A Laudato Si’ Focus on Environmental Justice
Part 2
February 22nd, 2021
CatholicClimateCovenant.org
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Part 2

God of justice,
In your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception.
Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being.
Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family.
Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others.
Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by environmental injustice, and their passionate appeals for change.
Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history.
And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

-Adapted from Catholic Charities, USA Prayer for Racial Healing
Control Panel >>>>

Your Participation

Open and close your control panel

Join audio:
• Choose **Mic & Speakers** to use VoIP
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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.
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Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant

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Donele Wilkins
Founder/CEO
The Green Door Initiative
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Catholic Climate Covenant
February 22, 2021
Donele Wilkins
Mission

- The Green Door Initiative (GDI) works to ensure that every person is environmentally literate capable of practicing and promoting a sustainable lifestyle.
Defining the Environment

- Where We Live
- Where We Work
- Where We Play
- Where We Learn
- Physical and Natural World
Xavier Joe - 10 Years Old

- September 28, 2012
- Another senseless death-
- Young African American Youth
- Die to Asthma
Flint

Up to 12,000 children poisoned
Detroit

Is one of the **most polluted** cities in the U.S.

- **65,000** contaminated sites
- Only **250** cleaned up

**80%** affected are African American
History of Injustice: Toxic Releases

Detroit

West Bloomfield
Detroit EJ Examples
Who is most likely to get asthma?

- Children
  - (5 -14 years old)
- Urban poor
  - At or below poverty level
- Certain ethnic minorities
Detroit Asthma Stats

• Approximately 18% of the Detroit Population has asthma

• Third most common cause of preventable hospitalizations in Detroit (leading cause in Detroit Children)

• Pediatric hospitalization for Detroit is 3 times the rate for the state of Michigan
Children 0 to 5 with Confirmed Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLL)
As a Percent of Total Children Tested in 2010

Sources: Michigan Department of Community Health, March 2011; Data Driven Detroit, August 28, 2012
Note: 28,995 tests on children 0-5 were conducted in 2010, resulting in 689 confirmed cases.
EVERY DOT IS A DETROIT CHILD WITH LEAD POISONING

In 2007, there were 16,778 children younger than 6 tested in Detroit who had elevated levels of lead in their bodies. Most children in Detroit and across Michigan are at risk. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has set 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood as the critical level when a child suffers irreversible brain damage and other health problems. But many experts say damage begins at levels as low as 5. Some say there is no safe level of lead.

Source material from: detroitretchina.org

Michigan Department of Community Health
RESTORING HOPE TO A PEOPLE.
PROVIDING HELP TO THE PLANET.
Backup Slides
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Questions?
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