Community Resilience & Empowerment

Rev. John Baumann, SJ
Director of Faith in Action International and Co-Founder of the Pacific Institute for Community Organizations (PICO)

Rev. Teña Nock
Co-Chair for the Care for Creation Committee within HOPE

Dwayne David Paul, MA
Contributing Writer at National Catholic Reporter
Si está participando en este evento a través de la transmisión en vivo en YouTube, no tendrá acceso a la interpretación simultánea en español. Incluiremos la grabación de la interpretación en español con el correo electrónico que mandaremos en los próximos días.

Cómo escuchar la interpretación de idiomas

Windows | macOS

1. En los controles correspondientes a su reunión/seminario por Internet, haga clic en 🌍.

2. Haga clic en el idioma que le gustaría escuchar.

(Opcional) Para escuchar solo el idioma interpretado, haga clic en Mute Original Audio (Silenciar audio original). Notas:

- Debe unirse al audio de la reunión a través del audio de su computadora/VoIP. No puede escuchar la interpretación de un idioma si utiliza las funciones de audio de marcación o llamada telefónica.
This session is being recorded and a link to the recording will be sent to everyone who registered within the next 24-48 hours.

If you are on the Zoom platform, please type your questions in the Q/A box. If you are watching the livestream on the Covenant’s YouTube channel, please email your questions to info@catholicclimatecovenant.org.

The Chat is available for you to “chat” with others attending the session. It should not be used to submit questions. We request that everyone be civil and respectful in the Chat. Please note that you will not be able to save the Chat.
Opening Prayer

St. Francis of Assisi: Make me an instrument of your peace

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.

Amen.
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LAUDATO SI' GOALS

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH
RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR
ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS
ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES
ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION
ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATORY ACTION

HOPE FOR THE EARTH AND THE POOR
In the beginning, God created our common home.

“The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life.”

www.GodsPlanet.us
The LSAP states about this goal: Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodonal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people’s campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighborhood ecosystems.
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Facilitator: Elena Gaona, Communications Director, Catholic Climate Covenant
Theological foundations of Community Resilience and Empowerment that underpin *Laudato Si* Action Platform goal.
The theological foundations of community resilience and empowerment have their roots in Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching
Resilience and empowerment is not an abstract concept.

• It comes through community organizing which gives people of faith the tools that they need to fight for justice and work towards a more equitable society.

• Community Resilience is a process where people learn to trust one another. It starts with one-to-one contacts, building relationships, and together do community education and research and then mobilize to take action.

• Community Empowerment comes through acting together. It starts with leaders who learn to stand up and be heard.
The theological basis for the goal of community resilience and empowerment is rooted in various biblical passages.

- The **Book of Genesis** establishes a theological framework for understanding humanity’s role in God’s creation.

- In the **Exodus story** God empowers Moses and the Israelites to challenge the oppression of Pharaoh and the Egyptian empire. They spoke truth to power.

- “**Micah 6:8**” says “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Both Laudato Si and Micah 6:8 share a common theme of promoting responsible stewardship of the earth and caring for the well-being of humanity.
In the New Testament, a central theme is the “Kingdom of God” which emphasized the importance of loving one’s neighbor, caring for the poor and oppressed, and challenging unjust systems.
Jesus challenged unjust systems.

- Jesus challenged the oppressive social structures of his time.
- Jesus confronted the economic injustices of his time, particularly by denouncing the exploitation of the poor and the accumulation of wealth at the expense of others.
- Jesus spoke truth to power, challenging the Pharisees.

Laudato Si draws upon examples from scripture to emphasize our responsibility as stewards of the Earth. These texts call us to be prophets, speak truth to power, challenge unjust systems, and to put our faith into action.
The theological foundations of Resilience, Empowerment are also rooted in Catholic social teaching which emphasizes the dignity of every human person, the common good, and the preferential option for the poor.
The principle of the dignity of every human person recognizes that each individual is created in the image of God and therefore has inherent worth and value.

Human dignity is recognized in one-to-one meetings where people take the time to visit people in their church and community; share and listen to their stories and needs.
The principle of the common good recognizes that human beings are social beings who live in relationship with one another and with the natural world.

Common good – is concretely carried out through community gatherings where people come together and prioritize their needs…. and come together over and over to sustain their efforts….always in the context of faith, building a social movement of faith.
In summary the Theological foundations of Community Resilience and Empowerment that underpin *Laudato Si* Action Platform is found in the principles of

- Human Dignity and Justice
- Solidarity and Community
- Prophetic Voice and Advocacy
- Empowerment and Liberation
- Faith in Action
The Lord is Willing, but the Creek is Rising!

By Rev Teña Nock
Our Responsibility

Why this important?
My experience
The Facts!
Care for Creation; Flooding & Water Quality
The Problem
Solution

1. Will you instruct City Staff to complete conceptual designs for 5 of 7 East Tampa ponds by August 1?
2. Will you instruct City Staff to strengthen these 5 ponds this year with native trees and plants that reduce flooding and improve water quality?
3. Will you take steps to ensure the inclusion of green infrastructure principles in Tampa’s Stormwater Design Manual for future Stormwater Ponds?
Currently
Closing
COMMITTEE
RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

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Join us on July 25th for “Response to the Cry of the Earth” and on July 27th for the Closing Awards (all sessions are 8-9:30 ET)

For more information: info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org
We Are One With You

O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you. You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us. Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts. Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection. O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole being, because our being is your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit. Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and which makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has overcome. Love is victorious.

- Thomas Merton
THANK YOU
AND
GOOD EVENING!