

# *A Laudato Si'* Focus on Environmental Justice

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

[CatholicClimateCovenant.org](https://CatholicClimateCovenant.org)



**Catholic Climate Covenant**<sup>SM</sup>

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. — Micah 6:8

Creator God,

You call us, as inhabitants of this world, to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with you. Yet this is so often absent from our experience and feels beyond our ability. We find hope as we recognize and confess our failings – whether as individuals or institutions. Confronting racial injustice and recognizing its harm towards others can be painful, but the pain for those subjected to this injustice is greater. May we have the courage to act justly. May we love mercy in order to avoid harming others by action or inaction. May we find the humility to acknowledge our failings. For the sake of our country, world, your creation, and those created in your image, may this come to pass.

-Prayer from Climate Caretakers



**Catholic Climate Covenant™**  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

# Control Panel >>>>

## Your Participation

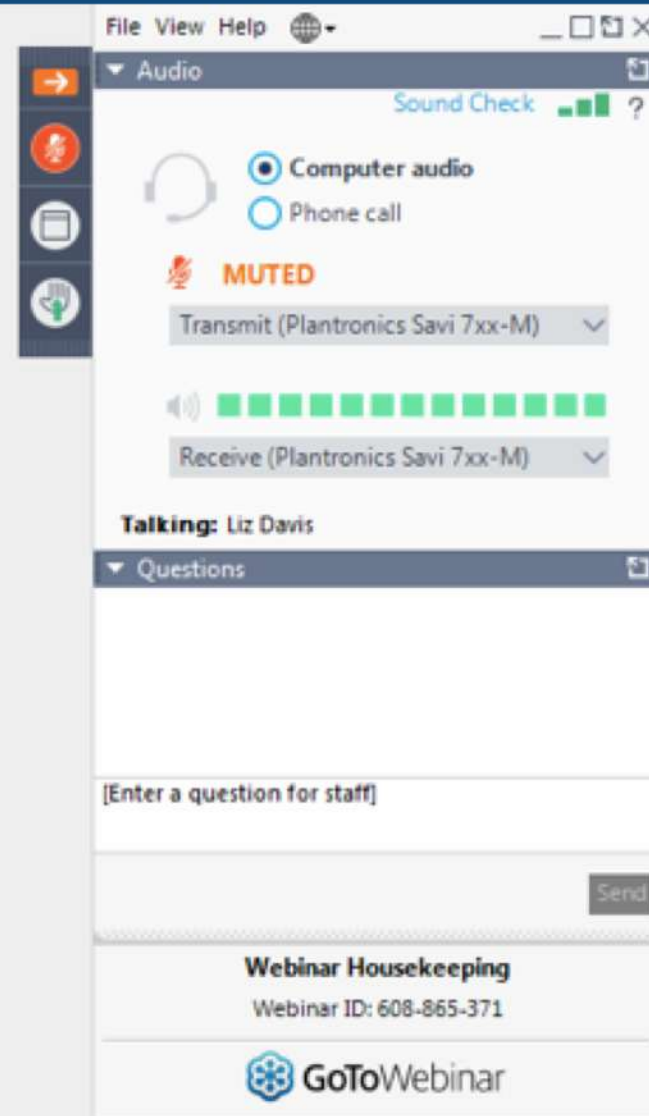
Open and close your control panel

Join audio:

- Choose **Mic & Speakers** to use VoIP
- 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.



Catholic Climate Covenant™  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## *A Laudato Si'* Focus on Environmental Justice



**Dr. Catherine Wright, M.Div, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy  
Executive Director of Collaborative for the Common Good  
Wingate University



**Veronica Coptis**  
Executive Director  
Center for Coalfield Justice

Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant



**Catholic Climate Covenant™**  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.



CATHOLIC CLIMATE  
COVENANT PANEL  
JAN. 21, 2021

# Laudato Si' Focus on Environmental Justice

**Dr. Catherine Wright**

Associate Professor, Wingate University

Executive Director, Collaborative for the Common Good

---



# Framework for Environmental Justice in Laudato Si'

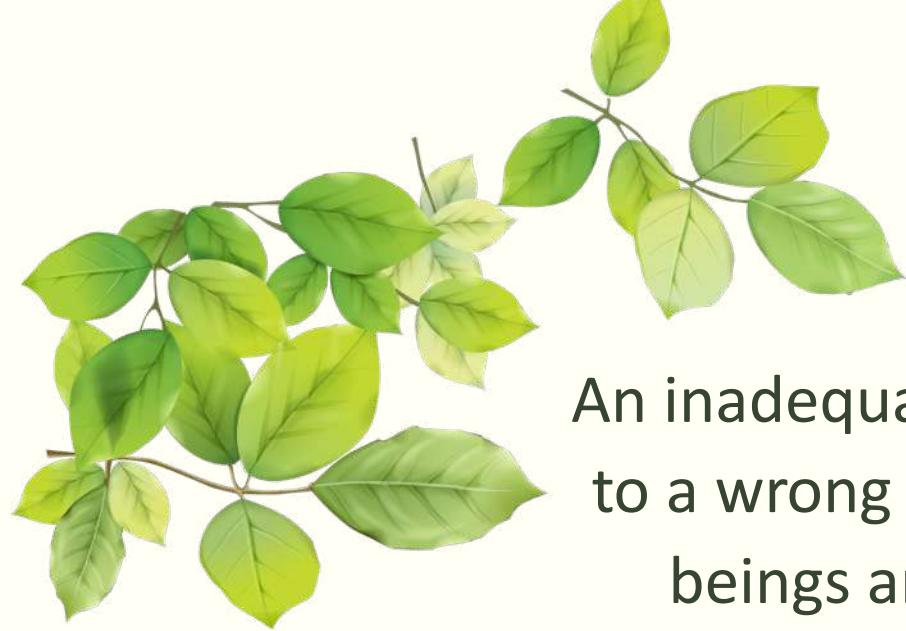
---

Our Common Origin  
Mutual Belonging  
Shared Destiny

Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

---

LAUDATO SI', 49



An inadequate presentation of Christian anthropology gave rise to a wrong understanding of the relationship between human beings and the world. Often, what was handed on was a Promethean vision of mastery of the world, which gave the impression that the protection of nature was something only the faint- hearted cared about. Instead, our “dominion” over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship.

Laudato Si', 116

---

## Intersectionality Matters

Intersectionality is the complex, culminative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (racism, sexism, classism, speciesism) combine, overlap or intersect



Podcast: Vulnerabilities that COVID Lays Bare  
March 30, 2020

---

“You tell me your zip code,  
and I can tell you how  
healthy you are.”

DR. ROBERT BULLARD — SCHOLAR, ACTIVIST, AND  
THE FATHER OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.



Robert Bullard is photographed in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24, 2013.

Photo: Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post via Getty Images

---

# THREE INTERSECTING DIMENSIONS OF LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

## Economic Well Being

Access to Safe work; Living Wage;  
Sustainable Economies; Don't take more  
than what can be sustained by the planet  
(regenerative economies); Circular  
Economies; Inviting innovation; Economies in  
Service of Humanity and Planet...



E-WASTE DISPOSAL IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



## Ecological Well Being

Safe Places; Clean Drinking Water; Sanitation; Beauty; Healthy Food; Recreation; Breathable air; Non-heat islands; Protection  
from rising sea levels; ecosystems informing human practices.

JULY 2020 OIL SPILL HAS ENDANGERED WORLD-  
RENOWNED CORAL REEFS AND LAGOONS AND  
THE WAY OF LIFE IN MAURITIUS



JEAN AURELIO PRUDENCE/L'EXPRESS MAURICE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Social Well Being

Healthy Communities and Families;  
Interconnected Communities; Access to Goods of  
Society (healthcare; education; jobs); Ability to  
Contribute to Society; All have Value and Worth

---

SIGNPOSTS FROM  
LAUDATO SI

# God, Creator: The Deep Roots of Our Common Origin





# Incarnation

Source of our Mutual Belonging and Shared Destiny



---

Signpost from Laudato Si'

# The Trinity: Perfect Communion

---

Our Model for Abundant Planetary Table Fellowship



---

Signpost from Laudato Si'



“The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures.

In this way, they make their own, the trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted on them when they were created.

Everything is interconnected and this invites us to develop a spirituality of global solidarity that flows from the mystery of the Trinity”



Laudato Si', 240



# Praise Be!

## Catherine Wright

Contact Information

Be Sure to Check My Website and Reach Out Anytime!

[www.thewrightecotheologian.com](http://www.thewrightecotheologian.com)

# Principles of Environmental Justice

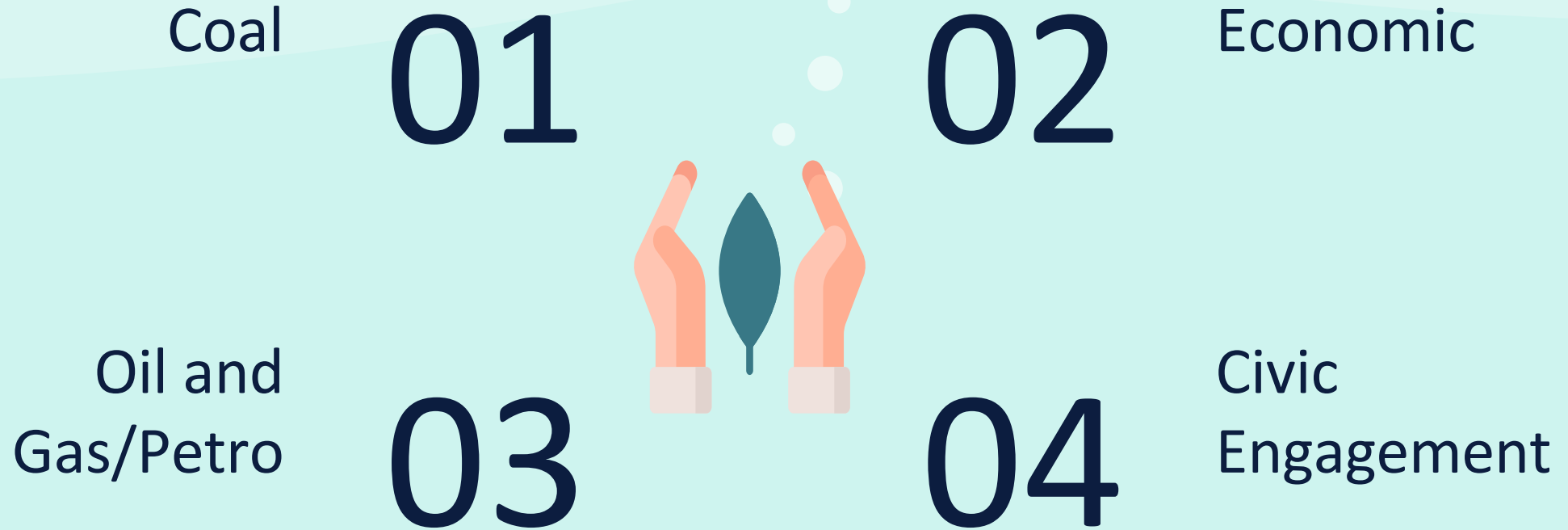
Veronica Coptis  
Executive Director  
Center for Coalfield Justice



The fair treatment of people of all races, income levels, and cultures with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, and their meaningful involvement in government decision-making processes.



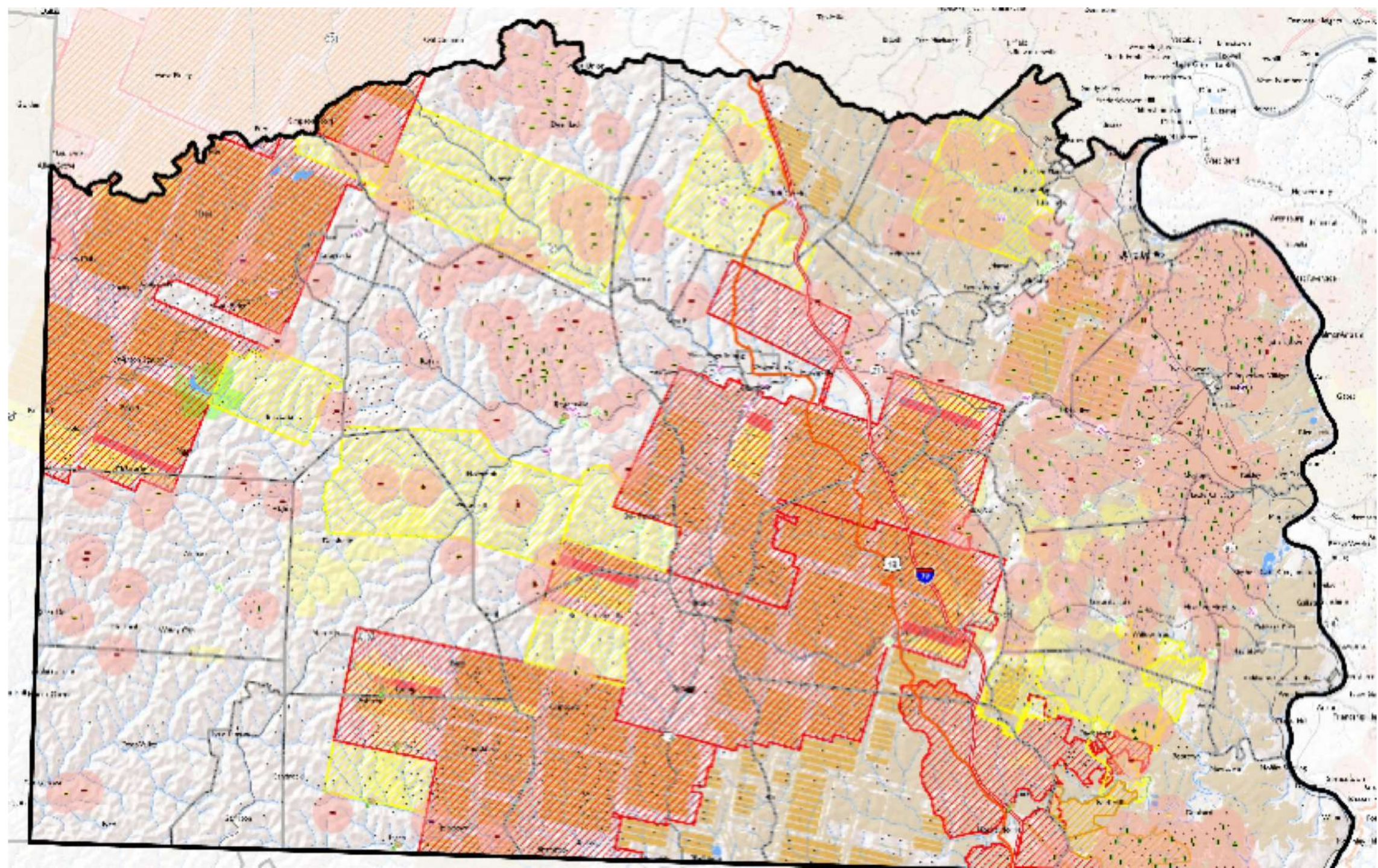
# Center for Coalfield Justice





# My Story and Impacts of Environmental Justice







# Jemez Principles



Be Inclusive



Work Together  
in Solidarity and  
Mutuality



Emphasis on  
Bottom-Up  
Organizing



Build Just  
Relationships  
Among  
Ourselves



Let People  
Speak for  
Themselves



Commitment to  
Self-Transformation

# What Can You Do?



Invest in  
Impacted  
Communities



Speak Out  
Against Harm



Amplify the  
voices of  
impacted  
people

# THANKS

## DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

veronica@coalfieldjustice.org  
www.coalfieldjustice.org

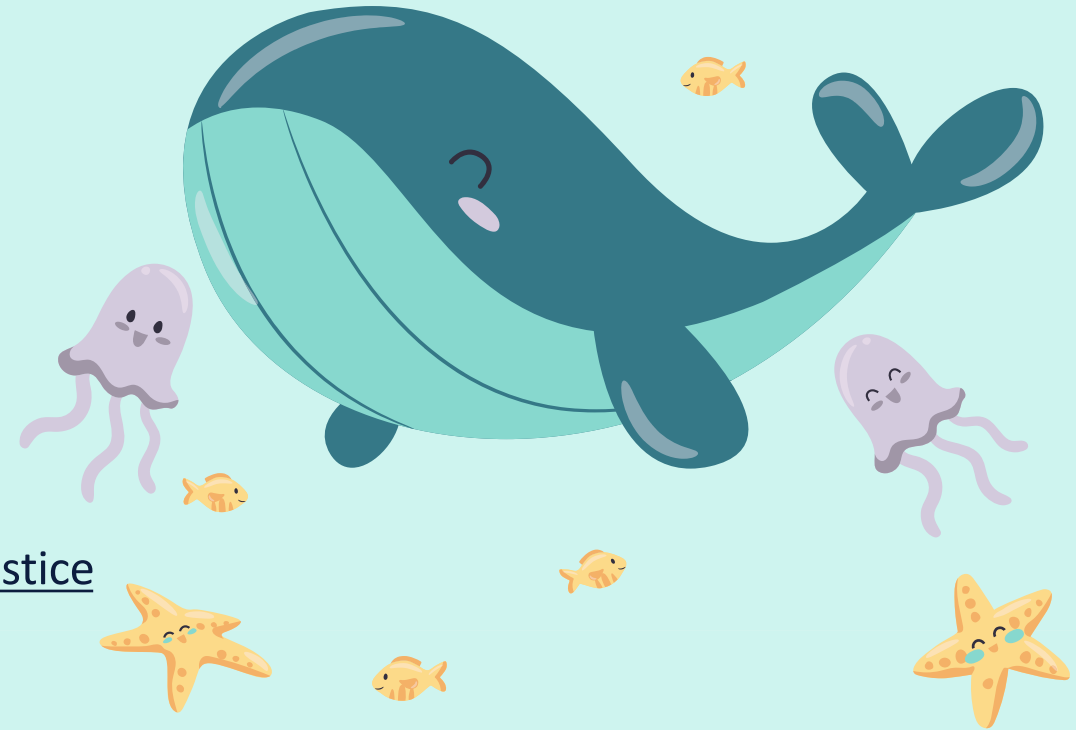
Other Resources:

New Yorker: Future of Coal

Refinery29 Video: Communities Fight for Environmental Justice

**CREDITS:** This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**, including icons by **Flaticon**, infographics & images by **Freepik**

**Please keep this slide for attribution**



# *A Laudato Si'* Focus on Environmental Justice

## Questions ?



**Catholic Climate Covenant™**  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

# *A Laudato Si'* Focus on Environmental Justice

For more information:

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

and

[www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org](http://www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org)



**Catholic Climate Covenant<sup>sm</sup>**

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.