

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: March 20, 2023

Time: 6:55 PM, Sacred Heart Commons

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

Opening prayer "The Garden Is Rich" 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 tentatively is scheduled for May 13, 2023, at 8:45 AM. All parishioners are welcome to help.

Earth Day: Earth Day is April 22, 2023. Jane has received Kenny Clark's final submission and will give to Amy soon.

Reduction of waste: Recycling goals have been met at this point. Patricia suggested that we encourage the office to print on both sides of documents from the office. The office staff needs to be reminded that we do that.

Gabby wondered if there is any effort to have Fair Trade at Sacred Heart. It was noted that this activity is not currently promoted.

Jane mentioned that she participates in a program called Tidewater Composting. Any chance we could have the kitchen participate in this? Needs more study, probably.

Education: The Bulletin Notes continue to be developed by Jane and submitted to the office and Patricia for Social Ministry information. We are hoping people are noticing them.

With Teddy's program for Earth Day the education programs are finished for the year.

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.

With this in mind, Frank sent a video recommendation from Eco Catholic that explained the basics of Integral Ecology. Environmental issues are social justice issues. (The Care for Creation Committee is a sub-committee of Sacred Heart's Social Justice and Peace Committee, to which Frank reports.) All these concerns are intertwined.

Jane has spoken to Amy about trying to add an Environmental/Social Justice prayer to the weekly Prayers of the Faithful at least once a month. The parish receives a service that provides sample prayers for each Sunday and Amy indicated that those often include prayers that would fit our objective. She will review them for appropriate ones.

With the belief that we, as Catholics, should be committed to the goals of Laudato Si and after some discussion regarding what we have done in the past few years, plus what we're considering for the immediate future regarding the Laudato Si Platform, Frank asked Jane to present to the Parish Pastoral Council all of those efforts and attempt to gain their support for the Platform and those that we will envision for the Parish in Education and in an Action. Jane agreed to do that, and we will commit to determining those goals by the fourth Tuesday in May.

Next meeting will be April 17th 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.