

CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Catholic Climate Covenant inspires and equips people and institutions to care for creation and care for the poor. Through our 18 national partners, we guide the U.S. Church's response to climate change by educating, giving public witness, and offering resources.

The Covenant can help you answer the call to care for creation and the poor through the sharing of Church teaching, our resources, and our programs. Loving God's creation and God's most vulnerable is at the heart of who we are as Catholics.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the end of 2018, I predicted that when the history of Catholic Climate Covenant is written, 2019 would be a year of accomplishments second only to 2015, the year Pope Francis issued his landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.

I am pleased to say that the predication was perhaps understated. Thanks to YOU, to dedicated staff, to an engaged board of directors and amazing national Catholic partners, it was truly a banner year.

As you read through this brief Annual Report, you will see how right this prediction was. From our Catholic Energies program successes to the well-received *Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church* conference, in partnership with Creighton University, the Covenant is clearly on the map.

These well-publicized successes were only part of the story, however. The day-to-day work of the Covenant continued by:

- Supporting over 400 parish and diocesan Creation Care Teams
- Generating excellent Earth Day and Feast of St. Francis Educational programs shared by thousands of leaders to tens of thousands of Catholics
- Continuing our public objections to the current administration's assault on the environment and delivering tens of thousands of signatures to members of Congress by young people demanding that the U.S. remain engaged in the Paris Climate Agreement.

This momentum will undoubtedly continue into 2020. Our first big public campaign will focus on the time between the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, and the Season of Creation ending on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis. This Catholic Climate Project will be an intergenerational effort to host as many activities as possible highlighting both the urgency of the climate crisis and tapping the energy of young people demanding action: social, political and religious.

We will not tire of our advocacy on behalf of God's good gift of creation and the poorest and most vulnerable among us who suffer from our neglect.

Thank you for your prayers and your financial support that made 2019 one of the most impactful years we have ever had.

Sincerely,
Dan Misleh



CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WEAVING THE THREAD OF CREATION CARE

Catholic Climate Covenant and Creighton University teamed up to “weave the green thread into the tapestry of the Catholic Church.” Over 200 ministry professionals gathered from June 27-29 in Omaha to explore ways to integrate Catholic teaching on creation care into liturgy, higher education, adult faith formation, energy management, young adult ministry, religious education, advocacy, and creation care teams. The *Laudato Si’* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference encouraged Catholic leaders to form and implement concrete plans to ensure that more Catholics around the U.S. understand and are inspired to act to save our common home and to deepen our spiritual commitment to be co-creators with God. Two more conferences are planned in 2021 and 2023 to advance and expand these goals.

PUBLIC WITNESS

The Covenant repeatedly amplified the policy positions of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops throughout the year. In 2019, Catholic Climate Covenant mobilized supporters in four major advocacy efforts:

- 1,716 supporters sent 4,431 messages to their Senators and Representatives asking them to sponsor the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, which seeks to reduce national carbon pollution emissions by over 90% by 2050.
- 1,478 supporters submitted comments urging the EPA to uphold the lifesaving Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) rule and to oppose the rollback of this critically important regulation.
- 2,880 supporters sent 5,760 letters to their Senators urging them to support the International Climate Accountability Act (S.1743) which would help keep the United States in the Paris Agreement and ensure it remains a global leader in the effort to prevent climate change.
- In November, working with the Ignatian Solidarity Network and other partners, over 1,500 Catholic youth and young adults visited their Senators on Capitol Hill in support of the International Climate Accountability Act (S.1743). They also handed their Senators a petition signed by over 58,000 people across the nation, as well as by the signatories of the Catholic Climate Declaration, which includes over 800 U.S. Catholic institutions.

SOLAR SHINES WITH CATHOLIC ENERGIES!

After three years of investing in what was essentially a start-up venture, the Covenant’s Catholic Energies program took flight in 2019. The response to two hard-won solar projects could not have been better. Media outlets, from the *National Catholic Reporter* to the *Washington Post* and energy efficiency trade publications, noted our success. The Covenant thanks Immaculate Conception Parish in Hampton, VA, and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington—which now boasts the largest-ever ground array in the District of Columbia—for trusting our Catholic Energies team with their projects.

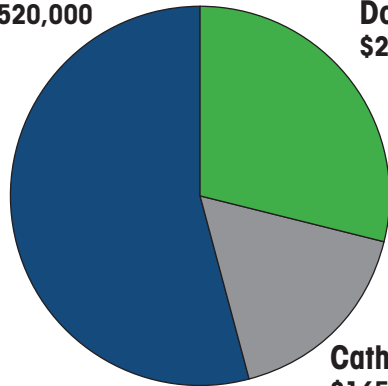
Our success has led to 60 new projects in our Catholic Energies pipeline, as of early 2020. Parishes, schools, religious communities, and other managers of Catholic facilities have discovered that Catholic Energies adds capacity to develop energy- and money-saving projects on their behalf. They realize so many other benefits including reducing their carbon footprint, employing local people, demonstrating to the wider community their commitment to *Laudato Si’*, and making the Catholic Church relevant to the young people who are clamoring for climate action.

This program also provides needed and continuous revenue for the Covenant which helps to stabilize our budget and provides an opportunity to educate parishioners, students and other Catholics on the need to care for God’s good gift of creation.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE
\$964,000

Grants
\$520,000

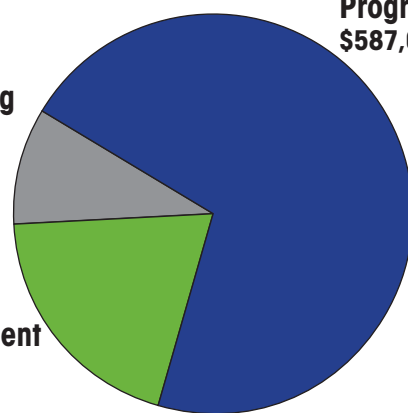


Donations
\$279,000

Catholic Energies
\$165,000

EXPENSES
\$826,000

Fundraising
\$77,000



Programs
\$587,000

Management
\$162,000

REVENUE



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are working with national and local partners—especially youth and young adults—to take advantage of a key moment between the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day (April 22) and the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si' (May 24) with a variety of activities: liturgies, advocacy visits, tree plantings and other events to show the nation that the Catholic Church demands action on the threat of climate change. By the end of 2020, we hope to have created a new "Catholic Youth for Climate Action" network and organization focused on youth activities.

CONTACT US



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