Implementation of the *Laudato Si’* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference

July 30th, 2019

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Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with the Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the land, the seas, and the skies.

Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation.

Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the sea, the forest, and the air. Christ, teach us to care.

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill us with the knowledge of God’s presence in Earth and with the joy of Christ within us.

Amen

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EVENING PRAYER WITH ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (Philippines)
Implementation of the *Laudato Si’* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference

Dr. Dan DiLeo  
Assistant Professor and Director of the Justice and Peace Studies Program, Creighton University  
Consultant, Catholic Climate Covenant

Jose Aguto  
Associate Director  
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Program Manager  
Catholic Climate Covenant
“Laudato Si’ and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home”

Daniel R. DiLeo, Ph.D.
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Consultant
Catholic Climate Covenant
Overview

- Advocacy
- Adult Faith Formation
- Creation Care Teams
- Energy Management
- Higher Education
- Liturgy
- School Education
- Young Adult Ministry
The U.S. Catholic Church: *Laudato Si’,* Creation Care, and the Climate Crisis

- Most Rev. George J. Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha
- Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, President of Creighton University
- Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy, PhD, Bishop of San Diego
- Meghan Goodwin, MA, Associate Director of Government Relations at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Martha Shulski, PhD, Director of the Nebraska State Climate Office
Keynote and Plenary Addresses

Speakers

Opening Plenary Address: "The U.S. Catholic Church—Leadership: Creating Care, and the Climate Crisis"
- Rev. Dr. Robert J. McCaw, Ph.D.

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Plenary Address: "Sustainability and Conservation"
- Father William A. Mullen, S.J.

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Amid climate threat, Catholics pursue ecological conversion in US church
Conference discusses turning point, shares successful solutions

Catholic News Service

A Virginia parish switched to 100% solar power — and paid nothing

San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy keynotes Laudato Si’ conference
Catholic News Service

Summer program designed to integrate ‘Laudato Si’ across church life
Weaving Green Threads Across Catholic Ministries
In Spirit, Word and Deed
Amid climate threat, Catholics pursue ecological conversion in US church

Conference discusses turning point, shares successful solutions

Jul 11, 2019

by Brian Roewe  |  Environment

Link to article
Overarching Challenges

• Care for Creation is not a top priority within the US Catholic Church

• Climate Change can be viewed as a political, not moral issue

• So many Catholic institutions and individuals are doing great work to care for creation and each other, yet we do not yet share information, coordinate or collaborate well enough
Overarching Themes

Our thoughts, prayers, words, and deeds in seeking climate solutions, must arise first from the Holy Spirit, within and among us, in accordance with the Greatest Commandment to love God and thy neighbor as thyself.
The Greatest Commandment

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

- Jesus, in Matthew 22: 37-40
Overarching Themes

• Share information: clearinghouses, networks
• Coordinate and Collaborate
• Use existing best practices, organizations to lift the mission, and create new entities where appropriate
• Integrate LS into existing ministries
• Seek Funding - it means intentionality of purpose
• Build relationships with Church leaders on these issues
Overarching Solution: Faith Transcends Partisanship

“At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family.” USCCB, 2001

“As individuals, as institutions, as a people we need a change of heart to preserve and protect the planet for our children and for generations yet unborn.” USCCB, 1991
Advocacy

• Top advocacy priorities: 1) Reduce global greenhouse gas emissions; and 2) Transition to renewables/reduce fossil fuel use
• Build relationships with bishops and pastors
• Explore creation of a Catholic Climate Advocacy organization like Catholic Education Partners
• Galvanize the Catholic spirit to act on climate, through “Moments”
Advocacy

This September: A Galvanizing Moment

- We are mobilizing US Catholic organizations and individuals now
  - Season of Creation: Sept 1 - Oct 4
  - Climate Strikes: Sept 20-27
  - UN Climate Summit: Sept 23
  - Feast of St. Francis: Oct 4
  - Support of the Paris Agreement through:
    - The Catholic Climate Declaration
    - International Climate Accountability Act (S.1743)
- If interested, e-mail conference@catholicclimatecovenant.org and include in title “Advocacy”
Adult Faith Formation

• Build a wholistic program that advances the 4 stages of Evangelization: pre-event, conversion, becoming a disciple, being a disciple in mission

• Integrate LS throughout every Adult Faith Formation opportunity including liturgy, sacramental preparation, bible study, community outreach

• Catalog, critique and disseminate current resources, including climate/EJ stories
Energy Management

• Start small: community garden, lights, sealing windows and doors
• Find ways to “share savings” across the community or between wealthy and poor parishes
• Form an internship/volunteer program esp. for engineering, env studies majors from Catholic universities, working with Catholic schools and institutions
• Connect with and train Creation Care Teams
A Virginia parish switched to 100% solar power — and paid nothing

Jul 1, 2019

by Brian Roewe | Environment | Parish

This article appears in the Our Common Home feature series. View the full series.

www.catholicenergies.org

A total of 440 solar panels were installed in June on the church building roof at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hampton, Virginia. (Vy Barto)
A field in D.C. will soon be home to 5,000 solar panels. It’s all because of local Catholic groups — and a message from the pope.
Sunday Mass is often the only time parishioners encounter God and Church in community and with intentionality.

Look anew at the existing liturgy to integrate care for creation themes. E.g., Homily helps, missal, prayers, symbols, plants.

Create a clearinghouse of resources.

Create a network of liturgists willing to take on this vocation.
School Education

• Duplicate best initiatives and practices across the US Catholic school community
  • Salpointe High School
  • Diocese of Toledo
  • National Catholic Education Association’s (NCEA) new STREAM initiative (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math)
• Seek funding from local Catholic foundations to help schools do this work
• Collaborate with local universities and community groups to do immersion programs.
School Education
Dioceses of Toledo and Salpointe High School

- [Carmelite NGO Laudato Si’ curriculum](#)
- Kate McGarey-Vasey description of Salpointe High School’s Laudato Si’ initiative (video)
- Peggy Riehl’s description of the Diocese of Toledo’s efforts to incorporate Laudato Si’ (webinar at minute 25)
Young Adult Ministry

• Reach out to and collaborate with other Catholic institutions engaged in youth and young adult ministry
• Persuade 25 Catholic Colleges to divest or engage in the process of divestment
• Work to have 10 US dioceses to have Laudato Si’ offices, staff, and a network
• Lead on moral, bi-partisan advocacy for federal climate solutions
• Do a voter based education tour on Laudato Si’
• Create a March for All Life led by Young Adults
The Overarching Solution
is found within and around us, in
The Imitation of Christ

To love God, the Creator
To love thy neighbor, and thy enemy
To be gentle and humble of heart
To sacrifice for the love of God and Neighbor
To forgive ourselves and others
To reconcile with others
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.
Higher Education

- Integration: Modest

- Integration Factors:
  - Encounter, Relationships, Integral Ecology, Champions, Finances, and Mission Formation

- Possible Pathways:
  - Catholic Energies
  - Theologian/Scientist Diocesan Speaking Tour
  - Environmental Justice Orientations
  - ACCU Formation Offerings (Leaders in Catholic Higher Education, Mission Leadership Institute, New Presidents Institute, Trustee Development)
Creation Care Teams in Parishes, Schools, and Religious Communities

Focus on Best Practices

• Sisters of St. Joseph
• Archdiocese of Atlanta
• St. John Neumann (Reston VA)
• Diocese of Stockton, Environmental Justice Program
Creation Care Teams in Parishes, Schools, and Religious Communities

Key Takeaway #1:
CCT’s are best strategy/path for vertical integration of *Laudato Si*’ in the US Catholic Church.

Key Takeaway #2
CCTs flourish when there is both a directive from above, and strong lay and religious community leadership.

Key Takeaway #3:
The Sisters are leading!

Key Takeaway #4:
Several dioceses are emphasizing CCTs and providing resources and assistance.
What is Needed?

• Engaging/connecting with youth, sharing the stories of the successes of women religious, more pastors preaching on eco-spirituality and *Laudato Si’.*
• Resources that move the church to a much deeper spiritual connection with creation.
• Establishing networks between CCTs (inter and intra diocesan networking)
• Expand CCT program in both quantity (numbers) and expand work to work with impacted communities and advocacy.
Implementation of the *Laudato Si’* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference

YOU ARE THE KEY TO IMPLEMENTING *LAUDATO SI’* CONFERENCE!

YOU

Are the Key to Make *Laudato Si’* Conference Takeaways Real!
Implementation of the *Laudato Si’* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference

1. **PRAY/Connect with God and creation**
2. **Read/Study *Laudato Si’***
3. Stay informed
4. **Make personal changes**
5. Start the conversation/share information
6. Find allies/support systems
7. Advocate for institutional changes

*Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.*
- Theodore Roosevelt -

Catholic Climate Covenant
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.
Implementation of the *Laudato Si'* and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference

Are you a part of Creation Care Team?

See: [www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org/CCT](http://www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org/CCT) for more information
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Get involved! Opportunities coming up!

1) Season of Creation (Sept 1-Oct. 4) ([https://seasonofcreation.org](https://seasonofcreation.org)) and World Day of Prayer for Creation (Sept. 1)
2) Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 4) [https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/feast-st-francis](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/feast-st-francis)
3) Synod for the Amazon (Oct 6-27, 2019) [http://www.synod.va/content/synod/it/attualita/synod-for-the-amazon--preparatory-document--amazonia--new-paths-.html](http://www.synod.va/content/synod/it/attualita/synod-for-the-amazon--preparatory-document--amazonia--new-paths-.html)
4) Advocacy opportunities ([https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/advocacy](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/advocacy))
6) Homily Helps ([https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14))
7) *Laudato Si'* resources: [https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=11](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=11)
8) Catholic Energies ([https://catholicenergies.org](https://catholicenergies.org))
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Questions?
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For more information:


and

[Conference@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:Conference@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)