

Care for Creation Committee Meeting

Vision Statement:

Honor God the Creator by challenging one another to live as partners with Creation by being good stewards of the earth's resources.

Mission Statement:

As a parish, we shall identify and implement programs that exercise environmental stewardship in a manner that respects and protects the integrity of God's Creation and provides for the Common Good.

Meeting Date: January 23, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM, Sacred Heart Commons

Attendees: Frank Murphy (chairman), William Wallace, Patricia Britz, Jane Pellegrino, Gabby Molinaro, and Annette Field

Opening prayer "Reflect" by Frank

Goals for 2022-2023:

1. Support the "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" Adopt-A-Street program on a quarterly basis by having parishioners clean Sacred Heart's designated portion of West Princess Anne Road.
2. Participate in a 2022 Earth Day event.
3. Support programs that reduce waste while implementing additional resource saving programs. Reduce the parish's paper consumption by 25% by the end June, 2022.
4. Educate the parish membership on how to reduce waste, reuse goods and recycle. Publish a relevant note at least once per month; use social media to further educate the parish during the 2022-2023 Church year.
5. Conduct at least two youth/family programs that emphasize waste reduction, recycling, and environmental stewardship during the 2021-2022 Church year.

6. Discern the Sacred Heart Response to the call to participate in the Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP) <http://laudatosiactionplatform.org>

- Educate the parish about LSAP through bulletin announcements and submissions to other parish publications to encourage parishioners to individually commit to LSAP.
- Propose two LSAP parish initiatives and present them to the Parish Pastoral Council for discussion, approval, and commitment.

Keep Norfolk Beautiful: The clean-up of our section of Princess Anne Road is scheduled for March 4, 2023, at 8:45 AM. A rain date will be determined if we can't do it on the 4th. All parishioners are welcome to help.

Earth Day: Jane met with Kenny Clark to discuss his progress for the Earth Day Family Project he is developing. They went over his proposal and Jane made some additional suggestions for this project, which will be an "at home" activity, talking about sustainability and its aspects, that will be distributed by Amy to Religious Education participating families. Earth Day is April 22, 2023.

Reduction of waste: It was mentioned that not all Sacred Heart office materials are separated into trash and recyclable bins. This could be our next focus.

There was discussion regarding the use of plastics at Parish events. We, as a Parish, need to pay closer attention to avoiding such items as Styrofoam, plastic utensils, etc., at these events. We have a very efficient dishwasher, and it is easily utilized to clean up after various events. Frank volunteered to re-state the parish policy on this.

Education: The Bulletin Notes continue to be developed by Jane and submitted to the office and Patricia for Social Ministry information. It was announced that the Care for Creation minutes are being posted on the four-sided information kiosk in the Commons.

It was noted that two Summer Sizzler and the last Vacation Bible School programs have used "Care for Creation" as a general theme. Jane suggested that perhaps we could bring in a speaker to talk about Laudato Si, improve awareness about that encyclical, and what it means to us. Father Grace was mentioned as a possible choice.

Laudato Si Action Plan: The Action Plan is “a new and groundbreaking faith-driven and ecological initiative to engage the Catholic Church in a seven-year journey to global sustainability and spiritual conversion. [It] is a collaboration between the Vatican and a coalition of Catholic organization across the world, many in the United States.” The committee needs to concentrate on this. There was discussion of what we can do and what we can propose. The Platform states that we should discern what we can do, and we then arrive at a couple of goals. The website <https://godsplanet.us> is a good place to start this discernment.

Frank has sent committee members “7 key resources for enlisting your parish...in the Laudato Si Action Platform.” It lists various diocesan and parish responses to the Platform. It presents some ideas that Sacred Heart Parish has developed over the past 10 years, plus some additional ideas that we could explore and enact. Jane encouraged everyone to read the resources and develop some ideas from those to present to our committee and, ultimately, to the Parish Council and Father Paul by Spring.

[Laudatosiactionplatform.org](https://laudatosiactionplatform.org)

Other business: There was a brief discussion regarding Fair Trade and Yard Sales in the community.

Next meeting will be February 27th at 7:30PM in the Commons.

Closing prayer by William.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 PM.

Bulletin Submissions Care for Creation – February 2023

February 5

Go Green for Lent

Lent begins on February 22nd. It is not too early to start thinking about your Lenten disciplines. This Lent please consider including action on the environment as one of them. Catholic Climate Covenant offers several options of climate action during Lent. Suggestions include Stations of the Cross Renew the Earth, *Laudato Si* Lent and *Greener Lent* from the Diocese of Raleigh, NC. Check out the Catholic Climate Covenant 2023 Lenten Season resources at: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/season-lent>

February 19

Disposing of Old Electronics

Proper disposal of old electronics is critical to the reduction of e-waste. Knowing where to recycle electronics is crucial in the reduction of e-waste. Va. Beach and Norfolk conduct special e-waste collections once or twice a year and offer options for routine recycling. Towing and Recovery handles electronic recycling in Norfolk. They are located at 1188 Lance Road, Norfolk 23502. Their hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30am - 3:30 pm. You can reach them at 757-823-1093. What electronics can you recycle?

Consult the List of Acceptable Items at: <https://www.Norfolk.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3303>. Take advantage of this service. Don't send your old electronics to the landfill.