



CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT
Annual Report 2021



Our Mission

To inspire and animate the U.S. Catholic community to transform hearts and minds toward an ecological conversion that brings about concrete action to promote climate justice and integral ecology.

A Letter from Jose Aguto and Dan Misleh

Dear Friends,

In June 2021, Catholic Climate Covenant celebrated 15 years in our leadership role in the United States to carry forth the calls of St. John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis, to encourage action on behalf of our Common Home, and to see this activity as an essential aspect of the Catholic faith.

As the need to act — for the love of God our Creator, our neighbors, our children and the generations to come — becomes ever more urgent, we deepen our commitment to this mission. Last year the Vatican blessed us to lead the U.S. implementation of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, a seven-year sustainability journey across the global church to express our love for creation in prayer, word and deed.

Our part in our global Church's effort expands the possibility of growth in our existing programming and partnerships with fellow Catholics in parishes, dioceses, and other institutions. It opens windows of opportunity for new actions, relationships, and results.

Our work together has never been more important.

- As the U.S. lead for the Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, we serve parishes and dioceses, convene experts, and have created a new website (www.godsplanet.us) for the U.S. Catholic community to share good news and best practices.
- Our Catholic Energies program continues to enable Catholic institutions across the nation to install solar panels, reduce carbon emissions and save money.
- Almost two dozen dioceses have Creation Care Committees.
- Hundreds of parishes, schools and other community organizations have also formed Creation Care Teams.
- We continue to advocate for meaningful climate solutions before the Administration and Congress, with faith-filled messaging, seeking to transcend partisanship and change hearts and minds.
- Our Young Adult Mobilization program is galvanizing and animating young Catholics to express the call for climate action and ecological conversion through the strength and beauty of our faith.

As you read this annual report, you will see that with you and all our Church, we have been faithful to this critical mission. We are confident that the beauty and strength, the teachings and traditions of our Church can play a powerful, healing, and transformative role. We are at the threshold of a new pivotal chapter. Will you help us write it?



Thank you for your discernment. May God bless you, and all who come after us.



Jose Aguto, Executive Director



Dan Misleh, Founder





Greetings From Bishop Tyson

Dear Friends,

Since joining the board of directors of Catholic Climate Covenant nearly two years ago, I have been impressed with the grit and determination of this hard working and caring staff, and the commitment by the board to our mission.

I believe that the missing element to move our nation to see, judge and act with the urgency that the crises of climate change and environmental degradation demand is this: a vision that begins with the reality that we are all a part of a Common Home.

Living in Washington State and ministering to so many people who depend upon the lands and waters for their livelihood, I see firsthand how wildfires, droughts and other events exacerbated by climate change disrupt our community in so many ways. As Pope Francis tells us, ours is an integral ecology where all is connected.

This vision brings us ever more fully into our faith. Rather than looking out for just me, my family, or my immediate community, I must be mindful of my brothers and sisters across the sea. But it does not stop there. As St. Francis taught, I must also consider how my lifestyle and everyday decisions impact our brothers and sisters that are the plants and animals. They, too, manifest and reflect the goodness of God and are integral to a thriving Common Home.

Through its programs, projects and resources, the Covenant works to make this vision a reality of our faith in partnership with so many people of good will.

After reading this report, I hope you'll see as I do the tremendous gift that Catholic Climate Covenant is to our Church and our world. Please continue to pray for and support their work for our Common Home.



The Most Reverend Joseph Tyson, Bishop of Yakima Diocese & Catholic Climate Covenant Episcopal Moderator

 – Pope Francis

**ours is an integral ecology
where all is connected.**

Why Your Support Matters

Each year severe drought and extreme heat subject Western states to unrelenting wildfires. Floods throughout the country have taken lives and left families homeless. Globally, these same climate-driven weather extremes add to the burdens of desperately poor people. Plants and animals—all reflecting the grandeur of God—are going extinct at unprecedented rates. The most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that the effects of greenhouse gas emissions will result in continuing global temperature increases and rising sea levels. Our most vulnerable populations including communities of color, the poor and disenfranchised, will endure the worst impacts of climate change, with less access to clean water, clean air, healthy food, and safe housing.

It may seem overwhelming, but there is hope.

Let Us Walk Together

Co-founded by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2006, and in collaboration with 20 national organizations, Catholic Climate Covenant promotes Catholic teaching on the environment including the powerful message of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home. We do so by encouraging Catholic individuals and institutions to care for creation through:

EDUCATION

Our webinars, newsletters, and conferences offer information and inspiration to thousands of Catholic individuals to act within their parishes and in their communities on climate and environmental justice.

Our Catholic Energies Program enables owners of Catholic facilities to reduce carbon emissions through clean solar energy and use the savings from reduced electric bills to support their core mission activities -- and learn more about Catholic teaching on the environment in the process.

ORGANIZING

In collaboration with the Vatican, international Catholic organizations, and Catholic men and women throughout the world, the Covenant is working with its U.S. partners on seven-year sustainability plans in support of the Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. The Platform empowers Catholic communities around the world to take decisive action toward a better future for our planet.

ADVOCACY

We encourage all Catholics—and especially young people in our Young Adult Mobilization Program — to reach out to their faith communities and political leaders and urge their support of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance the needs of vulnerable populations whose voices are not often heard.



Please Join Us!

Your tax-deductible contribution can ensure that our Common Home is protected and respected for generations to come. Your donation will allow us to continue to galvanize Catholic institutions and individuals to protect God's creation from increasing climate devastation.

To donate please visit our website:
CatholicClimateCovenant.org/donate

To donate by mail:
Catholic Climate Covenant
415 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20017

Thank You!

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

2021 was an extraordinary and fruitful year for the Covenant. Our daily work and mission of shaping programs, building networks, and responding to demands for our services and resources was highlighted this past year by these major accomplishments:

MARCH

Experts in Higher Education, Creation Care Teams, Advocacy, Homiletics, Parochial Schools, Communications, Environmental Justice and Youth and Young Adult Ministry joined the Covenant to advance care for creation in their ministries and prepare for our 2nd *Laudato Si'* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference in July.

As the U.S. lead for the Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, we collaborate on its initial design and help place U.S. experts in Vatican workgroups for dioceses/parishes, universities, schools, and other sectors.

JUNE

Covenant donors more than double the funds available for the Victory Noll Sisters Small Grants Program offering \$1,000 grants to parishes, schools, and other Catholic institutions throughout the U.S. for creation projects.

2021

FEBRUARY

Our new Young Adult Mobilization Program launches with "Emergence," a kickoff event, attended by 70 young adults across the country. We see this program as an important way to inspire young people to return or stay committed to their Church.

APRIL

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters (aka Victory Noll Sisters) extends their legacy of over 100 years of service to the Church with a substantial gift to the Covenant's creation care work. Part of this gift is dedicated to encourage and fund parishes, schools, and other Catholic organizations to launch creation care activities in their communities through a small grants program.

JULY

More than 2,600 participants from around the country and the world attend our virtual *Laudato Si'* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference, co-sponsored by Creighton University. The conference provides practical and spiritual guidance to help the Church live the call to care for creation and act on climate change. Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago opens with a profound call to action especially to young people, and Franciscan scholar Sister Ilia Delio closes by expanding the spiritual dimensions of this call with deep faithful insights full of hope.

AUGUST

The Covenant launches its advocacy campaign urging Congress and the Administration to enact bold legislation to protect our Common Home. More than 250 U.S. Catholic institutions sign a letter of support, and over 5,000 individuals join a petition asking our nation's leaders to act on behalf of the common good and our Common Home.

OCTOBER

As the hub of activity for the Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, the Covenant promotes the Vatican's soft launch of the global effort on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis. Two hundred and thirty organizations apply for a Victory Noll Sisters Small Grant.

The Covenant launches an action alert to the Senate in support of climate and environmental justice provisions for our most vulnerable neighbors, our Common Home, and our shared future in the reconciliation package. Supporters also seek meetings with their legislators and submit articles for publication in local newspapers in support of this effort.

DECEMBER

The Covenant selects 100 organizations from 230 applicants to receive funding through the Victory Noll Sisters Small Grants program. The grants will boost local activities that lower carbon emissions, cultivate gardens that provide food to distressed communities, and the education of young people.

By the end of 2021, our Catholic Energies program developed nine solar projects totaling 2.1 megawatts of clean energy generation, the equivalent of powering nearly 200 homes. Annually, these projects will reduce carbon emissions by 2,133 tons.

SEPTEMBER

The Covenant and its 20 national partners promote the Season of Creation (September 1 through October 4). The Covenant's Board of Directors approves a new leadership structure with Jose Aguto assuming the role of Executive Director and Dan Misleh the role of Founder.

NOVEMBER

The Covenant promotes the Vatican's official launch of the global *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, and releases its accompanying U.S. campaign and website, godsplanet.us to consolidate and celebrate efforts by U.S. Catholic institutions to live out *Laudato Si'*. Covenant staff participate in Vatican calls to continue the promotion refinement of the Platform and begin to regularly convene sector leads.

The Covenant's Young Adult Mobilization Program joins the Catholic Solidarity Fast with the Ignatian Solidarity Network to support young hunger strikers in Washington, D.C. who witness to the lack of progress on climate legislation. The Covenant's support provides a key moment for other young Catholics to feel their own agency in moving Congress to act to protect their future.

2022

Giving is Believing

Donors from January 2021 to December 2021

We greatly appreciate the generous gifts that have sustained the Covenant's work during fiscal year 2021 from individuals, religious communities and foundations including: Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, the USCCB's Catholic Communication Campaign, the Raskob Foundation, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Houston, and the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, among others.

CHAMPIONS \$10,000 +

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Creighton University
Daughters of Charity Ministries
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Richter Charitable Fund
The Congregation of Sisters of the Incarnate Word
Dennis Wilwerding

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Sisters of the Holy Cross

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The Daughters of the Holy Spirit
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The Earth is our Environment to Protect and the Garden to tend...

Pope Francis

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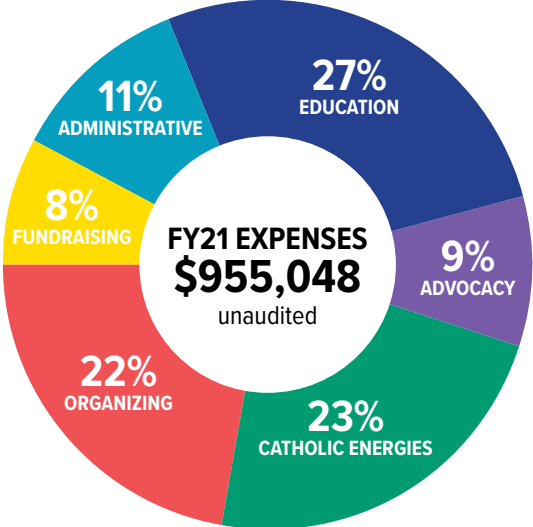
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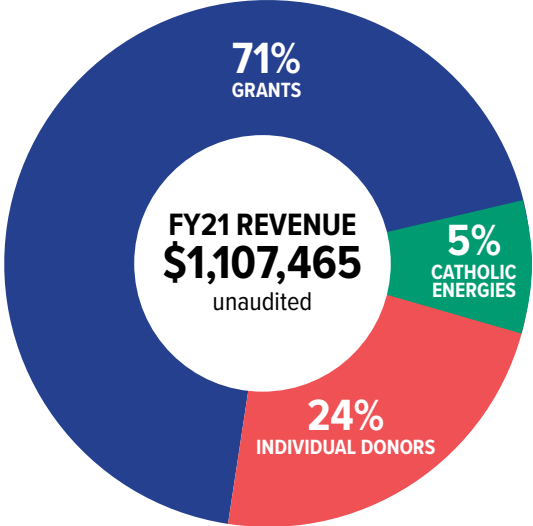
FY21 EXPENSES UNAUDITED

	Administrative	\$104,803
	Advocacy	\$91,551
	Catholic Energies	\$220,123
	Education	\$255,403
	Fundraising	\$75,010
	Organizing	\$208,156
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$955,048



FY21 REVENUE UNAUDITED

	Catholic Energies	\$55,538
	Grants	\$720,500
	Individual Donors	\$241,427
TOTAL REVENUE		\$1,107,465



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Franciscan Action Network

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Ignatian Solidarity Network

Leadership Conference of
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Laudato Si' Movement

National Catholic Education
Association

National Council of Catholic Women

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United States-Canada Province

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Peace and Ecology







—Tashina Banks Rama, Board Member

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that they may continue
to inspire and inform...



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

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