

# Catholics Take Action to Protect Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*!

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

[CatholicClimateCovenant.org](https://CatholicClimateCovenant.org)



**Catholic Climate Covenant**<sup>SM</sup>  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Catholics Take Action to Protect Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*!

Covid-19: A Prayer of Solidarity (Prayer from USCCB)

For all who have contracted coronavirus,

We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,

We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,

We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety,

We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,

We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,

We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,

We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers,

We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Loving God, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord.



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# Control Panel >>>>

## Your Participation

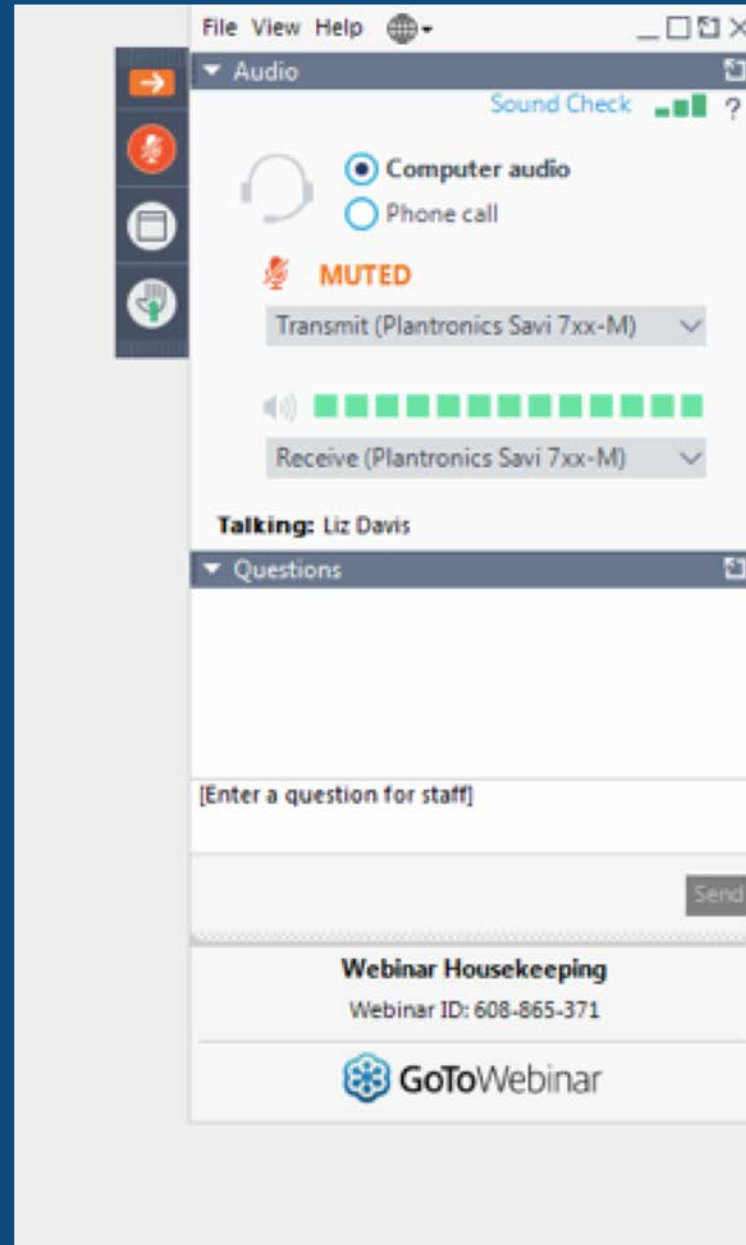
Open and close your control panel

Join audio:

- Choose **Mic & Speakers** to use VoIP
- Choose **Telephone** and dial using the information provided

Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel

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



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# Catholics Take Action to Protect Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*!



Delaina Wilkin, M.D., J.D.



Sr. Pat Bergen CSJ



Dr. Phillip Thompson  
Seattle University



Angélica Gonzalez-Apple  
GCCM



Chuck Bueter



Susan Varlamoff



Kat Doyle

Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan  
Catholic Climate Covenant



## Catholics Take Action to Protect Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*!



Delaina Wilkin, M.D., J.D.

Parishioner at Saint Pius X Catholic Church in Granger, Indiana and member of its Creation Care Team since 2016. She is a wife, mother, and nature lover who continues to be inspired by Pope Francis and *Laudato Si'*. During law school she interned at the Michigan Attorney General's Office-Natural Resources Division and studied environmental law. In addition to volunteering with Pius X's Creation Care Team, she is actively involved in Citizens Climate Lobby, a nonpartisan advocacy group working to curb carbon emissions.



Chuck Bueter

Chuck Bueter worked on commercial boats on the Great Lakes until he became an at-home dad for two children. With the kids now grown, he and his wife are parishioners of Saint Pius X Catholic Church in Granger, Indiana. Throughout he has enjoyed doing education and public outreach in the community as an amateur astronomer with an emphasis on advocating for dark skies. Promoting solar energy, his latest interest is guiding people to be more familiar with the sun by making their own solargraphs—a six-month image of the sun's path across the sky using a beer can, duct tape, and black-and-white photographic paper. His projects are at [www.nightwise.org](http://www.nightwise.org).



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**SAINT PIUS X**  
**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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**TO RENEW ALL THINGS IN CHRIST**







- **PRAY** and reflect on the duty to protect the poor and vulnerable by caring for God's Creation.
- **ACT** to reduce our contribution to climate change.
- **EDUCATE** others on the Catholic teaching of caring for our common home.
- **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles in climate change decisions, especially as they affect those who are poor and vulnerable.



## FIVE-STEP DAILY EXAMEN

1. Ask for God's Grace
2. Give thanks for the Gifts received
3. Recognize my faults
4. Ask for Forgiveness
5. Look toward tomorrow







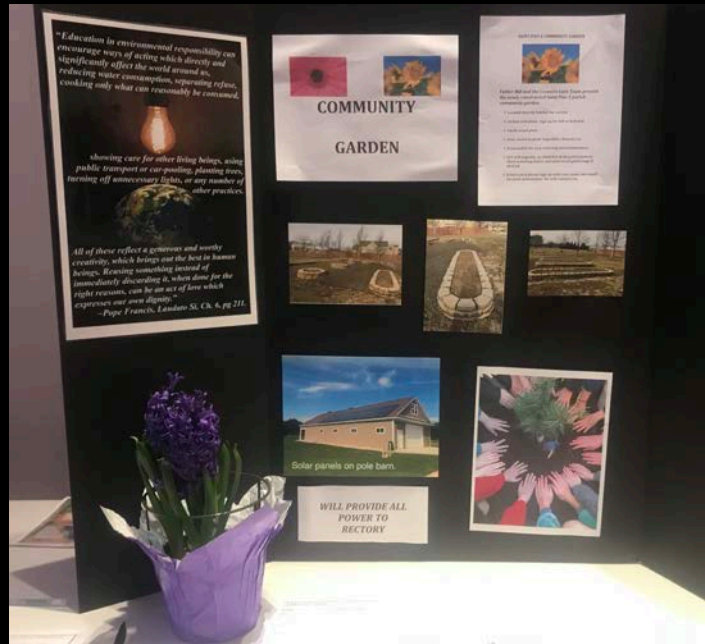
























Next Live Event Starts In...

00:11:58:37

Days Hours Min Sec



## Live-Stream Schedule

**MASS**  
Monday-Saturday, 8:45 a.m.  
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

**LENTEN SPEAKER PRESENTATION**  
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

**Saint Pius X Catholic Church Granger, IN 46530**  
**StPius.net**



“...hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” - Pope Francis

# Creation Care Activities

Run your dishwasher only with a full load. Skip the heat cycle and let your dishes dry.

When cooking with water on the stove, use a lid. Only use as much water as you need.



“Technology proves incapable of seeing the mysterious network of relations between things and so sometimes solves one problem only to create others.”

Laudato Si', par. 20

“Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term.”

Laudato Si', par. 28

Renew magazine cover with Pope Francis and the text: "PRAY | SERVE | GIVE | LEARN | BELIEVE". It includes a section for "CONCRETE WAYS TO TAKE ACTION" and "STAY UP TO SPEED DURING THE WOMEN'S NETWORK SESSIONS ON FEBRUARY 7-8".

SAINT PIUS CREATION CARE TEAM  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.  
“When we fail to acknowledge the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities-it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected.” -Laudato Si, § 117  
Next Meeting: Thursday June 8, 7:00 p.m., PEC 221  
Join the Saint Pius X Creation Care Team!  
Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. For more information, contact Phil Sakimoto, psakimoto@mac.com

Creation Care Team  
As members of the Catholic Church, we see all over the world the environmental damage by the misuse of God's Creation. The Creation Care Team at Saint Pius X aims to educate the parish community on how to live our Catholic faith through protecting our common home and caring for the poor. Our goal is to connect the Saint Pius X community to positive, concrete actions within our homes and our parish to become more sustainable. We strive to answer Pope Francis's call about climate change in Laudato Si' to protect future generations and the most vulnerable currently affected by it.  
MISSION: Our mission is to pray, act, educate and advocate for the care of our common home, the Earth.  
PRAY and reflect on the duty to protect the poor and vulnerable by caring for God's Creation.  
ACT to reduce our contribution to climate change.  
EDUCATE others on the Catholic teaching of caring for our common home.  
ADVOCATE for Catholic principles in climate change decisions, especially as they affect those who are poor and vulnerable.

SERVE SPX  
MAY 21, 2017, Sixth Sunday of Easter

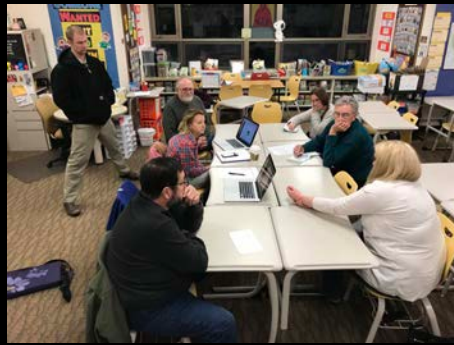
Saint Pius X Oranger  
This is where I returned to the Catholic church. And I can't believe it's our area. The people here are...  
Loved by 15, Following by 15, Shared by 15







**"THE CLIMATE IS A COMMON GOOD"**  
**- POPE FRANCIS**



Francis | English

[AR - BE - DE - EN - ES - FR - IT - LA - PL - PT - RU - UK - ZH-CN - ZH-TW]

**ENCYCLICAL LETTER  
 "LAUDATO SI'  
 OF THE HOLY FATHER,  
 FRANCIS  
 ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

1. "LAUDATO SI', mi Signore" - "Praise be to you, my Lord!" In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds 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. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs" (1).

2. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her and to destroy the fundamental goods of her life. We have wounded her in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, transformed and left waste, is among the most abundant and manifold of our poor: the "poor in heaven" (John 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.


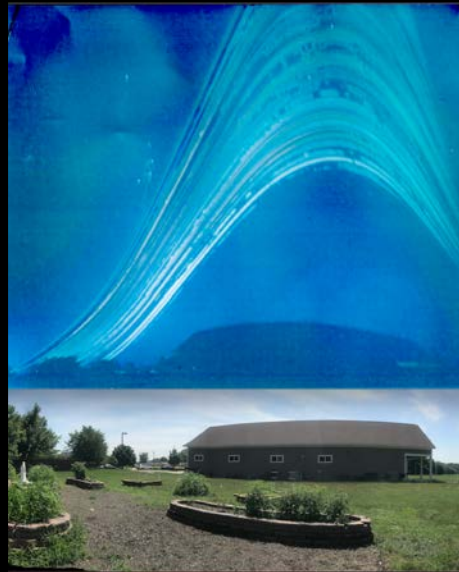
Nothing in this world is indifferent to us.

3. More than fifty years ago, with the world trembling under an Ecological which not only rejected war but also nuclear power, the "Catholic world" was now faced as we are with global environmental deterioration. In the American Declaration Council's gradual aim of encouraging ongoing missionary renewal. In 6 all people about our common home.

4. In 1971, eight years after Pope in Rome. Blessed tragic consequences" of unchecked human activity. "It humanity more the use of technology, it and becoming central theme to the food and agricultural organizations ecological catastrophe under the effective regulation need for a radical change in the conduct of humanity advances, the most amazing technological abilities, the accompanied by authentic social and moral progress.

5. Saint John Paul II became increasingly concerned human beings frequently seem "to see no other moral imperative use and consumption" (1). Subsequently, in the same time, he noted that "the short and long term the authentic human ecology" (2). The destruction of the because God has entrusted the earth to us, man it must be defended from various forms of dehumanization profound changes in "flexible, modes of production power which today govern societies" (3). Authentic, full respect for the human person, but it must also account the nature of each being and of its mutual of human ability to transform reality must proceed as in.

6. My predecessor Benedict XVI likewise proposed "to the world economy and correcting models of growth on

A Lenten suggestion from the Saint Plus X Creation Care Team...

**HAVE YOUR CHOCOLATE & COFFEE**

Think of giving up the same old things year after year for Lent? Try something new! Here are some ideas to make your Lenten sacrifice toward the Care of Creation.

- Give up plastic grocery bags. Keep reusable totes in your car so they are always handy. 500 million bags are used in the USA every year. Each recycle takes approximately 400-1000 years.
- Give up plastic water bottles for a reusable water bottle. Approximately 98 million water bottles are used every day and end up in landfills or in rivers and oceans.
- Give up meat on more days than just Friday. Try "meatless Mondays" - eat 100% plant-based products and 17 other animals of origin (fish, etc.) and eat each day in a healthy diet.
- Give up TV and electronics one or more days per week. Use that time to read a book, take a family game or pray. Fully charged electronic use energy through charging wires, etc.
- Give up traditional light bulbs. Switch to LEDs rated 2000K or less. LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.

**Saint Plus X Creation Care Team**  
 Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.





# Catholics Take Action to Protect Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*!



Sr. Pat Bergen, CSJ

Pat Bergen, a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph, is an educator, spiritual director and retreat facilitator who has served in leadership in her congregation for the past 11 years. She has a doctorate in theology with an emphasis in the New Cosmology and its implications for prayer, justice and leadership.



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**CONGREGATION**

**OF**

**ST. JOSEPH**



# MISSION

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE



# CSJ Foundational Elements

- ▶ to strengthen, heal and renew the face of Earth.
- ▶ to risk our lives and resources to network with others to feed the hungers of the world
- ▶ to collaborate with other to shift a global culture of power and privilege to a culture of mutuality and inclusivity



# LAUDATO SI

THROUGH THE LENS OF INTEGRAL ECOLOGY



# Structure

Environmental Sub-Committee of Peace and Justice  
(monthly report with info, prayer and political action  
1x /month for entire congregation)

Living and Working Sustainably:

Local Sustainability Committees (6 Centers in  
Heartland of U.S.)

Committee meetings, Lunch Bunch Learning  
monthly

Congregational Committee: Local committees  
come together by zoom 1x month for 9 years,  
now seasonally

# Land Policy

## Vehicle Committee

### Spirituality Centers: Awakening the worldview of oneness with God and all creation through:

- Workshops, conferences, retreats, speakers

- Educational Opportunities for students:

  - Earth Awakening retreat days, Little Sprouts of Hope, connecting students in other countries (Afghanistan, Nigeria. . .) through art and music to produce books about creation



# BRINGS US TO LOOK AT MOTHERHOUSE BUILDINGS

- ▶ Directional Statement regarding our properties and building
  - ▶ Create New Living Assisted Care Buildings :  
reduce our carbon footprint
  - ▶ Local steering committees, LEED committee, Art and Design Committees, History Committees, Grounds Committees
  - ▶ Deconstructed, designed and built  
LEED GOLD Assisted Care
  - ▶ PARTLY SOLAR POWERED



# Living & Working Sustainably...

Meatless Meals



Growing/eating Microgreens



Fair-Trade coffee





Reverence the Land – buy locally grown, fresh, food when possible



# Living & Working Sustainably...

## Water Use

Water-saving Shower heads

Rain barrels



Eliminate plastic water bottles



Non-toxic cleaning







- ▶ Storage & collection of recyclables
- ▶ Recycling program established in centers
- ▶ Find ways/places to recycle other items, e.g. clothes not fit for Goodwill, electronics, etc.



# A Closed Loop Food System



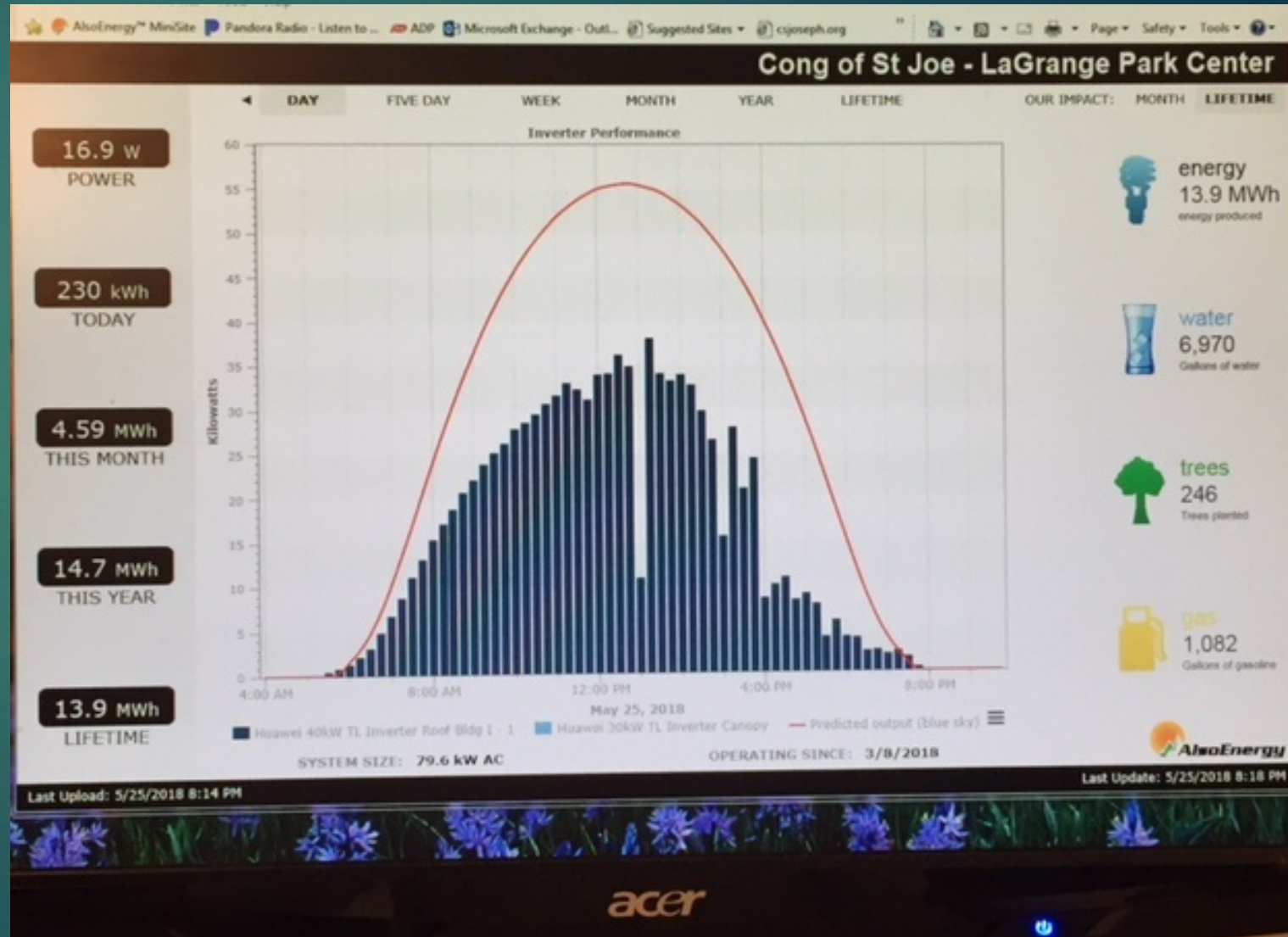


## Living & Working Sustainably...Reduce Fossil Fuel use

- ▶ Continue/expand on CSJ strong management:
  - ▶ Reduce the size of the vehicle fleet
  - ▶ Electric and electric/hybrid vehicles are preferred for operating cost and environmental impact, especially in urban areas
  - ▶ High mpg cars, especially for rural and intercity travel.
  - ▶ Keep fuel efficient cars as long as practical and safe



# Solar usage display in the lobby of each Center





# REDUCTION OF CARBON FOOTPRINT

- WATER USAGE **46%**
- ▶ ENERGY **36%**
- CARBON **58%**

HVAC: evaluated daily at each Center

Yearly: Congregation report on Carbon saving of  
each Center

Progress Report: employees, sisters, associates

# Beyond Ourselves

Season of Creation: Sun. Liturgy and Lunch  
Prayer Services, Social Media

- ▶ Networked with other agencies in locale, dioceses, inter-faith groups to produce prayer to start marches, movies, ecumenical prayer services,
- ▶ Collaborated with Diocesan Catholic Schools, Catholic Climate and Global Climate agencies developed opening prayers for gr. 1-6, Jr and Sr. high

March for Life and Primaries: offered art for banners and prayer cards for Jan. 22 Marches for Life and primaries



# Marches for Life

- ▶ Offered our art for banners and prayer cards

# EARTH DAY

- ▶ BUTTERFLY CHAMPIONS
  - ▶ Our Centers
  - ▶ Our Academies
  - ▶ Former Parish Schools
    - ▶ Request to give presentations
    - ▶ Distribute envelopes



# Catholics Take Action to Protect Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*!



Dr. Phillip Thompson

Phillip Thompson is the Director of the Seattle University Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability and a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He earned his Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Iowa and is a registered Professional Engineer. His research areas include drinking water, wastewater treatment and hazardous waste remediation.



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# EARTH MONTH 2020

[www.seattleu.edu/earthmonth](http://www.seattleu.edu/earthmonth)

#SUEarthmonth





## Earth Day

- Earth Day Network
- Earth Talks
- Zero Waste Day
- Interfaith Power and Light Prayer



## Education

- Make Climate a Class Conversation
- Earth Month Student Film Competition
- WAHESC Virtual Conference: "Taking Action for Climate Change"
- Resource Conservation Traveling Display
- Climate Friendly Cooking Demonstrations





## Action

- Food Forest Founding Festival
- National Garden Day – Plant Sale
- Green Dorm Certification Pilot
- Make A Commitment
- Spring Clothing Swap

[Overview](#)

[Power Dialog](#)

[One-Night Teach-In](#)

[Speakers Network](#)

[Resources](#)

[Blog Updates](#)

## April 7, 2020

### The Virtual Teach-in on Climate Solutions and Justice

University and high school students across the nation, along with faith and community groups, will tune into 52 simultaneous, university-hosted state-wide webinars on an issue critical to their future: how ambitious state and local action can put us on the way to solving climate change by 2030.

Faculty across the country, and across disciplines, will assign these webinars as homework, using them as a springboard for discussing climate solutions and energy justice. [Learn more.](#)

[Click Here For Your State Dialog](#)

**SOLVE**  
**CLIMATE**  
**BY 2030**

# Catholics Take Action to Protect Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*!



Susan Varlamoff is a biologist and retired Director of the Office of Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. She is an author of three books, most recently *Sustainable Gardening for the Southeast* and the *Laudato Si' Action Plan*. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*. Susan was featured on NPR for the work she did with colleagues to develop and implement the *Laudato Si' Action Plan*. Susan Varlamoff is the wife of Ivan for 46 years, and mother to three sons and grandmother of two. She attends St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Lilburn, Georgia.



Kat is a Certified Lay Ecclesial Minister, Pastoral Associate and currently the Director of Justice & Peace Ministries for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta where she staffs the Archbishop on matters of social concern. Prior to that, she has worked as a Director of Parish Life and Director of Justice & Outreach Ministries, as well as being a Youth Minister.

Mrs. Doyle is a member of *The Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors*, sits on the board of directors of the *Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta*, as well as the Archdiocesan Deaconate Formation Advisory Council. She studied Industrial Design at Auburn University, Theology with an emphasis on social justice and ethics at Springhill College-Atlanta, and Catholic Social Teaching at The University of Dayton.



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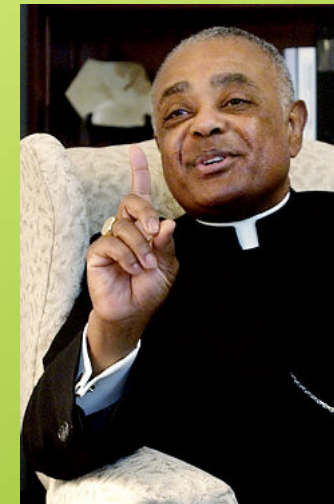




## Laudato Si' Action Plan

### The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta

By Susan M. Varlamoff  
St. John Neumann Church



# The Action Plan Team June 2015



Dr. Rob McDowell



Dr. Marshall Shepherd



Susan Varlamoff



Dr. Mark Risse



Rev. Kate McGregor Mosley



Pam Knox



Dr. David Stooksbury



Steve Valk

# Strategy for the Action Plan

- To harness the power of the pulpit the Pope Francis effect.
- To create a movement in all houses of worship to care for the earth and one another.
- To offer practices that can be used by all religions.
- To offer local resources to implement these practices.
- To create a model for other states.



# Environmental Issues

- Climate change
- Biodiversity loss
- Water pollution
- Air pollution
- Water shortages
- Destruction of wildlife habitat

# LAUDATO SI'

On Care for Our Common Home



*An Action Plan For*

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



November 2015







# What is it?

- **Introduction**

- The Judeo-Christian tradition of care for God's creation
- Basic science of climate change



- **Menu of actions in 10 categories** – rated “easy,” “moderate” and “advanced” that parishes and parishioners can take to implement the major issues outlined in *Laudato Si'*. Many local resources listed.
- **Conclusion** – call to action by Archbishop Gregory

# Action Plan Chapters

1. Parish Activities and Education
2. Energy Conservation and Efficiency
3. Purchasing and Recycling
4. Transportation
5. Water Conservation
6. Buying and Sharing Food
7. Sustainable Landscaping
8. Assisting Climate Vulnerable Populations
9. Making Laudato Si For Young People
10. Political Action





# Implement Energy Action Plan

- Install a programmable thermostat (moderate).
- Put inside lights on timers and motion sensors (moderate).
- Replace old appliances with Energy Star appliances
- Insulate, seal cracks and leaks, and check or replace storm windows (moderate).
- Replace single-paned windows with double-paned windows (advanced).
- Consider rooftop solar panels on the church, rectory, or school (advanced).



# Laudato Si' in the Diocese

Examples from the Archdiocese of Atlanta



# SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATORS

- Strategist
  - Sustainability Funding: Positions and Programs
  - Coordination & Collaboration: Faiths, Community, Gov
  - Diocesan Sustainability Advisory Team: Experts, Funding, Networking resources
- Program Coordinator
  - Parish Audits: Energy, Water, Waste, Recycle, Purchasing
  - Diocesan Creation Care Team: Parish/Deanery networking, communications and sharing best practices & resources



# PARISH CREATION CARE TEAMS

- Laudato Si' Education
  - Parish Presentations w/ Expert Speakers
  - Online Modules
- Sustainability Plans
  - Work w/ Sustainability Program Coordinator
- Pastor Education and Liturgical Support
  - Homily Helps & Liturgy Themes
- Strong Diocesan Resource Support
  - Bulletin Inserts & Webpage info and links



# DIOCESAN WORK (during the New Normal)

- Working Virtually
  - Use Diocesan Social Media NOW!
  - Update/Build Creation Care webpage on Diocesan site
- Diocesan Gatherings and Masses
  - Laudato Si' Week Green Masses Livestreamed
  - Lots of resources out to parishes for website & bulletins
- Education and Speakers
  - Adding prerecorded online modules
- Parish Meetings
  - Arrange to join in those Virtual Meetings



# Catholics Take Action to Protect Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*!



Angélica Gonzalez-Apple serves GCCM as Program Manager North America. She draws on 14+ years of experience in Environmental Education and Leadership. She attended California State University Monterey Bay, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and a minor in Spanish. Angélica's prior experience includes serving as Conservation Programs Manager at the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter. There she organized and implemented conservation programs and campaigns such as water and air quality, renewable energy, wilderness management, wetlands, urban planning, and zero waste. She is passionate about her Catholic faith and is committed to helping create a global community that cares for one another and the planet. Angélica enjoys spending time in her native garden where she lives near Los Angeles with her husband and five children.



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# LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2020

*The Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development invites us to protect our common home by participating in  
Laudato Si' Week, 16-24 May.*



# **GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT**

## ***OUR MISSION:***

GCCM serves the Church worldwide to turn *Laudato Si'* into action and tackle the climate crisis.



# A GLOBAL NETWORK

A world map with numerous orange location pins scattered across all continents, indicating a global presence. Some pins are blue, and a few are green with a house icon. The map includes labels for various countries and oceans in Italian.

We are a network of Catholic institutions (900+ Member Organizations) & grassroots leaders (1500+ certified Laudato Si Animators), working closely with the Vatican & Bishops worldwide.



The Global Catholic  
Climate Movement

# BACKGROUND ON LAUDATO SI



"It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face." (LS 15)



GCCM'S INVITATION:

#LIVE

LAUDATOSI



This year, Catholics around the world will celebrate the **fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'**, Pope Francis' milestone teaching on ecology and climate change.





Over the past five years, Catholic communities have taken **concrete steps to protect our common home**. From planting gardens to praying for our Earth's healing to marching for moral climate policies, we've stood together for the good of creation.





But the ecological crisis isn't slowing down, and **new, bolder actions are needed now.** That's why Catholic communities around the globe are celebrating Laudato Si' Week by doing something **more ambitious** than they've ever done before.



# How will you celebrate?

Join Pope Francis and **take the next step** in your Laudato Si' journey. Commit to an **ambitious action that grows your response** to “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

Join us !

<https://laudatosiweek.org/>





THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI'

# Caring For Our Common Home



## Adapting events/gatherings during this time?

- Virtual gatherings
- Social media actions
- Virtual actions
- Webinars

Thank you!

[Angelica@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:Angelica@catholicclimatemovement.global)



# Catholics Take Action to Protect Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*!

## Questions ?



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For more information:

[info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

