



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# blossoming hope



If ‘the universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely... there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face.’ The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?’ - Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, Oct. 4, 2023



# LETTERS

## from our Episcopal Moderator

In *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis expresses his alarm at how little progress we have made on creation care since his powerful encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.

In the second paragraph, he quotes from our 2001 bishops' statement on the climate crisis saying, "Climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community." And at the very end of the *Laudate Deum*, he notes that per capita emissions by those of us living in the U.S. are "about two times greater than those of individuals living in China..."

Like many of you, I was struck by the tone of this apostolic exhortation and feel a bit indicted as a U.S. citizen and as a bishop. He's clearly calling us to do more.

As episcopal moderator of Catholic Climate Covenant, I have seen firsthand both the challenge that lies before us and the dedicated staff who work tirelessly to make a difference on climate change in our Church.

Your local efforts, combined with our staff and partners, have clearly demonstrated that you embrace Pope Francis' observation in *Laudate Deum* that, "The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?"

Thank you for your care and for your embrace of God's good gift of creation, an unambiguous sign of God's infinite Love.

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson, Bishop of Yakima  
Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Climate Covenant



## from our Board Chair

With sober clarity, we are now seeing the dramatic impacts of our neglect of God's creation: insurers no longer issuing policies to homeowners in fire or flood prone communities, ocean water now regularly inundating coastal communities, wildfires seasons growing in the U.S. and around the world.

The board of Catholic Climate Covenant, which I am honored to chair, is dedicated to assisting our staff and partners in lifting up the voices of those most impacted by climate change, and we strongly support the Covenant's work to educate, organize and advocate on behalf of our brothers and sisters and all of God's good gift of creation.

I am pleased to present this 2023 Annual Report demonstrating some of the powerful ways in which the Covenant performs its mission. With your help, we can do even more to share the good news of *Laudato Si'* and creation care.

Scott Hurd  
Vice President for Leadership Formation with Catholic Charities USA



# LETTER

## from Jose Aguto & Dan Misleh



Jose Aguto, Executive Director



Dan Misleh, Founder

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share the great work of our staff and partners in 2023. You can read for yourself many of the highlights, but allow us to share some of the key events, programs and initiatives that made 2023 one of our most productive years in our 17 year existence.

Key among our accomplishments was watching our heavy investment in youth and young adult programs bear beautiful fruit. Kayla Jacobs, our youth mobilization coordinator, trained and empowered 25 high-schoolers and their teachers, staff, and clergy in 16 schools to be protagonists of change in their own communities. One of their youth summits reached an additional 72 attendees. Youth and young adults had a powerful presence in New York City ahead of a massive climate march including a press conference where they encouraged greater climate action by all of us.

Diana Marin, our young adult mobilization coordinator, trained 23 young adults — our first Common Home Corps cohort — to organize their peers in dioceses around the country. Once organized, the groups made efforts to arrange meetings with their bishops to encourage them to sign the Vatican’s Laudato Si’ Action Platform and commit to net zero for diocesan buildings.

We coordinated and connected 36 (and growing) diocesan creation care committees to animate more activities in their dioceses.

By the end of 2023, our Catholic Energies program has developed nearly 30 solar projects in 14 states and Puerto Rico, helping reduce harmful emissions in the power sector. This demonstrates to local communities and especially young people, that Catholics care about the future. In addition to the educational opportunity that Catholic Energies projects provide, the program also supplements our budget to help us expand our core ministry activities.

Our advocacy campaign, “Encounter for Our Common Home,” saw tremendous growth in the number of Catholics willing to engage with their members of Congress and the administration, urging them to take seriously the scientists warning us of the climate crisis and their moral obligation to the common good and our common home.

As we close out 2023, we are especially grateful for all you have done to make this work possible. Whether through your donations, your local efforts, your prayers, or all three, our team and our partners are thankful. These efforts continue to blossom and grow because of you.

In the spirit of St. Francis and all the saints,

*Jose Aguto*      *Dan Misleh*









## OUR VISION

Catholic Climate Covenant envisions a world in which all humanity shares in both the responsibility and joy of our common home and all creation thrives with wholeness, abundant life, dignity, and justice.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of Catholic Climate Covenant is to inspire and mobilize the U.S. Catholic community to care for creation and achieve climate justice through the lens of integral ecology.

# ABOUT US

Catholic Climate Covenant was formed in 2006 to address growing ecological awareness and help implement Catholic social teaching on ecology within the U.S. Church. With 20 national partners, CCC inspires and mobilizes the U.S. Catholic community to care for creation and achieve climate justice through the lens of integral ecology.

## EDUCATION

Core to Catholic Climate Covenant's ministry is educating the Catholic community about the climate crisis, Church teaching on the environment, and the ways Catholics can be better caretakers of God's creation. In the U.S., CCC is a trusted resource for authentic Catholic teaching and programs on creation care.

Our annual interactive [Earth Day](#) and Feast of St. Francis programs as well as our webinars, homily helps, bulletin inserts, monthly newsletters, and national conferences, inform, inspire, and empower thousands of Catholics to advance creation care, climate action and environmental justice in the parishes, religious orders, dioceses, and other communities.

Our [Catholic Energies Program](#) helps Catholic facility owners develop solar projects that: reduce carbon emissions, lower utility costs (creating savings that can be used to fund core mission activities), and educate their constituents on Church teachings about creation care. With The Covenant's guidance, nearly 30 Catholic facility owners have been beneficiaries of solar and energy efficiency projects. Additionally, these facilities have become a witness to the wider community, demonstrating that their faith community cares about their future. The program has been expanding to advise Catholic institutions to establish net zero emission pathways over several years.

## ORGANIZING

The Covenant leads the efforts in the United States to implement the [Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) — a seven-year journey to put the aspirations of an integral ecology into action — through the initiative [God's Planet](#).

We regularly convene leaders who advance creation care in dioceses and parishes. This includes convening and facilitating the work of the Interdiocesan Creation

Care Network (36 dioceses and growing) and creation care teams in parishes and other institutions (approximately 400 and growing).

We created [Godsplanet.us](#) as the U.S. Catholic hub of the Laudato Si' Action Platform to inform, educate, and celebrate the inspiring efforts by schools, religious orders, parishes, dioceses, and others in the care of our common home.

Catholic Climate Covenant mobilizes U.S.-based young adults ages 18-39 from across the Catholic Church around care of creation. From webinars and weekend retreats to curriculum for college and parish settings and year-long leadership formation programs, the Covenant's Young Adult Mobilization program offers young adults and those who work with young adults resources to organize for climate action through a faith-based, Catholic perspective.

In 2023, our Youth Mobilization program expanded our leadership training program by creating regional teams of high school students. The students met throughout the school year and were empowered to be faith-inspired climate leaders in their schools, parishes, and communities. The student leaders create a space for high school students to utilize their leadership skills, build community, and take climate action.

## ADVOCACY

We encourage all Catholics to advocate both within their own faith communities and to their political leaders, urging their support for policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance the needs of vulnerable populations whose voices are not often heard.

Our collaborative [“Encounter for Our Common Home” campaign](#) brings together Catholics to engage with their legislators from the lens of their faith.

Our new young adult [“Common Home Corps”](#) offers engaged young Catholics the discernment and skills to dialogue with Catholic leaders and laity on creation care and implementation in ways consistent with our faith.

**Learn more and join our mailing list for free resources** [catholicclimatecovenant.org](#).



# 2023 Key Highlights

## JANUARY

Catholic Climate Covenant hosted a two-part webinar that addressed the Inflation Reduction Act, COP27, and a New Congress and just implementation of these policies.

To promote sustainable agriculture and food preparation, we launched a series called **Creation Care Recipe of the Month**.

The Covenant also **created a resource** to help faith communities navigate the Inflation Reduction Act.

## MARCH

We shared our 2023 Earth Day program called **Simple Living: God's Vision of Abundant Life**. The 2023 Earth Day program was designed to assist the Catholic community's engagement with the Laudato Si' Action Platform's "Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles" goal.

## MAY

The Wholemakers program — a youth and young adult curriculum — received more than 600 downloads within the first month it was available, and more than 150 individuals signed up for a facilitator's training. The **Wholemakers Webinar** was also a great success.

2023

## FEBRUARY

An online panel, called **Encountering Church Leadership on Laudato Si'**, highlighted two Catholic stars: Paula Gwynn Grant, Secretary for Communications for the Archdiocese of Washington (D.C.), and John Carr, the Founder of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University was a top highlight for the month. The two answered frequently asked questions about Church leadership and *Laudato Si'*.

The Covenant co-hosted a Catholic Youth Climate Summit in partnership with the Archdiocese of Chicago. The summit was organized by the students on our leadership team. Over 70 high school students gathered for Mass, learning, and action planning.

## APRIL

The Covenant cooperated with the Laudato Si' Movement to begin our promotion of the movie *The Letter* by holding screenings, followed by discussions on themes and goals.

## JUNE

Common Home Corps (CHC) brought together 23 young adults in June for a five-day training at Loyola University Chicago. Young Adult leaders learned about the science of climate change, Catholic Social Teaching on the environment, crafting public narratives, and faith-based organizing. This inaugural CHC class is part of a year-long cohort taking a stand for the care of creation in their local communities. They form a team, meet with their local bishop and other diocesan leaders, and advocate for climate action that reflects the Church's mission: enacting the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform with a focus on net zero carbon.



## SEPTEMBER

We hosted a webinar titled “**2023 Season of Creation Advocacy and Prayer Opportunity: A Call for Climate Justice.**” This webinar explained why the forgiveness of debt held by developing nations is a critical climate solution and how prayer and public witness can help our nation commit to a just transition away from fossil fuels and assist a global response to climate change. Our **Season of Creation** campaign focused on this issue.

In concert with the Ignatian Spirituality Network, Pax Christi, and the Laudato Si’ Movement, we created a Season of Creation resource titled “**Living the Season of Creation Nonviolently.**”

Our training of a new team of student leaders for the 2023-2024 school year began under our youth mobilization program. We helped organize a Catholic Youth Press Conference in New York City prior to the New York City March to End Fossil Fuels. Catholic youth spoke passionately about why they want climate action. Catholic youth and young adults then joined the march as a vocal Catholic contingent.

## NOVEMBER

We co-hosted a webinar called “**The Faith Voice at COP28,**” which featured presentations from well-known Christian climate scientists, including Dr. Katharine Hayhoe.

In partnership with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Care for Creation Committee, we organized a service booth at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). Thousands of youth and their chaperones visited our booth to decorate garden beds and pack seeds for distribution to low-income communities in the Indianapolis area.

## JULY

Our **Creation Care Communications Guidebook** was published to help Catholics navigate discussions about environmental stewardship.

We hosted our first Climate Action after High School Community Conversation. We welcomed recent high school graduates and active college students for a conversation and Q&A about how to be engaged in climate action after graduating high school. The goal of this conversation was to create a seamless transition from our youth mobilization to our young adult mobilization programming.

We hosted eight virtual gatherings as part of a national conference to discuss **Laudato Si’ and the U.S. Catholic Church (LSUS)**. Our virtual gatherings reached over 3,000 attendees.

## AUGUST

To cap our LSUS conference, we announced the winners of the first **U.S. Laudato Si’ Champions Awards**, where ten Catholic individuals and groups across the U.S. in different ministries were recognized for their environmental achievements and stewardship.

We held a webinar, “**A Heated Conversation,**” diving deep into the summer’s historic heat waves and climate change phenomena.

Our Feast of St. Francis Program, “**The Way of Francis — Seeking Peace and Justice for all Creation,**” assisted Catholics in learning about Catholic nonviolence and the Franciscan call to seek peace and justice for all of creation.

## OCTOBER

Our October webinar, “**Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation: Come Learn, Pray, Act,**” focused on Pope Francis’ *Laudate Deum*, and what it means for the U.S. We launched a **Laudate Deum pledge** to accompany the webinar.

A youth and young adult-led webinar: “**Protagonists of Transformation: YYA Mobilization for Climate Action,**” drew hundreds of young people hungry for faith-based action on the climate crisis.

We published our **Advent resources** for 2023.

## DECEMBER

We released an inspiring new video series called “**God’s Creation Needs You,**” featuring six Catholic communities across the nation caring for our common home.

## YEAR ROUND

Additional work and projects started or continued throughout the year include monthly Homily Helps, monthly CCT emails with resources and information, monthly CCT online conversations, facilitating conversations within the Interdiocesan Creation Care Network, maintaining and updating resources for GodsPlanet, and monthly Encounter gatherings.

2024





“

God created the world to show forth and communicate his glory. That his creatures should share in his truth, goodness, and beauty — this is the glory for which God created them.”

- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 319



# Giving is Believing

None of these efforts could happen without your support. We are so thankful for all of the generous gifts from individuals, religious communities, and foundations that have sustained Catholic Climate Covenant's work on behalf of our common home. Below is a list of donors who gave to Catholic Climate Covenant in 2023.

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Cleo Hall  
Vie Thorgren  
Tom Hemm  
John Grim  
Carol Ramsey  
Stella Smetanka  
Linda Sandish  
Mary Foutz  
Nancy Tierney  
Mark Klugiewicz  
Stacy Haatvedt  
Janet Fortuna

Mark LeBriton  
Patricia Beneshan  
Janelle Cooney  
Richard McCaffrey  
Fran Ludwig  
Jacqueline O'Brien  
Marise Robertson  
Lynn DeBroeck  
Linda Sandish  
Caroline Noble  
Sr. Diane Tomkinson  
Jean Pepitone  
Elaine Betoncourt  
Christina Slentz  
Jean Beil  
Annette Roy  
Delphine Busch  
Tom Dorney  
Anna Barney  
Sally Howard  
Mary Ann Holtz  
Edward Allard  
Andrew Reynolds  
Janine Lacava  
Steve Herro  
Jean Kennedy  
Kathryn Vlahos  
Karen Pollard  
Lillian Jordan  
Sr. Marge Staudt  
Charles Taormina

Cecile Roeger  
Sheral Marshall  
John Hyatt  
Chris Peta  
Darlene Stoecklein  
Sandy Jumonville Brown  
Edvin Mertdogan  
Regina Ward  
Diane Hance  
Judith Hinch  
Will Cohen  
Jacquelyn Scherer  
Honora Nolty  
Don Clarke  
Terrence Witt  
Gary Smith  
Elizabeth Asaro  
Christina Matone  
Theresa Czaja  
Father Marty Peter  
Eran Mccarty  
Michael Kinsman  
Trudi Jenny  
Terri McDonald  
Monica Bradley  
Geri Wagner  
Marie Steinitz  
Ann Arnold  
Paul Sampson  
Pamela Novak  
Blaise Ipsaro





Katie Gaines  
 James Engler  
 Lynn Neu  
 Jean Sliwinski  
 Shawn Kennedy  
 Tom Garlitz  
 Terrence Devino, SJ  
 Stephen Lo  
 John Gooch  
 Marilyn Ateell  
 Cathy Olds, OP  
 Daniela Ochoa  
 William Loewe  
 George Marsh  
 Ray Bucher, OFM  
 Shawn Witmer  
 Mary Vlazny  
 Sharon Horace  
 Terrence Ryan  
 Elsa Gibson  
 John Bangert  
 Mary Haney  
 David Butel  
 Jennifer Barker  
 William Spangler  
 Lisa Sullivan  
 Joan Lawson  
 Glenn Wishon  
 Cathy Adler  
 Julie Jacobs  
 Joe Holland  
 Victoria Conti

Thomas Costello  
 Mayon Sylvain, RSM  
 Paula Radmacher  
 Joni Kennedy  
 Carol Burczyk  
 Janet Schunk  
 Maggie Ebrite  
 Judith Hofmann  
 Joseph Knecht  
 Celine Woznica  
 Carolyne Bosque  
 Daniel Kraus  
 Elena Bracamonte  
 St. John the Beloved Apostle  
 Kate Asselin  
 Becky Menich  
 Maureen Ruddy  
 Eileen Poiani  
 Kathleen Moeder-Christensen  
 Sally Chappell  
 Katherine Laslay  
 Joseph Schmidinger  
 Bill Bulger  
 Rose Marie Tresp  
 Sue Clement  
 Doreen Chesebro  
 Stephanie Spandl  
 Hugh Menton  
 Marietta Cole  
 Joan Markiewicz  
 Catherine Cissel  
 Meghan Hussey

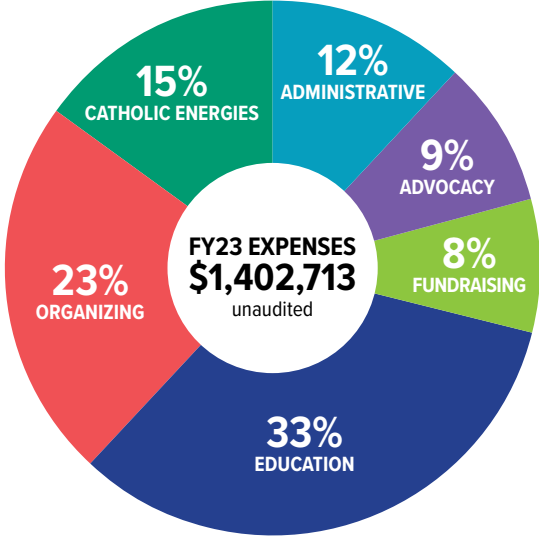
William Collinge  
 Kevin Bean  
 Elizabeth Hunley  
 Bernadette Rudolph  
 Dianne Nixon  
 Lourdes Babauta  
 Susan Ring  
 Charlene Stender  
 Frances Barber  
 Jeffry Salinas  
 Rosalie Carven  
 Debbie Morrill  
 Maryellen Fargey  
 Jan Wilson  
 Tami Alexander  
 Annette Field  
 Kathleen Basi  
 Olivia Latiano  
 Jeanne Fec  
 Stephen McCarthy  
 Frank Breen  
 Martha Jaegers  
 Racine Dominicans  
 Sisters of St. Francis  
 Bill Kelly  
 Candice L. Tucci, OSF  
 Mary Ellen Robinson  
 Linda Mirabelli  
 William Griffin  
 Lisa Mischke  
 Nancy Carrales  
 Lorraine Delehanty  
 Jerry Spatz  
 Mary Doucette  
 Carlos Salinas  
 Janel Bakker  
 Reece Adams  
 Barbara Allaire  
 Theresa Gaffney  
 Margaret Munn  
 Donna Wermus  
 Anne Schankin  
 Tim Dewane  
 Clay Adam  
 Nancy Stark



# 2023 Financials

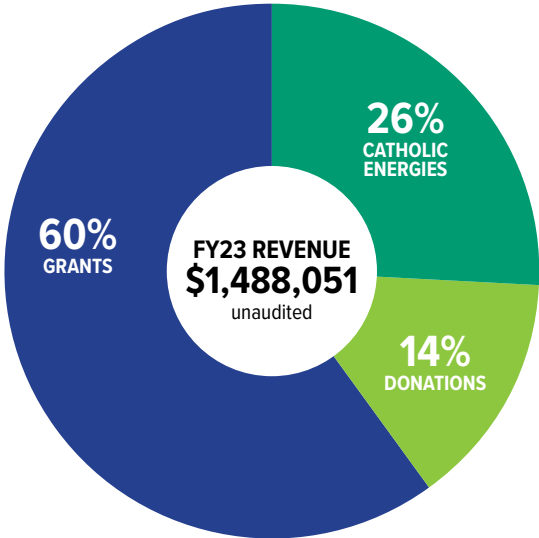
## FY23 EXPENSES UNAUDITED

<span style="color: #0070C0;">■</span> Administrative	\$168,326
<span style="color: #6A329F;">■</span> Advocacy	\$126,244
<span style="color: #70AD47;">■</span> Fundraising	\$112,217
<span style="color: #003366;">■</span> Education	\$462,895
<span style="color: #E41A1C;">■</span> Organizing	\$322,624
<span style="color: #00A651;">■</span> Catholic Energies	\$210,407
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,402,713</b>



## FY23 REVENUE UNAUDITED

<span style="color: #70AD47;">■</span> Donations	\$207,753
<span style="color: #00A651;">■</span> Catholic Energies	\$383,659
<span style="color: #003366;">■</span> Grants	\$896,639
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,488,051</b>



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Laudato Si' Movement

Maryknoll OGC

National Catholic Education  
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National Council of Catholic  
Women

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Society of the Sacred Heart United  
States – Canada Province

St. Columban Mission for Justice,  
Peace and Ecology









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