

## 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: December 18, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM, Sacred Heart Commons

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

Opening prayer, Beauty of nature, by Frank

### Goals for 2023-2024:

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 2024 Earth Day event.
3. Support programs that reduce waste while implementing additional resource saving programs. Continue to reduce paper usage as much as possible.
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 2023-2024 Church year.
5. Conduct at least two youth/family programs that emphasize waste reduction, recycling, and environmental stewardship during the 2023-2024 Church year.
6. Continue to 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 will be March 16, 2024.

To encourage participation in this and in general, Patricia suggested having a table with information about KNB and handouts from the KNB office. No particular time was recommended at this point.

**Earth Day:** Earth Day is Monday, April 22, 2024. The theme for 2024 is *Planet vs. Plastics*. Projects for that will be addressed at the beginning of the year. Sister Linh would like to do something tangible with the children in the Spring, such as recycling. Jane and Sister will be meeting in January to discuss various ideas.

**Reduction of waste:** We need to think of additional projects that we can do. Life style changes, incorporating suggestions from “Laudato Si” and the Action Plan, such as recycling cans and drink bottles, were suggested. This could go along with KNB actions as well.

**Education:** Now that the PPC has approved our participation in the Laudato Si Platform (see appropriate note below), Jane will try to incorporate aspects of that into the 2024 Bulletin Notes.

**Youth and Family Programs:** Sister is no longer giving the students one Sunday “off” from Religious Education at Church and asking them to come every Sunday. She is intending several education programs for the Lenten season, one (at least) that will include a practical project. Jane will work with her to develop one or two that will reflect Care for Creation goals. (See above in the Earth Day paragraph.)

#### **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 then arrive at a couple of goals. The website <https://godsplanet.us> is a good place to start this discernment. (<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org>)

Meg Lehman has informed us that the Parish Pastoral Council has approved our applying to the part of the Plan. (see above)

Patricia announced that the Justice and Peace Committee will be doing Easter cards in the Commons on March 11 at 10:00AM.

The next meeting will be 1/22/24 at 7:00 pm in the Commons.

Closing prayer by William.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15PM.



Bulletin Submission  
Care for Creation Cc

***The following text is a copy of the previous additions to the minutes, regarding Laudato Si and the Laudato Si Platform***

## **Presentation to the Parish Pastoral Council regarding the Laudato Si Action Platform**

### **History of Care for Creation at Sacred Heart Church**

Sacred Heart Church established a Care for Creation Committee in 2019 with the following vision and mission:

**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.

In the intervening time the Care for Creation Committee has fostered Sacred Heart Church's care for creation by:

- using cloth napkins and tablecloths for events to reduce waste
- using reusable glasses, plates and flatware for events to reduce waste
- using compostable containers for Soup Kitchen where possible
- encouraging the use of reusable water bottles
- recycling
- incorporating Care for Creation topics into Adult Education Programs
- bringing Care for Creation topics to Religious Education programs during the Season of Creation and in celebration of Earth Day
- cleaning, quarterly, Princess Anne Road from Monticello Avenue to Hampton Boulevard as part of the Adopt a Street program of *Keep Norfolk Beautiful*
- publishing bulletin announcements semi-monthly to increase parish awareness of the need to Care for Creation
- reducing paper consumption by over 25% by making weekly bulletins and liturgy sheets available online
- investigating with Catholic Energies the possibility of installing solar panels at Sacred Heart Church
- replaced incandescent light bulbs with LEDs
- becoming an Elizabeth River Project River Star Business

And there are more projects we hope to tackle.

### ***Laudato Si***

Laudato Si – Care for our Common Home was published by Pope Francis in 2015. In his encyclical Pope Francis challenged the world to a deeper relationship with God through the care of God's creation. With the encyclical Pope Francis established care for creation as part of Catholic Social Teaching, emphasized the traditional teaching on the common good and solidarity, distributive justice, and preferential option for the poor. The environment is a common good, the heritage of all.

### **Laudato Si Action Platform (launched in 2021)**

In order to offer Catholics concrete steps toward sustainable lifestyles the Vatican established the Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP) in 2021. Through the LSAP the Church provides a way for any Catholic institution, large or small, across the globe to enroll in a multi-year, Vatican-backed process toward sustainability in the spirit of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on care for creation.

### **Sacred Heart Church participation in Laudato Si Action Platform**

Care for Creation Committee of Sacred Heart Church recommends that Sacred Heart Church participate in the Laudato Si Action Platform to:

- highlight our accomplishments in the care for our common home.
- commit Sacred Heart Church to grow as a creation-conscious community.

### **Proposal to the Parish Pastoral Council on Participation in Laudato Si Action Platform**

Laudato Si Action Platform requires that each community identifies two goals to pursue and monitor. The Care for Creation Committee has identified several attainable projects that Sacred Heart Church could propose for the Laudato Si Action Platform. We are requesting that you:

- support Sacred Heart's participation in the Laudato Si Platform
- support our engaging other ministries in discussions about the LSAP, so that we may identify LSAP goals that have community interest.

### **First Action**

Presentation of [The Letter, a documentary film](#)



The Letter handout.p1.pdf



The Letter handout.p2.pdf