

Implementation of the *Laudato Si'* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference

July 30th, 2019

CatholicClimateCovenant.org



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Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

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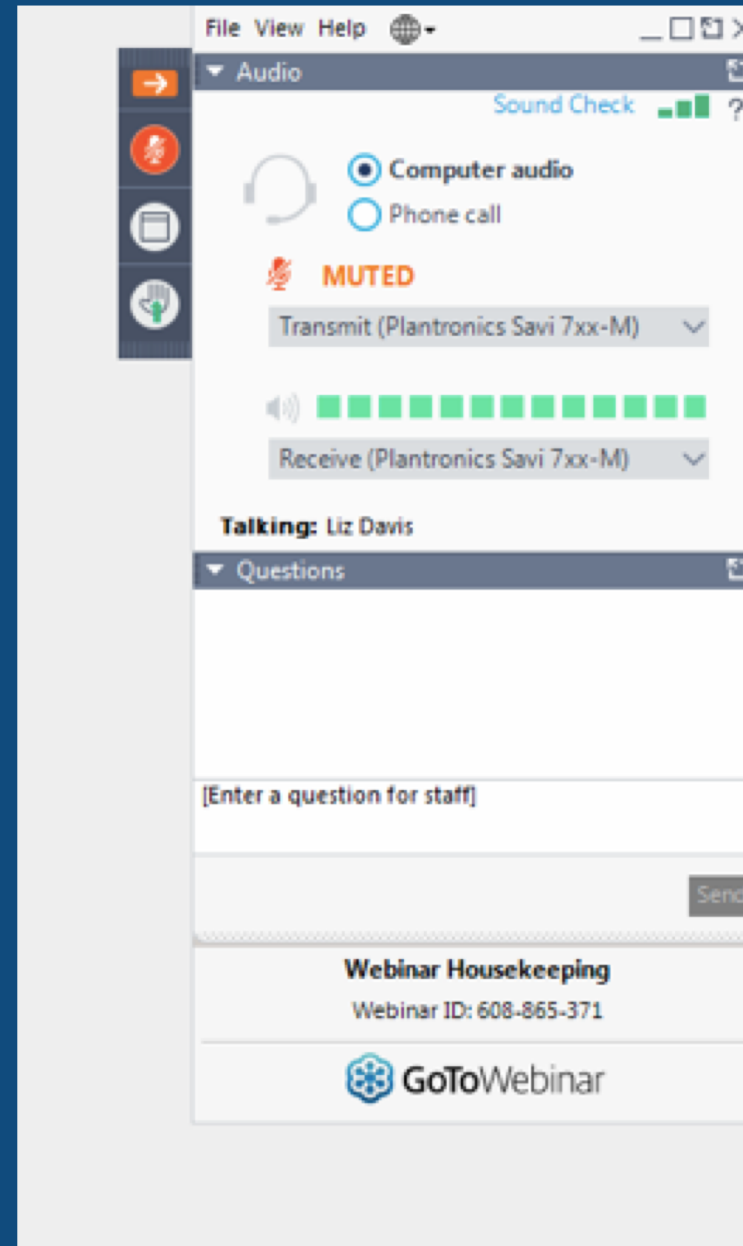
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Join audio:

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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.



Implementation of the *Laudato Si'* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with the Earth.

Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the land, the seas, and the skies.

Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation.

Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the sea, the forest, and the air. Christ, teach us to care.

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill us with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and with the joy of Christ within us.

Amen

EVENING PRAYER WITH ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (Philippines)



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Assistant Professor and Director
of the Justice and Peace Studies
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“*Laudato Si’* and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home”

Daniel R. DiLeo, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor and Director
Justice and Peace Studies Program
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LAUDATO SI’
AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH
A Conference Series on Our Common Home

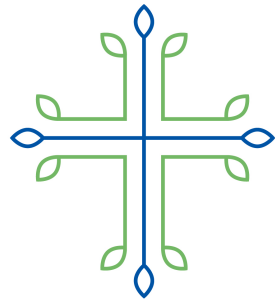
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Overview



LAUDATO SI' AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH *A Conference Series on Our Common Home*

- Advocacy
- Adult Faith Formation
- Creation Care Teams
- Energy Management
- Higher Education
- Liturgy
- School Education
- Young Adult Ministry

The U.S. Catholic Church: *Laudato Si'*, Creation Care, and the Climate Crisis



The U.S. Catholic Church—*Laudato Si'*,
Creation Care, and the Climate Crisis

LAUDATO SI'
AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH
A Conference Series on Our Common Home

Thursday, June 27, 2019 | 7–8:30 p.m.
V.J. and Angela Skutt Student Center, Mutual of Omaha Ballroom, Creighton University Campus

This event marks the four-year anniversary of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'* and opens the inaugural gathering of "*Laudato Si'*" and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home."



The speakers will address the importance of more deeply integrating *Laudato Si'* into the U.S. Catholic community, consider opportunities and challenges to this work, and highlight how the U.S. Catholic bishops has incorporated the encyclical into its climate change advocacy.

SPEAKERS
Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy, PhD, Bishop of San Diego
Meghan Goodwin, Associate Director of Government Relations,
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

MODERATOR
Martha D. Shulski, PhD, Director of the Nebraska State
Climate Office

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Most Rev. George J. Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha
Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, President of
Creighton University

This event is free and open to the public.
creighton.edu/catholicclimate

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- Most Rev. George J. Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha
- Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, President of Creighton University
- Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy, PhD, Bishop of San Diego
- Meghan Goodwin, MA, Associate Director of Government Relations at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Martha Shulski, PhD, Director of the Nebraska State Climate Office

Keynote and Plenary Addresses

Speakers



Opening Keynote Address: "The U.S. Catholic Church—Laudato Si', Creation Care, and the Climate Crisis"
Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy, PhD
Bishop of San Diego

The Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy was named bishop of San Diego by Pope Francis in 2015. Prior to this, he was appointed auxiliary bishop of San Francisco by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. Bishop McElroy holds a PhD in political science from Stanford University, has authored two books (*The Search for an American Public Theology and Morality and American Foreign Policy*) and frequently writes for the Jesuit publication *America Magazine*.



Opening Keynote Address: "The U.S. Catholic Church—Laudato Si', Creation Care, and the Climate Crisis"
Meghan Goodwin, MA
Associate Director of Government Relations, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Meghan Goodwin serves as the main point of contact between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the U.S. Congress on issues relating to foreign policy, domestic antipoverty legislation and environmental policy. She was previously a policy advisor to the USCCB on issues of mental health, health care, economic and community development, trade, affordable housing and homelessness, immigration, education and poverty. Goodwin earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Virginia.



Plenary Address 1: Spirituality and Conversion
Erin Lothes Biviano, PhD
Associate Professor of Theology, College of Saint Elizabeth

Erin Lothes Biviano is a leading Catholic environmental theologian. She has written two books (*Inspired Sustainability: Planting Seeds for Action and The Paradox of Christian Sacrifice: The Loss of Self, the Gift of Self*) and has published numerous articles, including "Catholic Moral Traditions and Energy Ethics for the Twenty-First Century." She is a former Earth Institute Fellow at Columbia University, and holds a PhD in systematic theology from Fordham University.



Plenary Address 2: What is Happening to our Common Home?
Martha D. Shulski, PhD
Director of the Nebraska State Climate Office and State Climatologist

Martha D. Shulski is associate professor of applied climate science in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, director of the Nebraska State Climate Office and state climatologist. Her research interests are in the areas of climate variability and change and climate impacts, and she has contributed to dozens of peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles. Shulski holds a PhD in soil, science and climatology from the University of Minnesota. She is a parishioner at St. Michael's Catholic parish in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Friday Evening Keynote Address: "Integral Ecology in Laudato Si': A Holistic Understanding of and Response to the Crisis of Our Common Home"
Rev. Jostrom Isaac Kureethadam, PhD
Coordinator of the Sector on Ecology and Creation - Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

The Rev. Jostrom Isaac Kureethadam serves as coordinator of the Sector on Ecology and Creation in the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Prior to this work, he was chair of philosophy of science and director of the Institute of Social and Political Sciences at Salesian University in Rome. His most recent books include *The Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si', The Philosophical Roots of the Ecological Crisis: Descartes and the Modern Worldview* and *Creation in Crisis: Science, Ethics and Theology*. Fr. Kureethadam holds a PhD from the Gregorian University in Rome.



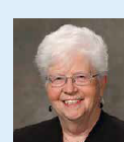
Plenary Address 3: Love in Action
Rev. Kenneth R. Himes, OFM, PhD
Professor of Theology, Boston College

The Rev. Kenneth R. Himes is a leading Catholic ethicist and moral theologian. He has published multiple books, including *Christianity and the Political Order: Conflict, Cooptation, and Cooperation*, edited *Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations* and authored dozens of articles and book chapters. He also serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Catholic Social Thought* and is past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. Fr. Himes holds a PhD in Religion and Public Policy from Duke University.



Plenary Address 4: Environmental and Climate Justice
Sacoby Wilson, PhD
Associate Professor of Applied Environmental Health (MIAEH), University of Maryland-College Park

Sacoby Wilson is an environmental health scientist focused on community-university partnerships on environmental health and justice issues. For the past two years, he has been building a program on community engagement, environmental justice and health to engage impacted communities, advocacy groups and policymakers in Maryland and the Washington, D.C., region on environmental justice issues and environmental health disparities. Wilson has been published in numerous academic journals, including *Social Science & Medicine*, *Environmental Research and Environmental Science and Policy*. He holds a PhD in Environmental Health Sciences and Engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Closing Keynote Address
Sr. Patricia Siemen, OP, JD
Prioress of the Adrian Dominican Sisters

Sr. Patricia Siemen is a Dominican Sister from Adrian, Michigan, and is a civil attorney. She is the founding director of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence at Barry University School of Law. In 2013, Sr. Siemen was selected to do a TED talk in Jacksonville, Florida, on the Rights of Nature. In January 2014, she participated in the first World Ethics Tribunal on the Rights of Nature, sponsored by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, in Quito, Ecuador. She holds a Juris Doctor from Northeastern University, an MA in culture and spirituality from Holy Names University and an MA in public affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin.



Media

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER
THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

AMID CLIMATE THREAT, CATHOLICS PURSUE ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION IN US CHURCH

Conference discusses turning point, shares successful solutions

Jul 11, 2019

by [Brian Roewe](#) | [Environment](#)

This article appears in the [Our Common Home](#) feature series. [View the full series.](#)



Campus of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where "Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church" was co-sponsored by the Catholic Climate Covenant. (NCR photo/Brian Roewe)

OMAHA, NEB. — As the designated scribe, Danielle Roberts raced to keep pace writing down the ideas other young Catholics offered up as they envisioned a U.S. church more embracing the ecological tenants of their faith.

Catholic News Service

HOME NEWS EXTRAS SERVICES ABOUT


CNS News

Minnesota churches move to bring 'Laudato Si' into parish life

By Dennis Sadowski Catholic News Service
7.24.2019 10:53 AM ET

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Living in rural central Minnesota, JoAnn Braegelman and her neighbors in the Diocese of St. Cloud know that disrespecting the natural resources "right outside our window" would quickly make life very difficult.


It's imperative, they realize, that the soil be kept healthy so it can continue to produce corn, soy beans and other important crops that have supported farm families for generations.



California Catholic Daily Home News Sections Featured Classified Ads Advertise

San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy keynotes Laudato Si' conference

Calls for "conversion from environmental denial to environmental reality" at Creighton University conference marking four-year anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical



Bishop McElroy gave one of the keynote remarks at the inaugural meeting of the "Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home" at Creighton University. (image from Creighton University Twitter @Creighton)

The inaugural gathering of "Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home," was held at Creighton University on June 27-29. Sponsored by Creighton and the Catholic Climate Covenant, it featured addresses from spiritual leaders and environmental advocates.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER
THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

A Virginia parish switched to 100% solar power — and paid nothing

Jul 1, 2019

by [Brian Roewe](#) | [Environment](#) | [Parish](#)

This article appears in the [Our Common Home](#) feature series. [View the full series.](#)



A total of 440 solar panels were installed in June on the church building roof at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hampton, Virginia. (Vy Barto)

There's a new energy these days at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hampton, Virginia.

In the Pencil Preaching

In mid-June, the southeastern Virginia parish flipped the switch on a 142-kilowatt solar energy system that will generate 100% of the parish's

CRUX
Taking the Catholic Pulse

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Summer program designed to integrate 'Laudato Si' across church life

Dennis Sadowski Mar 9, 2019
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA
CATHOLIC VOICE

climateconference.org
JULY 12, 2019

Climate conference held at Creighton Univ.

About 225 people gathered June 27-29 at Creighton University in Omaha to explore the ecological, economic and policy implications of climate change.

The event was the first of three biennial conferences, titled "Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home," aimed at promoting application of the principles contained in Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si'" on the issue of climate change and its effects on poor communities around the world.

Archbishop George J. Lucas and Creighton President Jesuit Father Daniel Hendrickson welcomed attendees during the opening session.

The archbishop called the event a "groundbreaking initiative (that) will help Catholics more deeply encounter Jesus in God's creation, equip key ministries to better integrate 'Laudato Si', and enable people to mercifully and lovingly live the three relationships that 'ground... human life': with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself."

Keynote speakers included Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego and Meghan Goodwin, associate director of government relations for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

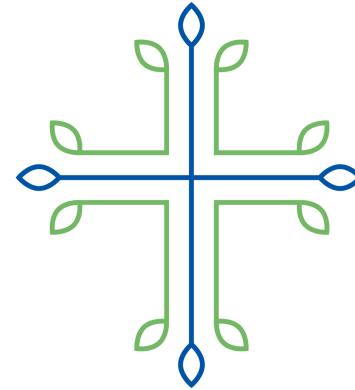
Bishop McElroy proposed three initiatives to confront the environmental challenges: a broad, interfaith movement of religious and cultural renewal rooted in God's identity as Creator; launching within the culture of the United States a conversion from environmental denial to environmental reality; and in the U.S. Catholic community, empowering children as the prophetic voice of environmental justice in the country.

The event also included plenary and breakout sessions with educators, theologians and climate experts. It was sponsored by Creighton University and the Catholic Climate Covenant, a partnership of 18 organizations, including the USCCB, to promote care for creation and the poor.



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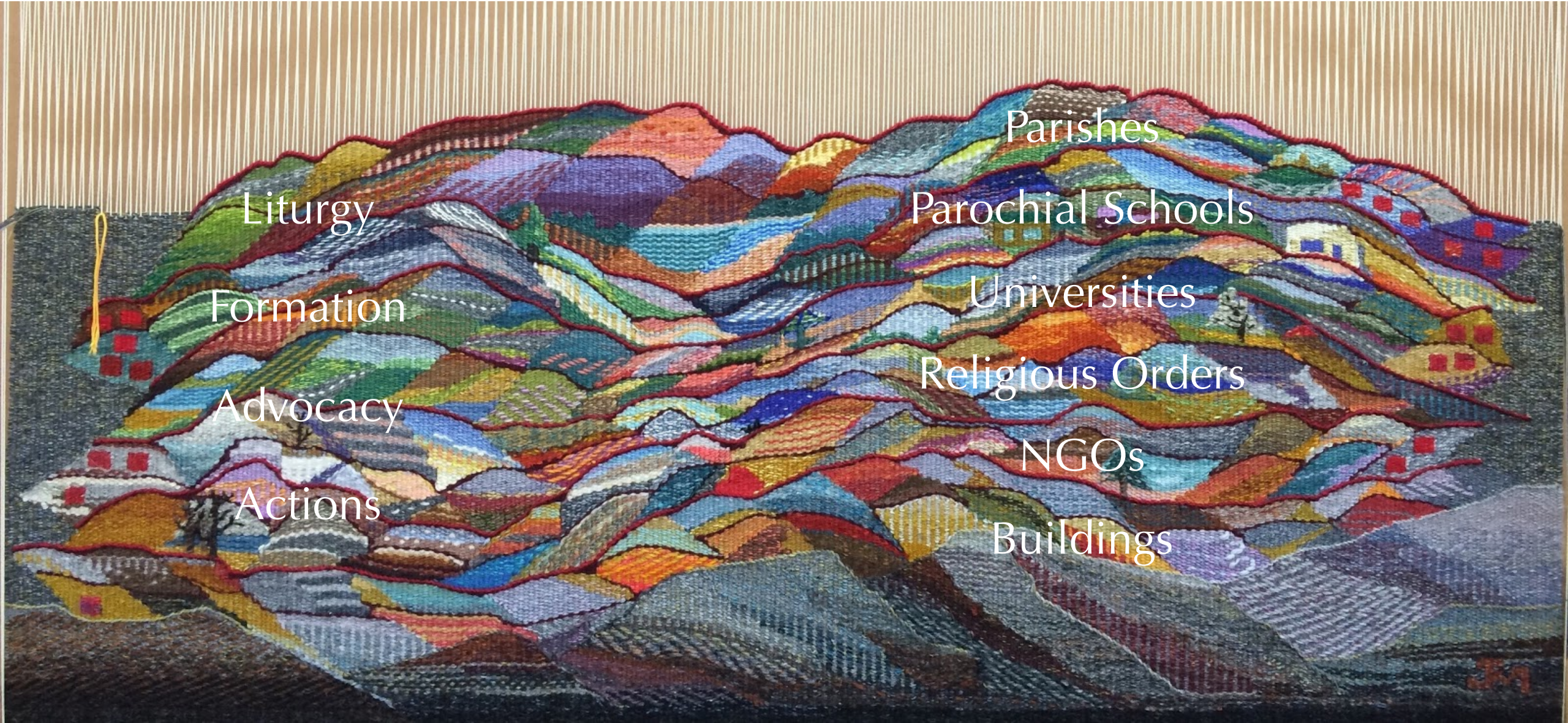


LAUDATO SI'

AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Conference Series on Our Common Home

Weaving Green Threads Across Catholic Ministries In Spirit, Word and Deed



Liturgy

Formation

Advocacy

Actions

Parishes

Parochial Schools

Universities

Religious Orders

NGOs

Buildings

Homily
Aids



We are pleased to offer a collection of homilies help connect the healing mission of the Church parishes and the communities we serve.

Visit www.chausa.org/homilies for these homily

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER

THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

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Amid climate threat, Catholics pursue ecological conversion in US church

Conference discusses turning point, shares successful solutions

Jul 11, 2019

by [Brian Roewe](#) | [Environment](#)

[Link to article](#)

Laudato Si' and the US Catholic Church conference



Campus of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where "Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church" was co-sponsored by the Catholic Climate Covenant. (NCR photo/Brian Roewe)

Overarching Challenges

- Care for Creation is not a top priority within the US Catholic Church
- Climate Change can be viewed as a political, not moral issue
- So many Catholic institutions and individuals are doing great work to care for creation and each other, yet we do not yet share information, coordinate or collaborate well enough



Overarching Themes

Our thoughts, prayers, words, and deeds in seeking climate solutions, must arise first from the Holy Spirit, within and among us, in accordance with the Greatest Commandment to love God and thy neighbor as thyself.



The Greatest Commandment

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

- Jesus, in Matthew 22: 37-40



Overarching Themes

- Share information: clearinghouses, networks
- Coordinate and Collaborate
- Use existing best practices, organizations to lift the mission, and create new entities where appropriate
- Integrate LS into existing ministries
- Seek Funding - it means intentionality of purpose
- Build relationships with Church leaders on these issues



Overarching Solution: Faith Transcends Partisanship

“At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family.” *USCCB, 2001*

“As individuals, as institutions, as a people we need **a change of heart** to preserve and protect the planet for our children and for generations yet unborn.” *USCCB, 1991*



Advocacy

- Top advocacy priorities: 1) Reduce global greenhouse gas emissions; and 2) Transition to renewables/reduce fossil fuel use
- Build relationships with bishops and pastors
- Explore creation of a Catholic Climate Advocacy organization like Catholic Education Partners
- Galvanize the Catholic spirit to act on climate, through “Moments”



Advocacy

This September: A Galvanizing Moment

- We are mobilizing US Catholic organizations and individuals now
 - Season of Creation: Sept 1- Oct 4
 - Climate Strikes: Sept 20-27
 - UN Climate Summit: Sept 23
 - Feast of St. Francis: Oct 4
 - Support of the Paris Agreement through:
 - [The Catholic Climate Declaration](#)
 - International Climate Accountability Act (S.1743)
- If interested, e-mail conference@catholicclimatecovenant.org and include in title "Advocacy"



Adult Faith Formation

- Build a wholistic program that advances the 4 stages of Evangelization: pre-event, conversion, becoming a disciple, being a disciple in mission
- Integrate LS throughout every Adult Faith Formation opportunity including liturgy, sacramental preparation, bible study, community outreach
- Catalog, critique and disseminate current resources, including climate/EJ stories



Energy Management

- Start small: community garden, lights, sealing windows and doors
- Find ways to “share savings” across the community or between wealthy and poor parishes
- Form an internship/volunteer program esp. for engineering, env studies majors from Catholic universities, working with Catholic schools and institutions
- Connect with and train Creation Care Teams



A Virginia parish switched to 100% solar power — and paid nothing

Jul 1, 2019

by [Brian Roewe](#) | [Environment](#) | [Parish](#)

This article appears in the [Our Common Home](#) feature series. [View the full series.](#)

www.catholicenergies.org



A total of 440 solar panels were installed in June on the church building roof at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hampton, Virginia. (Vy Barto)

Social Issues

A field in D.C. will soon be home to 5,000 solar panels. It's all because of local Catholic groups – and a message from the pope.

[Link to Washington Post article](#)

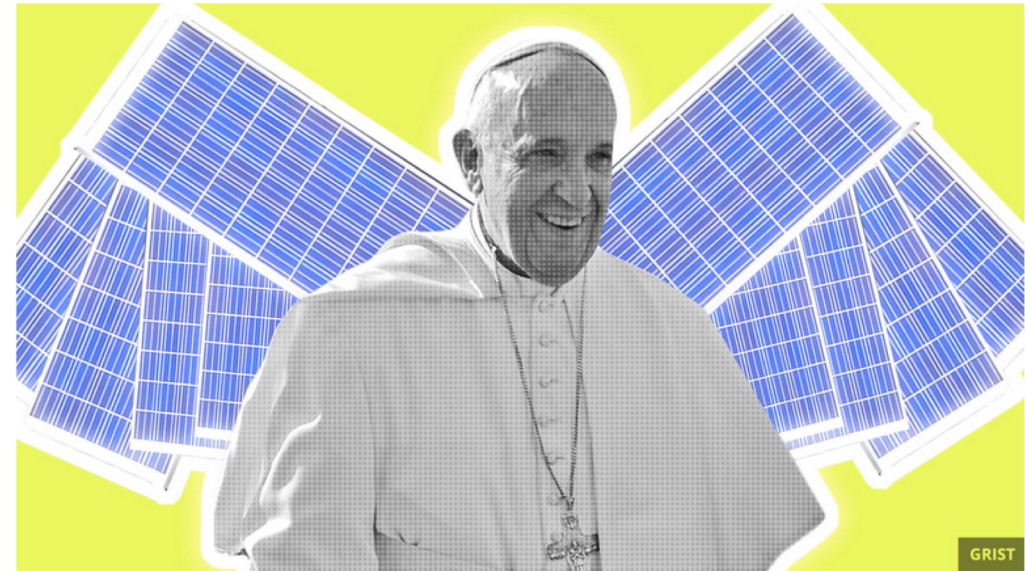
[Link to Grist article](#)



www.catholicenergies.org

Father, Son and Holy Solar

It's Monday, July 22, and there's new (solar) energy in the Catholic church.



Liturgy

- Sunday Mass is often the only time parishioners encounter God and Church in community and with intentionality
- Look anew at the existing liturgy to integrate care for creation themes
E.g., Homily helps, missal, prayers, symbols, plants
- Create a clearinghouse of resources
- Create a network of liturgists willing to take on this vocation



School Education

- Duplicate best initiatives and practices across the US Catholic school community
 - Salpointe High School
 - Diocese of Toledo
 - National Catholic Education Association's (NCEA) new STREAM initiative (Science, Technology, **Religion**, Engineering, **Arts**, Math)
- Seek funding from local Catholic foundations to help schools do this work
- Collaborate with local universities and community groups to do immersion programs.



School Education

Dioceses of Toledo and Salpointe High School



Laudato Si' inspires high school students to follow Pope Francis. Developed by the Carmelite NGO, this comprehensive Curriculum is available to ALL to download or in hard copies. Check out **Laudato Si'** Study Guides for college classes and adult groups.

- [Carmelite NGO Laudato Si' curriculum](#)
- Kate McGarey-Vasey description of Salpointe High School's Laudato Si' initiative ([video](#))
- Peggy Riehl's description of the Diocese of Toledo's efforts to incorporate Laudato Si' ([webinar](#) at minute 25)

Young Adult Ministry

- Reach out to and collaborate with other Catholic institutions engaged in youth and young adult ministry
- Persuade 25 Catholic Colleges to divest or engage in the process of divestment
- Work to have 10 US dioceses to have Laudato Si' offices, staff, and a network
- Lead on moral, bi-partisan advocacy for federal climate solutions
- Do a voter based education tour on Laudato Si'
- Create a March for All Life led by Young Adults



**The Overarching Solution
is found within and around us, in
The Imitation of Christ**

To love God, the Creator
To love thy neighbor, and thy enemy
To be gentle and humble of heart
To sacrifice for the love of God and Neighbor
To forgive ourselves and others
To reconcile with others

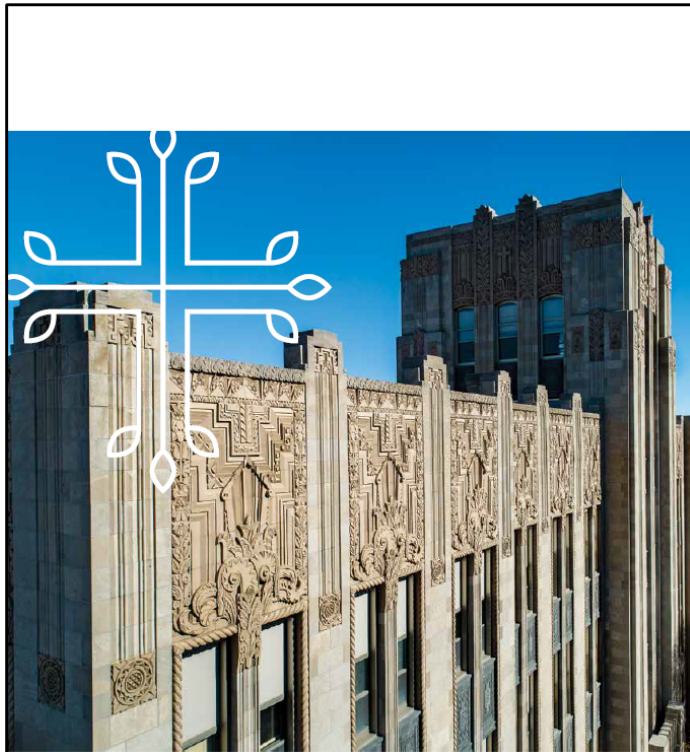




Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Higher Education



"Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home" is the first of three biennial conferences to convene, equip and inspire current and potential leaders who can more deeply integrate Laudato Si' and its climate change teaching into the U.S. Catholic Church.

- Integration: Modest
- Integration Factors:
 - Encounter, Relationships, Integral Ecology, Champions, Finances, and Mission Formation
- Possible Pathways:
 - Catholic Energies
 - Theologian/Scientist Diocesan Speaking Tour
 - Environmental Justice Orientations
 - ACCU Formation Offerings (Leaders in Catholic Higher Education, Mission Leadership Institute, New Presidents Institute, Trustee Development)

Creation Care Teams in Parishes, Schools, and Religious Communities



Focus on Best Practices

- [Sisters of St. Joseph](#)
- [Archdiocese of Atlanta](#)
- [St. John Neumann](#)
(Reston VA)
- [Diocese of Stockton,](#)
[Environmental Justice](#)
[Program](#)



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Creation Care Teams in Parishes, Schools, and Religious Communities

Key Takeaway #1:

CCT's are best strategy/path for vertical integration of *Laudato Si'* in the US Catholic Church.



Key Takeaway #2

CCTs flourish when there is both a directive from above, and strong lay and religious community leadership.

Key Takeaway #3:

The Sisters are leading!

Key Takeaway #4:

Several dioceses are emphasizing CCTs and providing resources and assistance.

Creation Care Teams in Parishes, Schools, and Religious Communities



What is Needed?

- Engaging/connecting with youth, sharing the stories of the successes of women religious, more pastors preaching on eco-spirituality and *Laudato Si'*.
- Resources that move the church to a much deeper spiritual connection with creation.
- Establishing networks between CCTs (inter and intra diocesan networking)
- Expand CCT program in both quantity (numbers) and expand work to work with impacted communities and advocacy.

Implementation of the *Laudato Si'* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference



YOU

ARE THE KEY TO IMPLEMENTING *LAUDATO SI'* CONFERENCE!

YOU

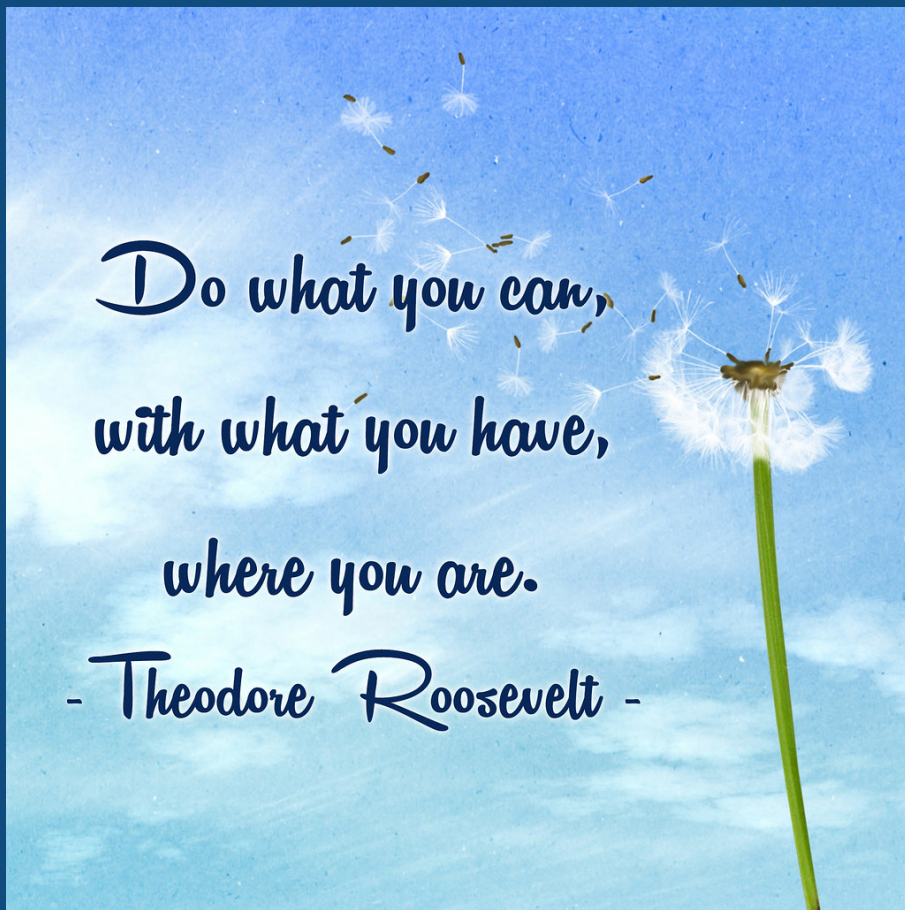
Are the Key to Make *Laudato Si'* Conference Takeaways Real!



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1. PRAY/Connect with God and creation
2. Read/Study *Laudato Si'*
3. Stay informed
4. Make personal changes
5. Start the conversation/share information
6. Find allies/support systems
7. Advocate for institutional changes



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Are you a part of Creation Care Team?

See: www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org/CCT for more information



Implementation of the *Laudato Si'* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference

Get involved! Opportunities coming up!

- 1) Season of Creation (Sept 1-Oct. 4) (<https://seasonofcreation.org>) and World Day of Prayer for Creation (Sept. 1)
- 2) Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 4) <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/feast-st-francis>
- 3) Synod for the Amazon (Oct 6-27, 2019) <http://www.synod.va/content/synod/it/attualita/synod-for-the-amazon--preparatory-document--amazonia--new-paths-.html>
- 4) Advocacy opportunities (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/advocacy>)
- 5) Bulletin Blurbs (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/creation-care-corner-bulletin>)
- 6) Homily Helps (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14>)
- 7) *Laudato Si'* resources: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=11>
- 8) Catholic Energies (<https://catholicenergies.org>)



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Questions ?



Implementation of the *Laudato Si'* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference

For more information:

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/laudato-si-and-us-catholic-church-conference-series-our-common-home>

and

Conference@CatholicClimateCovenant.org