Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

February 19th, 2019

CatholicClimateCovenant.org
Control Panel >>>>

Your Participation

Open and close your control panel

Join audio:
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• 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.
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

- Welcome
- Prayer

Fr. Bob Richter

Catholic Climate Covenant
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant

Fr. Robert Richter
AUSCP

Sharon Malley
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Arlington, VA

Steve Coleman
St. Dennis Catholic Parish
Madison, WI

Bob More
St. John Neumann Church
Reston, VA

And Jose Aguto, Catholic Climate Covenant
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

Laudato Si’, the Climate Challenge, and How Priests Can Express it to Their Parishioners.

Fr. Bob Richter
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

Catholic Climate Covenant Programs

https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/feast-st-francis

https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/earth-day
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

Catholic Climate Covenant Programs and Resources:

- **St. Francis/Laudato Si’ Pledge**: By taking the pledge, you (re)commit to living out the vision of the encyclical and our Catholic faith through prayer, concrete action, and advocacy. ([https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/feast-st-francis](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/feast-st-francis))

- **Catholic Climate Declaration**: The declaration expresses the U.S. Catholic community’s call to climate action, arising from our theological foundation, proclaimed to all within our one human family. From this call we envision, pray for, and act towards a thriving future, with our family and the gift of God’s creation. ([https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/st-francis-pledge](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/st-francis-pledge))
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources

- Webinars
- Laudato Si’
- Videos
- Homily Helps
- Resources
- Care for Creation
- Environmental Justice
- Prayer and Worship
- Reduce Your Carbon Footprint
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

Creation Care Teams: https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/creation-care-teams

What do we provide:

• Monthly CCT Email
• CCT Resource Library
• Facebook Group
• Wrap around support
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Integrity of Creation

Sharon M. Malley
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church
Arlington, VA
www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org
OLQP Integrity of Creation
Mission Statement

To share our faith-based knowledge and awareness with the OLQP congregation of the importance of living a life that intentionally respects all of God’s creation, and advocate for legislation addressing issues directly related to climate change.
Our Focus

Education ↔ Action ↔ Advocacy

Our Faith
Integrity of Creation

A concern for the environment is an integral part of the parish's commitment to a preferential option for the poor. The Integrity of Creation ministry works to provide members of OLQP with information, insights, and inspiration for acting upon the growing concern over the kind of Earth their children and grandchildren will inherit. The Committee meets several times a year and engages the parish in several activities over the course of the liturgical year. To get involved in this ministry or for more information, contact Brian Kane, bdkane@comcast.net.

INTEGRITY OF CREATION COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT
To share our faith-based knowledge and awareness with the OLQP congregation of the importance of living a life that intentionally respects all of God’s creation, and advocate for legislation addressing issues directly related to climate change.

U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS’ STATEMENT ON LAUDATO SI’
"LAUDATO SI’: An Encyclical letter on climate change and the environment" by Pope Francis. The encyclical presents a strong and urgent call to action for individuals, communities and Governments for the causes and solutions of the climate change. This encyclical is a reminder that as Catholics we have a responsibility to care for our common home.

RESOURCES FOR CATHOLICS
- Laudato Si’ website: https://www.laudatosi.org/
- Our Lady Queen of Peace: https://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org/integrity-of-creation.html
Presentation by Thomas Insua at OLQP
Integrity of Creation Committee

Our Reason
To share our faith-based knowledge and awareness with the community about the importance of living in a way that meaningfully respects all of God’s creation, and advocates for legislation addressing issues directly related to climate change.

Education
We educate ourselves and others through prayer, study, and reflection on God’s creation, and through conversations and actions to bring awareness to the fragility of our planet.

Action
We strive to be good stewards of the earth by planting trees, organizing and participating in habitat restoration projects, and advocating for policies that protect our environment.

Advocacy
We encourage others to take action and support policies that promote environmental justice. We encourage individuals and communities to take action to address the challenges facing our planet, and to promote the well-being of all creation.

Why do we do this? Because the Earth is dying. We are responding to God’s call.

Each species reflects something from God, and it is our responsibility as stewards to care for it. (Psalm 104:24)
HOW LONG TIL ITS GONE?

- Plastic Bag: 450 years
- Water Bottle: 200 years
- Straws: 1000 years
- Plastic Plate: 400 years
USCCB Support of Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

U.S. Bishops’ Domestic Chairman Reacts to Bipartisan Carbon Pricing Bill

January 25, 2019

WASHINGTON—After the introduction of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (EICDA) yesterday, Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, Chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, welcomed the legislation as an important step forward in addressing climate change.

The full statement follows:

“This bipartisan bill is a hopeful sign that more and more, climate change is beginning to be seen as a crucial moral issue; one that concerns all people. If enacted, this proposal is expected to result in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. At a time when the dangerous effects of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent, the need for legislative solutions like this is more urgent than ever.

Fundamentally, this bill is about ensuring that the full spectrum of costs associated with greenhouse gas emissions—economic, social, and environmental—are accounted for. Failing to consider the health and well-being of people, including future generations and the planet, means that ‘businesses profit by calculating and paying only a fraction of the costs involved’ (Laudato Si’, no. 195). This proposed legislation is one possible remedy to addressing these imbalances.

While it is well-known that putting a price on carbon will increase energy prices, a phenomenon that often has a disproportionate impact on the poor, it is encouraging that
St Dennis Madison, WI

Care of Creation Team

Presented by

Steve Coleman
St Dennis
Care of Creation Team

Objective:

Bring **Laudato Si’** to life at St Dennis.

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”[217]
St Dennis
Care of Creation Team

Beginning:

First Projects: Copies of Laudato Si’ for each member.

Prayers of the Faithful for Creation at Sunday Liturgy

Corner of the bulletin--every week “Creation corner.”

Bring **Laudato Si’** to life at St Dennis.

“I would like to enter into Dialog with all people about our common home” (3)
Bring **Laudato Si’** to life at St Dennis

Active Members 6 to 8. Email list of 20

Lay organized. Clergy supported.

2016: A year of “small projects”
Bring **Laudato Si’** to life at St Dennis

5-year Goals:  (December 2016)

2017-2022

A. Become a Net Carbon Neutral Parish

B. Have 100 families do carbon footprint.

C. Encourage 40 Families to make significant reductions
Solar PV Panels at St Dennis

- Design
- Quote
- Grant Application
- Fund Raising
- Installation
- 7 Months time.
Solar PV Panels
Bring **Laudato Si’** to life at St Dennis

Solar project **energized** the parish.

New members and new talent joined

**Creation Care team**

5 working Groups

Prayer

Education

Communication

100 families

Facilities
St Dennis  Carbon footprint

**Tons of Carbon Dioxide per Year**

- Church
- School

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<th>School</th>
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<td>250</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bring **Laudato Si’** to life at St Dennis

16--20 Active Members (Email list 35)

41% **reduction** of Carbon Dioxide

40 **families** Carbon Footprint

No-more disposable coffee cup at donuts after mass.

Acceptable to talk about Care of our Common Home

Presence on Parish Webpage

New Parishioners are drawn to St Dennis

Conversations with neighboring parishes.

**Come, Holy Spirit, Come**
Care for Our Common Home

St. John Neumann Catholic Church

Web site:
http://cfoch.weebly.com
Our Inspiration

“I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”

—Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*
How We Got Started

A small group of SJN parishioners, some with roots in the JustFaith program and others in Pax Christi, formed the Care for Our Common Home Ministry in response to Pope Francis’s 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

**2015 Activities:**

- 8-week *JustFaith* climate change module
- June 18 - *Laudato Si’* published
- *Laudato Si’* study and discussion group
- Following the Pope’s visit to Washington, DC, a parish-wide event featuring a speaker from the Catholic Climate Covenant
- Research on forming a Creation Care Team
- Met with pastor, who provided helpful advice and enthusiastically supported the idea of the new ministry
What We Hope Our Impact Is

- Prayer – changing our hearts
- Education – changing our understanding
- Sustainability – changing our habits
- Advocacy – changing our culture
CCH Prayer at SJN

Prayer Service for Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Come Celebrate!
St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day
Patron Saint of Ecology

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7 pm in the DeSales Chapel

Sing, pray, learn and talk about:
Pope Francis’ new 8th Work of Mercy
“Care for our Common Home”

For more information, email: saintin.sch@gmail.com

Photo Credit: EJ Salvo
Wall mural at the Center for Action and Contemplation
Albuquerque, NM; May 2015

Prayer and Laudato Si’ Reflections with Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM

Prayer of the Faithful Petitions at Liturgies

Earth Day Prayer Service

Outdoor Prayer Walks During World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
CCH Education at SJN

**Laudato Si’ Presentation** by Catholic Climate Covenant

**Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic?** Movie Presentation

**Religious Education Lenten Carbon Footprint Activities**

**Fr. Dan Horan’s 7-Week Laudato Si’ Video Series**
CCH Sustainability at SJN

**Energy Efficiency**
- Cool Congregation Certification

**Quarterly Cleanups of One-Mile Stretch of Road in Front of Church**

**Advent Fair Trade Sales**
- Washing Dishes at Parish Events to Eliminate Paper and Plastic Waste
CCH Advocacy at SJN

Advocating for Policies to Cut Energy Use in Fairfax County

Meeting with Rep. Comstock’s Staff about Climate Solutions Caucus

2017 Climate March in DC

Meeting with Sen. Warner’s Staff about Clean Power Plan
Involving SJN Youth

Elementary School - Writing *Laudato Si’* Letters to Pope Francis

Middle and High School Photo Contest: Seeing God in Nature

Eagle Scout Pollinator Garden Project
2018 Season of Creation

- Blessing of New Statue
- Bird Walk
- Sustainability Showcase
- Middle School Photo Contest
Connecting with Faith Groups

Global Catholic Climate Movement

St. John Neumann Catholic Church

Catholic Climate Covenant

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

St. Mark Catholic Church

Care for Creation Network

Catholic Diocese of Arlington

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

INTERFAITH Power & Light

Our religious response to climate change.

Catholic Energies

Conserve, Educate, Inspire
Care for Creation Network

• Met with Vicar General in September 2017, got approval to form CCN-CDA
• Started with 7 parishes; now have representatives from 14, plus Diocese
• Meet quarterly for education, mutual support, sharing – informal group not authorized to make decisions or speak for Diocese
• Co-chairs from Diocese and parishes
Our Goals

• Help make the parish facilities more sustainable and create sacred spaces on our grounds
• Educate and inspire parishioners to “walk lightly” and be more mindful in our behaviors and choices
• Prayerfully contemplate a deeper reverence and respect for God's creation
• Advocate for policies that will protect the earth—our common home—and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters
• Gather new companions on the way
Gathering Good Companions

Diocese of Arlington and parishes form a green network. April 18, 2018

Reducing waste: Catholic parishes, hospitals see results from efforts to reduce and recycle. April 23, 2018

“And so, in my own life venture, I found good companions on the way. And from moment to moment, the number is gathered until it seems almost limitless, the number of good companions.”

Father Thomas Berry, ecotheologian

2018 FACS Sustainability Champions: Congregation Category
Steps for Starting a Creation Care Team

• Find people
• Do your homework
• Get approval to form the new ministry
• Get organized
• Set goals and plan activities
Step 1: Find People

• Identify other parishioners with an interest in the environment
  • Talk to people you know, people in related ministries, parish staff members.
  • Try to find at least three others who share your concern and want to do something about it at the parish.

• Study *Laudato Si’*
  • With your small group, plan a series of 3-6 sessions for people to read through the chapters and come together for discussion.
  • Several good study guides are available online.
  • Publicize the discussion series broadly; invite parishioners and staff to join you.
Step 1: Find People (cont.)

• Gauge interest in forming a new ministry
  • Many participants in the *Laudato Si’* study group will be inspired by the Pope’s message to want to do more.
  • Develop a core group of 3-4 people to pursue the idea.
Step 2: Do Your Homework

• Learn about Creation Care Teams
  • Talk to Paz at the Catholic Climate Covenant.
  • Find out if any parishes near you have a Creation Care Team and meet with them.

• Gather resources
  • Look for start-up guides and other resources, e.g., from CCC, the Global Catholic Climate Movement and Interfaith Power and Light.
  • Learn about advocacy from online guides.
Step 3: Get Approval to Form the New Ministry

- Meet with your pastor, share your inspiration from *Laudato Si’*, explain your ideas for a CCT, and ask for his approval
- Work with your existing parish structure to get their support and suggestions
  - Pastoral Council
  - Key staff
- Offer to keep a designated staff person informed of your plans and significant activities
- Connect with other ministries in your parish
Step 4: Get Organized

- Decide on a name for the ministry
- Draft a mission statement
- Adopt a logo
- Decide on a meeting schedule
- Assign responsibilities, e.g., one core group member each for
  - Spirituality
  - Education
  - Sustainability
  - Advocacy
Step 5: Set Goals & Plan Activities

- Establish an initial set of realistic goals to accomplish in the first year
  - Start with small steps that group members are interested in working on, e.g.,
    - Organizing a prayer service for Earth Day or Season of Creation
    - Looking for ways to reduce energy use in parish facilities
    - Promoting recycling and reducing paper and plastic waste
  - Consider planning an educational event for the parish, e.g., a talk on *Laudato Si’*
    - Publicize the event well, including personal outreach
    - Invite other ministries to cosponsor the event
    - Have a sign-up sheet to recruit additional members
Resources (cont.)

- Catholic Climate Covenant: [https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/creation-care-teams](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/creation-care-teams)
- Global Catholic Climate Movement: [https://catholicclimatemovement.global/eco-parish/](https://catholicclimatemovement.global/eco-parish/)
Resources

- **Laudato Si’ discussion guides and videos:**
  - Fr. Dan Horan, OFM, *Laudato Si’* series of 14 videos: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzyYPJLhZjc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzyYPJLhZjc)
  - Fr. James Martin, S.J., “Top 10 Things You Need to Know about Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’*” video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_lqFTYlC_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_lqFTYlC_4)
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

Jose Aguto
Associate Director
Catholic Climate Covenant

• Advocacy
• Catholic Energies
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

Questions ?
Bringing Care for Creation into your Ministry

For more information:

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