



# YOUTH MOBILIZATION PROGRAM

**WHAT:** The Catholic Climate Covenant Youth Mobilization effort is a movement of high school students who are working to live out *Laudato Si'* and take action to address the climate crisis and ecological and human degradation. They will become ministers of climate action in their parish, school, and/or communities.

**WHO:** We develop leadership teams of youth, partnering with the local diocese, parish, school, and/or religious community.

**WHY:** Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* is an urgent call to act on the climate crisis. While caring for God's creation is an integral aspect of our faith, Pope Francis cast new focus upon it by putting it at the forefront of his papacy. Additionally, scientists warn that drastic action to address the climate crisis is needed now or we will not reach the global goal of limiting the warming of the earth to 1.5 °C. Even if we reach that goal there will still be significant, climate related effects on our planet and its people, especially the most vulnerable. The situation is dire and urgent. Young people are positioned and motivated to act and to mobilize their communities to address the climate crisis: it is their future most immediately threatened.

"THE EARTH IS OUR ENVIRONMENT TO  
PROTECT AND THE GARDEN TO TEND..."  
POPE FRANCIS



## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

**INSPIRE:** Youth are inspired and hopeful because of the message of *Laudato Si'*. This inspiration and newly-found leadership in turn inspires the whole Church to act.

**DEVELOP AND TRAIN LEADERS:** We form teams of high school students. They are mentored by professional leaders in the Church and in climate science. Additional training includes: one-on-one relationship techniques, community organizing basics, advocacy skills, understanding Church leadership and structures, and community building.

**MOBILIZE:** Many youth in our Church want to take action and care deeply about the climate crisis but do not have an outlet to do so. We seek to support, accompany, and mobilize those youth to make changes in their communities and in the Church.

**MAKE CHANGE:** The leadership teams will host an annual Catholic Youth Climate Summit (CYCS). The objective of the CYCS is for each attendee to leave with an action plan to take to their parish, school, or community.

**ADVOCATE:** Youth are passionate about changing systems that contribute to the climate crisis. We prepare them to advocate to decision makers in their schools, Churches, and communities, urging them to make decisions in the interests of the common good, to care for creation, and ensure a brighter future for their generation.

## APPROACHES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

**LEADERSHIP TEAMS:** Teams will consist of 7-12 students. The student leaders are the primary leaders/decision makers, including coordinating and leading the Catholic Youth Climate Summit (CYCS). Youth apply to be on the leadership team at the beginning of the school year and commit for the full year (September-April), with the option of reapplying for the following year. They meet, via zoom, twice a month.

**FORMATION:** Leaders in the Church and climate fields train and provide the leadership team with the spiritual and practical skills they will need to be successful.

**MOVEMENT BUILDING:** The CYCS will serve as a catalyst for action. After the event, the leadership team will follow up with the attendees to check the progress of their action plans. Additionally, the youth will partner on larger actions, such as: rallies, environmental lobby days, etc ...

**CIRCLE KEEPING:** We will follow the Native American practice of Circle Keeping, a process that brings together individuals who wish to engage in honest communications, community, and relationship development. The Circle Keeping practice will be deployed by the youth leaders to open intergenerational and decision-maker dialogues.



## TO GET INVOLVED

To get involved, contact and schedule a meeting with Kayla S. Jacobs, Program Manager of Youth Mobilization at the Catholic Climate Covenant: [kayla@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:kayla@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

