

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: February 27, 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 "Lenten Prayer" 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: Earth Day is April 22, 2023. Jane needs to have one more meeting with Kenny Clark to go over his project for the take-home Earth Day program for families.

Reduction of waste: Frank proposed that we change this to "Sustain the reduction of waste" for the upcoming year. No action was taken this evening.

Education: The Bulletin Notes continue to be developed by Jane and submitted to the office and Patricia for Social Ministry information.

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 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 previously sent committee members "7 key resources for enlisting your parish...in the Laudato Si Action Platform" and recently highlighted one of the resources in an email. It lists various diocesan and parish responses to the Platform. The focus of the Platform is more than just the environment and includes goals that involve Social Ministry. There was discussion of including a project for Haiti in our eventual proposal, such as planting trees with the parish, expanding their small farm, or some other project. Members of the committee need 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. (<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org>)

It was suggested that we try to include some parts of *Laudato Si* into the Bulletin Notes and try to add at least one *Laudato Si* Platform highlight to the Prayers of the Faithful each week. We need to check with Amy regarding the Prayers.

Other business: There was a suggestion that perhaps we could add a couple of rain barrels around the rectory and/or the church. Present to the Parish Council?

A discussion ensued as to what exactly is the meaning of “Integral Ecology” (the aim of *Laudato Si*). We need to formulate our presentation to Parish Council, using this as a basis for joining the Platform.

Next meeting will be March 20th at 7:30PM in the Commons.

Closing prayer by William.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

Bulletin Submission for Care for Creation – March 2023

5 March

Go Green for Lent

Lent is a time for change. This Lent consider including action on the environment as a Lenten discipline. Catholic Climate Covenant offers several ideas on how to take climate action during Lent. Suggestions include No-Buy Lent, a discipline of buying only essential items during Lent, *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>

19 March

Gardening as Climate Change Action

Climate change is such a big issue that it overwhelms us into inaction. Lucy Clark at Gardeners Supply suggests that we can take climate action through the classic spring and summer activity of gardening. Find out more by reading *7 Ways Every Gardener Can Combat Climate Change* at <https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/combat-climate-change/9584.html>. Start by planting native plants, making your own compost, and skipping the chemicals.

