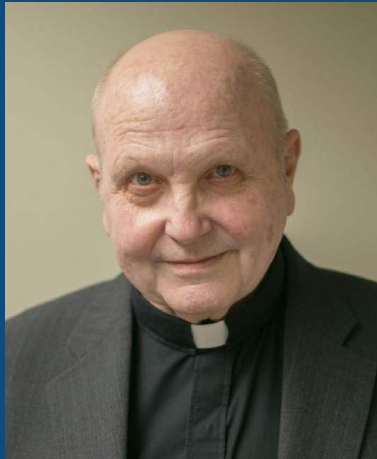
- Welcome
- Prayer



Catholic Climate Covenantsm

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry



Fr. Robert Richter
AUSCP



Sharon Malley
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Arlington, VA



Steve Coleman
St. Dennis Catholic Parish
Madison, WI



Bob More
St. John Neumann Church
Reston, VA

And Jose Aguto, Catholic Climate Covenant

Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant



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Fr. Bob Richter

Laudato Si', the Climate Challenge, and How Priests Can Express it to Their Parishioners.



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Catholic Climate Covenant Programs



<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/feast-st-francis>



<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/earth-day>

Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

Catholic Climate Covenant Programs and Resources:

- **St. Francis/Laudato Si' Pledge:** By taking the pledge, you (re)commit to living out the vision of the encyclical and our Catholic faith through prayer, concrete action, and advocacy. (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/feast-st-francis>)
- **Catholic Climate Declaration:** The declaration expresses the U.S. Catholic community's call to climate action, arising from our theological foundation, proclaimed to all within our one human family. From this call we envision, pray for, and act towards a thriving future, with our family and the gift of God's creation. (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/st-francis-pledge>)



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<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources>



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Creation Care Teams: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/creation-care-teams>



What do we provide:

- Monthly CCT Email
- CCT Resource Library
- Facebook Group
- Wrap around support



Catholic Climate Covenantsm

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Our Lady Queen of Peace Integrity of Creation

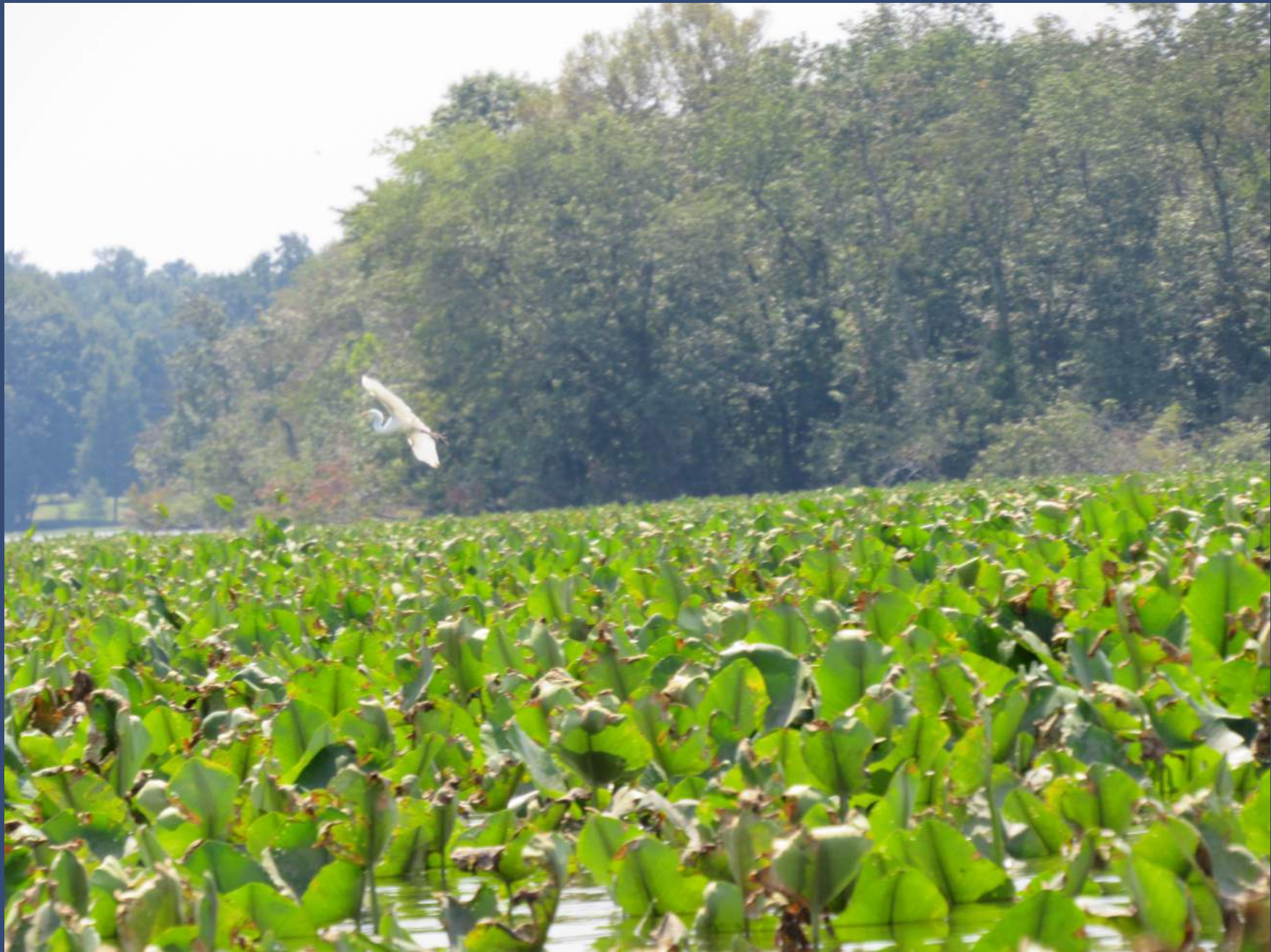
Sharon M. Malley





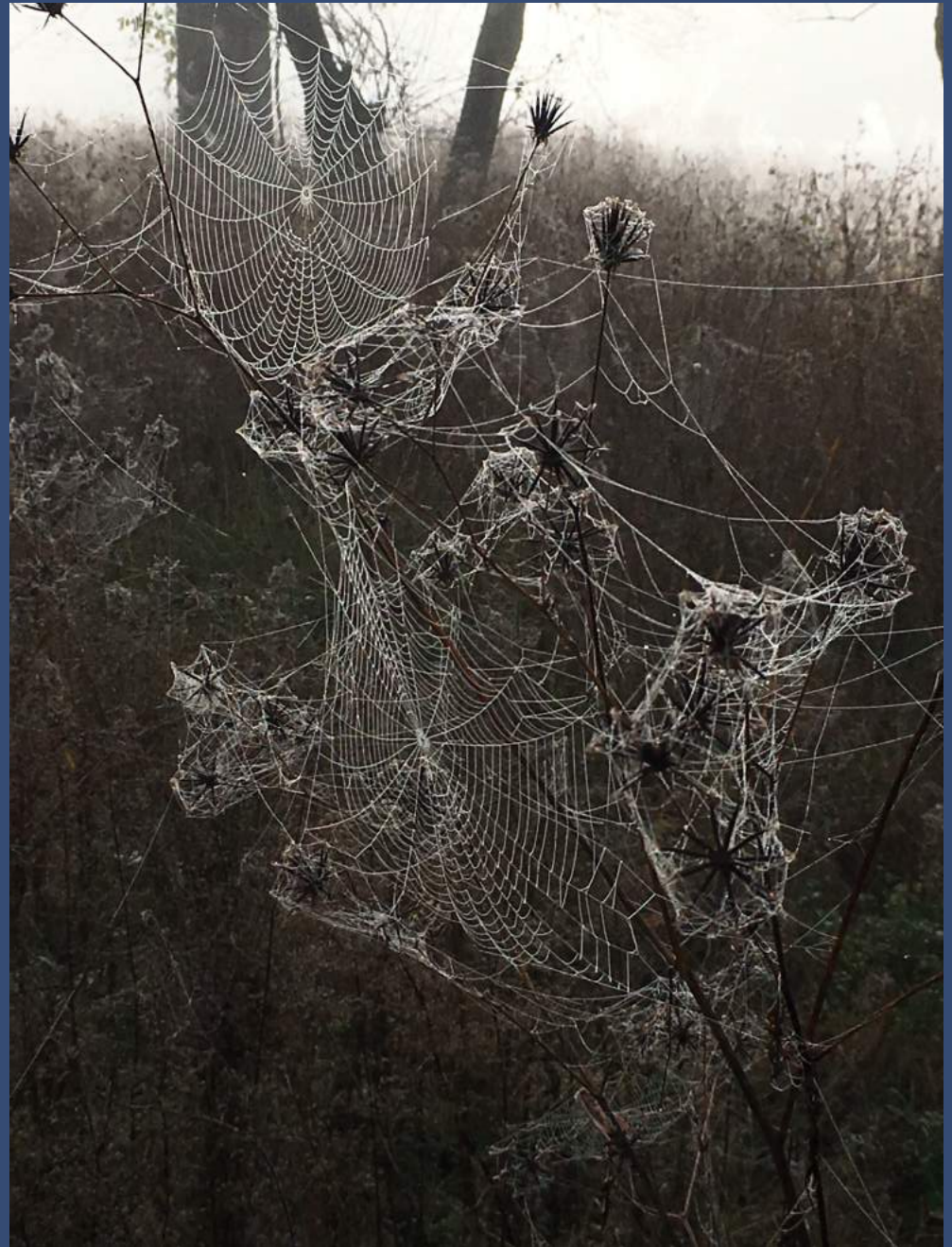


















Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

Arlington, VA

www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org





OLQP Integrity of Creation Mission Statement

To share our faith-based knowledge and awareness with the OLQP congregation of the importance of living a life that intentionally respects all of God's creation, and advocate for legislation addressing issues directly related to climate change.

Our Focus



Education ↔ Action ↔ Advocacy



Our Faith

OLQP Integrity Creation Web Page

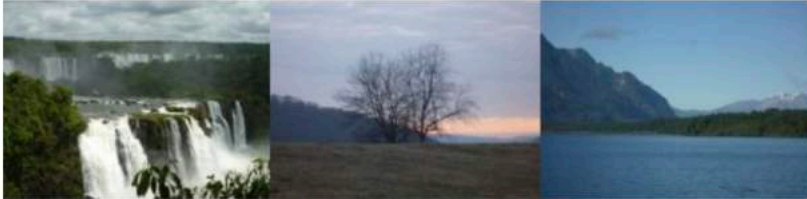
<https://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org/integrity-of-creation.html>

Select Language | ▼ 

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Integrity of Creation

A concern for the environment is an integral part of the parish's commitment to a preferential option for the poor. The Integrity of Creation ministry works to provide members of OLQP with information, insights, and inspiration for acting upon the growing concern over the kind of Earth their children and grandchildren will inherit. The Committee meets several times a year and engages the parish in several activities over the course of the liturgical year. To get involved in this ministry or for more information, contact Brian Kane, bpkane@comcast.net.



INTEGRITY OF CREATION COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

To share our faith-based knowledge and awareness with the OLQP congregation of the importance of living a life that intentionally respects all of God's creation, and advocate for legislation addressing issues directly related to climate change.

U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS' STATEMENT ON LAUDATO SI'

"'LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore' -- 'Praise be to you, my Lord! These are the words that open Pope Francis' encyclical on ecology and care for God's creation. These words, quoting St. Francis of Assisi's beautiful canticle, remind us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.'...Read the [whole statement](#) here.

RESOURCES FOR CATHOLICS

Presentation by Thomas Insua at OLQP



Integrity of Creation

Committee

If you would learn more, ask the cattle, seek information from the birds of the air. The creeping things of earth will give you lessons, and the fishes of the sea will tell you all. There is not a single creature that does not know that everything is of God's making. God holds in power the soul of every living thing, and the breath of every human body. (Book of Job 12:7-10)



Advertisement: Soil Matters: why the importance of this resource from being the subject of a lawsuit in 2008. A lawsuit lawsuit that has been now settled and implemented in a way to protect the soil in the environment for the benefit of the future. *Climate Now News Journal* March 20, 2019



Photo by G. Bailey

Education

We educate ourselves and fellow parishioners on the spiritual significance of respecting all of God's creation. We focus on social justice issues related to climate change and the environmental impacts of our human actions. There is always more to learn.



Photo by G. Bailey

Our mission
To share our faith-based knowledge and awareness with the OLOP congregation of the importance of living a life that intentionally respects all of God's creation, and advocate for legislation addressing issues directly related to climate change.

Education ↔ Action ↔ Advocacy

**Why do we do this?
Because the Earth is dying.
We are responding
to God's call.**

Each creature reflects something from God and has a message to convey to us. (Laudato Si', Par 221, 2015)



Photo by G. Bailey

Action

We strive to be good stewards of the earth in our daily lives. We offer programs, speakers, and presenters knowledgeable in ways to respect all of God's creation. We offer demonstrations on living that is environmentally responsible, facilitate advocacy actions, and as we pray, we encourage others to Pray for our Earth.



Photo by G. Bailey. All rights reserved within a 10 mile radius in the Eastern Shore of MD

Environmental Justice in Our Communities and Worldwide

Air pollution exposure is most likely to impact communities of color. Water contamination, lead poisoning, and toxic sites disproportionately harm communities of color. Heritages sites and sacred places most important to communities of color are less likely to be protected among our nation's public lands and waters. Climate change disproportionately harms low-income communities and communities of color. (Creation Justice Alliance)



Photo by G. Bailey

Advocacy

We encourage parishioners to take part in letting our representatives know that we support legislation that is good for the environment. We take personal responsibility for advocating for environmentally sound practices in daily life. We are environmental disciples.



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POPE FRANCIS



Laudato Si'
**On Care for Our
Common Home**

Includes
Study
Guide

ENCYCLICAL LETTER

Copyrighted Material









Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

HOW LONG TIL ITS GONE?

450
yrs.



200+
yrs.



1000
yrs.



200+
yrs.



400
yrs.







USCCB Support of Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

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U.S. BISHOPS' DOMESTIC CHAIRMAN REACTS TO BIPARTISAN CARBON PRICING BILL

January 25, 2019

WASHINGTON—After the introduction of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (EICDA) yesterday, Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, Chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, welcomed the legislation as an important step forward in addressing climate change.

The full statement follows:

"This bipartisan bill is a hopeful sign that more and more, climate change is beginning to be seen as a crucial moral issue; one that concerns all people. If enacted, this proposal is expected to result in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. At a time when the dangerous effects of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent, the need for legislative solutions like this is more urgent than ever.

Fundamentally, this bill is about ensuring that the full spectrum of costs associated with greenhouse gas emissions—economic, social, and environmental—are accounted for. Failing to consider the health and well-being of people, including future generations and the planet, means that 'businesses profit by calculating and paying only a fraction of the costs involved' (Laudato Si', no. 195). This proposed legislation is one possible remedy to addressing these imbalances.

While it is well-known that putting a price on carbon will increase energy prices, a phenomenon that can have a disproportionate impact on the poor, it is encouraging that

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- [Environmental Justice Program](#)
- [Global Climate Change A Plea for Dialogue Prudence and the Common Good](#)
- [Global Climate Change 2010](#)
- [Leadership Development and Education](#)
- [Bishops' Statements on the Environment](#)

[see all 20 pages](#)

OTHER NEWS RELEASES:

- FEBRUARY 8, 2019
[U.S. Bishops' Chairmen Condemn Decision Preventing Muslim Man from Receiving Appropriate Spiritual Care at Execution](#)
- FEBRUARY 8, 2019
[Pro-Life Committee Chair for U.S. Bishops' Responds to SCOTUS Ruling Temporarily Blocking Louisiana Abortion Law](#)
- FEBRUARY 8, 2019
[Catholic Chair of National Catholic-Muslim](#)



St Dennis Madison, WI

Care of Creation Team

Presented by

Steve Coleman

St Dennis Care of Creation Team

Objective:

Bring **Laudato Si'** to life at St Dennis.

“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.”[217]

St Dennis Care of Creation Team

Beginning:

First Projects: Copies of Laudato Si' for each member.

Prayers of the Faithful for Creation at Sunday Liturgy

Corner of the bulletin--every week "Creation corner."

Bring **Laudato Si'** to life at St Dennis.

"I would like to enter into Dialog with all people
about our common home" (3)

Bring **Laudato Si'** to life at St Dennis

Active Members 6 to 8. Email list of 20

Lay organized. Clergy supported.

2016: A year of “small projects”



Bring **Laudato Si'** to life at St Dennis

5-year Goals: (December 2016)

2017-2022

- A. Become a Net Carbon Neutral Parish
- B. Have 100 families do carbon footprint.
- C. Encourage 40 Families to make significant reductions

Solar PV Panels at St Dennis

- Design
- Quote
- Grant Application
- Fund Raising
- Installation
- 7 Months time.

Solar PV Panels



Bring **Laudato Si'** to life at St Dennis

Solar project **energized** the parish.

New members and new talent joined

Creation Care team

5 working Groups

Prayer

Education

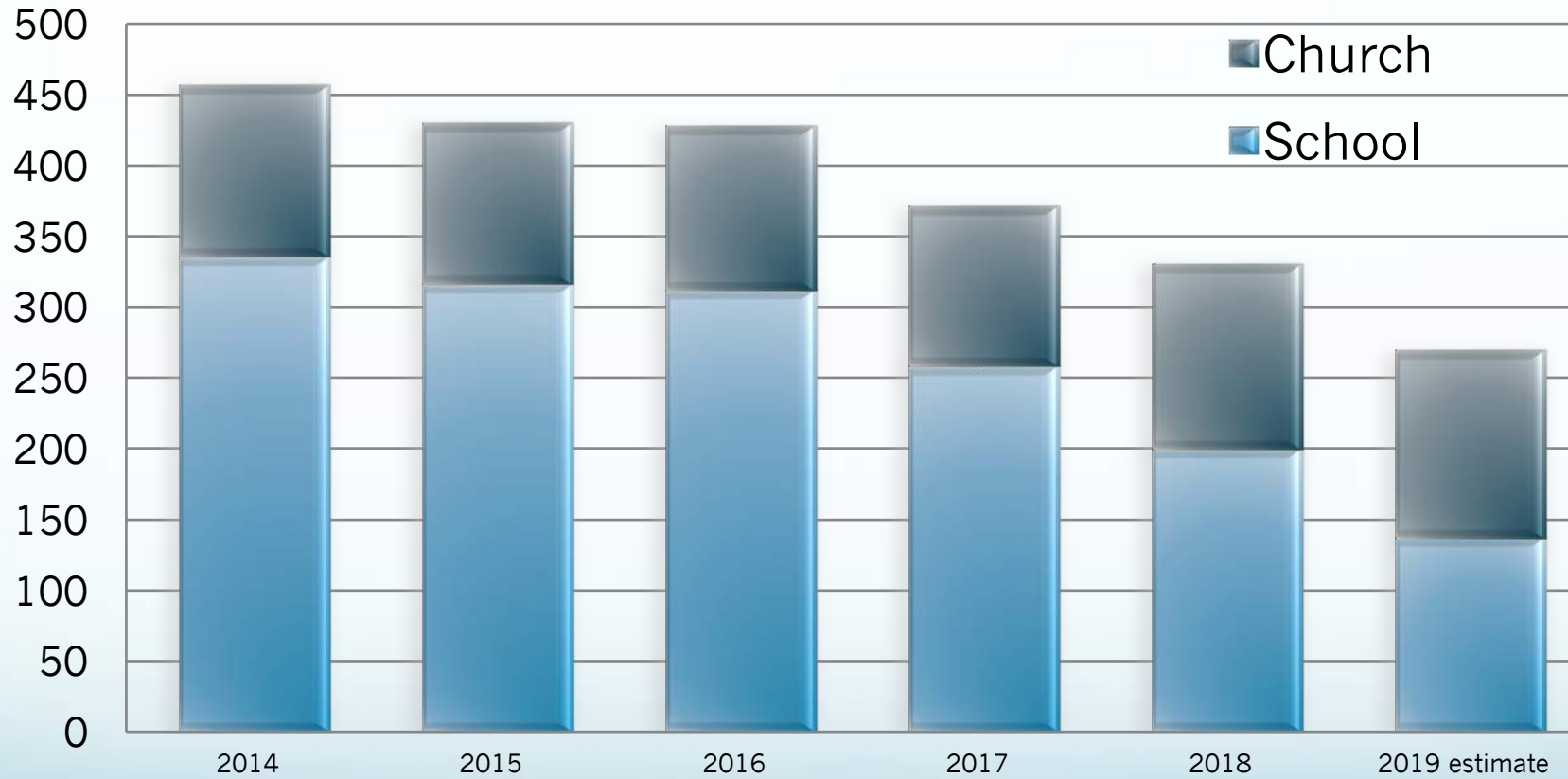
Communication

100 families

Facilities

St Dennis Carbon footprint

Tons of Carbon Dioxide per Year



Bring **Laudato Si'** to life at St Dennis

16--20 Active Members (Email list 35)

41% reduction of Carbon Dioxide

40 families Carbon Footprint

No-more disposable coffee cup at donuts after mass.

Acceptable to talk about Care of our Common Home

Presence on Parish Webpage

New Parishioners are drawn to St Dennis

Conversations with neighboring parishes.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come

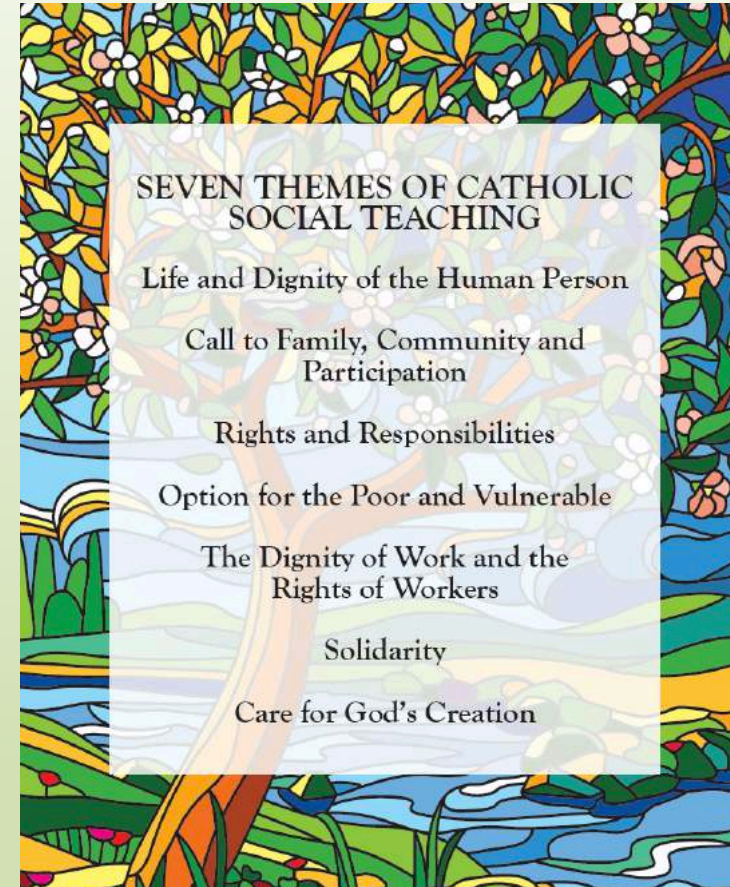
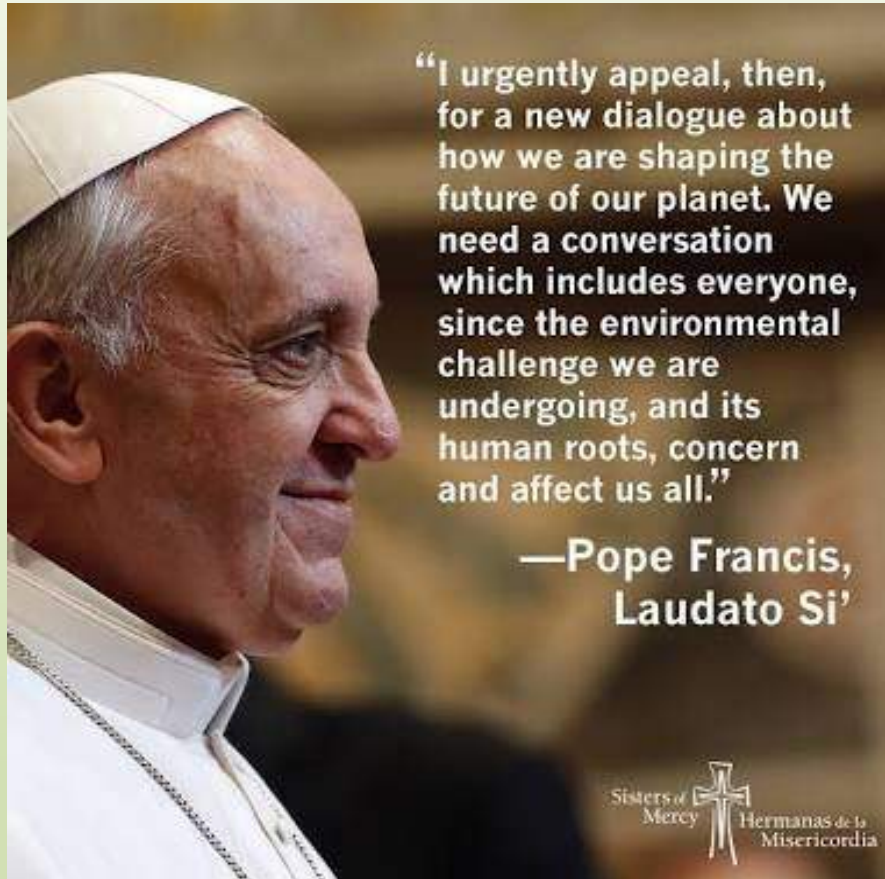


St. John Neumann
Catholic Church

Web site:

<http://cfoch.weebly.com>

Our Inspiration



How We Got Started

A small group of SJN parishioners, some with roots in the *JustFaith* program and others in Pax Christi, formed the Care for Our Common Home Ministry in response to Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

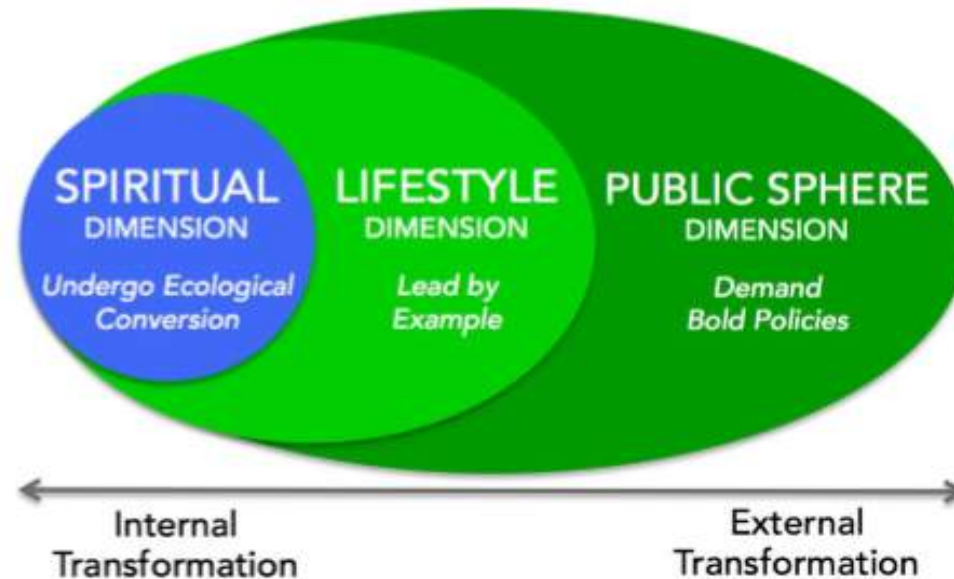
2015 Activities:

- 8-week *JustFaith* climate change module
- June 18 - *Laudato Si'* published
- Laudato Si'* study and discussion group
- Following the Pope's visit to Washington, DC, a parish-wide event featuring a speaker from the Catholic Climate Covenant
- Research on forming a Creation Care Team
- Met with pastor, who provided helpful advice and enthusiastically supported the idea of the new ministry



What We Hope Our Impact Is

- Prayer – changing our hearts
- Education – changing our understanding
- Sustainability – changing our habits
- Advocacy – changing our culture



CCH Prayer at SJN

Prayer Service for Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Come Celebrate!
St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day
Patron Saint of Ecology





Photo Credit: Ed Sabo
Wall Mural at the Center for Action and Contemplation
Albuquerque, NM; May 2016

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7 pm
in the DeSales Chapel

Sing, pray, learn and talk about:
Pope Francis' new 8th Work of Mercy
"Care for our Common Home"

For more information, email: saintjn.cch@gmail.com



Prayer and
Laudato Si'
Reflections
with
Fr. Jacek
Orzechowski,
OFM

Prayer of the
Faithful
Petitions at
Liturgies

Earth
Day
Prayer
Service



Outdoor Prayer Walks
During World Day of Prayer
for the Care of Creation

CCH Education at SJN

**Laudato Si' Presentation
by Catholic Climate Covenant**



**Religious Education Lenten
Carbon Footprint Activities**

**Bag It: Is Your Life Too
Plastic? Movie Presentation**



**Understanding Laudato Si
EP01: "Models of Creation"**



**Understanding Laudato Si EP
02: "Situating Laudato Si"**

Fr. Dan Horan's 7-Week *Laudato Si'* Video Series

CCH Sustainability at SJN

Energy Efficiency



Quarterly Cleanups of One-Mile Stretch of Road in Front of Church

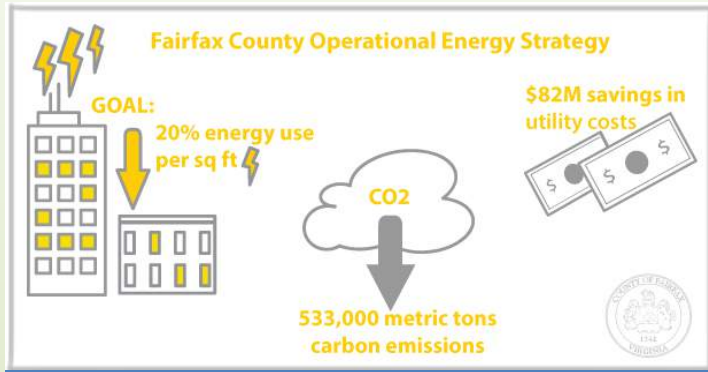


Advent Fair Trade Sales



Washing Dishes at Parish Events to Eliminate Paper and Plastic Waste

CCH Advocacy at SJN



Advocating for Policies to Cut Energy Use in Fairfax County

Meeting with Rep. Comstock's Staff about Climate Solutions Caucus



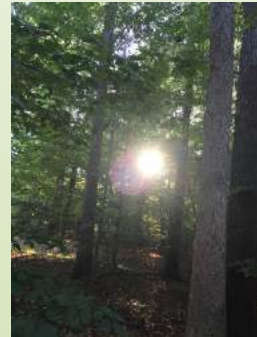
Meeting with Sen. Warner's Staff about Clean Power Plan

2017 Climate March in DC



Involving SJN Youth

Elementary School -
Writing *Laudato Si'* Letters
to Pope Francis



Middle and High School
Photo Contest:
Seeing God in Nature



Eagle Scout
Pollinator
Garden
Project

2018 Season of Creation

Blessing of New Statue



Bird Walk



Sustainability Showcase



Middle School Photo Contest

Connecting with Faith Groups



**GLOBAL CATHOLIC
CLIMATE MOVEMENT**



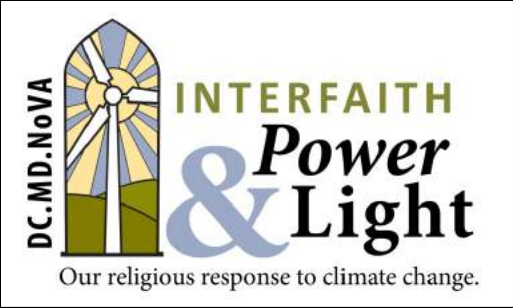
**SEASON OF
CREATION**



Catholic Energies
Conserve, Educate, Inspire



**Faith Alliance
for Climate Solutions**



*Care for Creation
Network
Catholic Diocese
of Arlington*

Care for Creation Network

- Met with Vicar General in September 2017, got approval to form CCN-CDA
- Started with 7 parishes; now have representatives from 14, plus Diocese
- Meet quarterly for education, mutual support, sharing – informal group not authorized to make decisions or speak for Diocese
- Co-chairs from Diocese and parishes

Our Goals

- Help make the parish facilities more **sustainable** and create sacred spaces on our grounds
- **Educate** and inspire parishioners to “walk lightly” and be more mindful in our behaviors and choices
- **Prayerfully contemplate** a deeper reverence and respect for God's creation
- **Advocate** for policies that will protect the earth—our common home—and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters
- Gather new companions on the way

Gathering Good Companions

THE ARLINGTON
CATHOLIC HERALD

*Diocese of Arlington and parishes form
a green network. April 18, 2018*

NATIONAL
CATHOLIC **REPORTER**
THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

*Reducing waste: Catholic parishes,
hospitals see results from efforts to
reduce and recycle. April 23, 2018*

*“And so, in my own life venture, I found
good companions on the way. And from
moment to moment, the number is
gathered until it seems almost limitless,
the number of good companions.”*

Father Thomas Berry, ecotheologian



**2018 FACS Sustainability Champions:
Congregation Category**



Steps for Starting a Creation Care Team

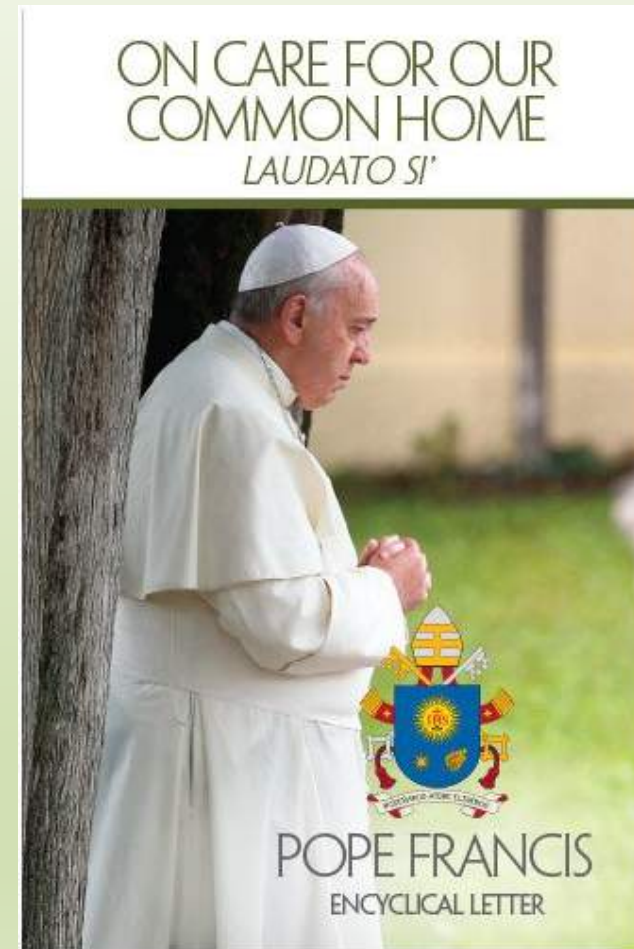
- Find people
- Do your homework
- Get approval to form the new ministry
- Get organized
- Set goals and plan activities

Step 1: Find People

- Identify other parishioners with an interest in the environment
 - Talk to people you know, people in related ministries, parish staff members.
 - Try to find at least three others who share your concern and want to do something about it at the parish.
- Study *Laudato Si'*
 - With your small group, plan a series of 3-6 sessions for people to read through the chapters and come together for discussion.
 - Several good study guides are available online.
 - Publicize the discussion series broadly; invite parishioners and staff to join you.

Step 1: Find People (cont.)

- Gauge interest in forming a new ministry
 - Many participants in the *Laudato Si'* study group will be inspired by the Pope's message to want to do more.
 - Develop a core group of 3-4 people to pursue the idea.



Step 2: Do Your Homework

- Learn about Creation Care Teams
 - Talk to Paz at the Catholic Climate Covenant.
 - Find out if any parishes near you have a Creation Care Team and meet with them.
- Gather resources
 - Look for start-up guides and other resources, e.g., from CCC, the Global Catholic Climate Movement and Interfaith Power and Light.
 - Learn about advocacy from online guides.

Step 3: Get Approval to Form the New Ministry

- Meet with your pastor, share your inspiration from *Laudato Si'*, explain your ideas for a CCT, and ask for his approval
- Work with your existing parish structure to get their support and suggestions
 - Pastoral Council
 - Key staff
- Offer to keep a designated staff person informed of your plans and significant activities
- Connect with other ministries in your parish

Step 4: Get Organized

- Decide on a name for the ministry
- Draft a mission statement
- Adopt a logo
- Decide on a meeting schedule
- Assign responsibilities, e.g., one core group member each for
 - Spirituality
 - Education
 - Sustainability
 - Advocacy

Step 5: Set Goals & Plan Activities

- Establish an initial set of realistic goals to accomplish in the first year
 - Start with small steps that group members are interested in working on, e.g.,
 - Organizing a prayer service for Earth Day or Season of Creation
 - Looking for ways to reduce energy use in parish facilities
 - Promoting recycling and reducing paper and plastic waste
 - Consider planning an educational event for the parish, e.g., a talk on *Laudato Si'*
 - Publicize the event well, including personal outreach
 - Invite other ministries to cosponsor the event
 - Have a sign-up sheet to recruit additional members

Resources (cont.)

- Catholic Climate Covenant: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/creation-care-teams>
- Global Catholic Climate Movement: <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/eco-parish/>
- Interfaith Power and Light: <https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/PopeFrancisActionKitFINALJulysm.pdf>
- St. John Neumann Care for Our Common Home Ministry: <http://cfoch.weebly.com/>
 - Advocacy 101 Guide: <http://cfoch.weebly.com/advocacy-101.html>

Resources

- *Laudato Si'* discussion guides and videos:
 - USCCB: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/laudato-si-discussion-guide.pdf
 - *America* Magazine/Vatican Press Office: <https://www.americamagazine.org/issue/laudato-si-map>
 - *National Catholic Reporter*: <http://ncrnews.org/documents/NCR%20Readers%20guide.pdf>
 - Fr. Dan Horan, OFM, *Laudato Si'* series of 14 videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzyYPJLhZjc>
 - Fr. James Martin, S.J., “Top 10 Things You Need to Know about Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si'* ” video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_lqFTYLc_4

Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry



Jose Aguto
Associate Director
Catholic Climate Covenant

- Advocacy
- Catholic Energies

Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

Questions ?



Catholic Climate Covenant™
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For more information:

info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org



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