

## 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 22, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM, Sacred Heart Commons

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

Opening prayer "Garden is rich" 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. 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 2023-2024 Church year.
5. Conduct at least two youth/family programs that emphasize waste reduction, recycling, and environmental stewardship during the 2023-24 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.
- Formulate 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 16, 2024 (third Saturday), at 8:45 AM. A rain date will be determined if we can't do it on the 4th. All parishioners are encouraged to help. It IS a parish commitment.

KNB has grants available to encourage its mission. Suggestions for an application that we could submit included a bike rack, rain barrels, or making the Neil Walsh Memorial Garden by the rectory into a native plant garden. We will need to determine the most likely project. We could perhaps involve Bob Kelley, who is a Master Garden in helping us with the native garden if that is what we decide.

**Earth Day:** Earth Day is April 22, 2024, with the theme of "Planet vs. Plastics".

**Reduction of waste:** The blue recycling bin has been placed in the Commons to encourage its use. Used Liturgy sheets have been placed into it after the Masses.

**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 posted on the four-sided information kiosk in the Commons.

**Laudato Si Action Plan:** The Parish Pastoral Council has given its approval to apply for the Plan.

Frank sent the St. John Neumann Parish, Reston, plan for the first year. It is quite extensive. We looked at it and determined that we have already done some of the things in their plan but could use a few of the ideas for Sacred Heart's application.

Jane again encouraged the committee members to look at the "7 key resources for enlisting your parish...in the Laudato Si Action Platform." It lists various personal, 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 some ideas from those to present to our committee and the PPC and Father Paul. (see attached) Some suggestions are: to promote participation by parishioners to join the River Star Homes campaign and encourage a trash audit for the school age children, as well as the native garden idea. All of us should prepare ideas for the next meeting for Earth Day and for the Action Plan.

**Other business:** Video “Cool Foods”, narrated by Robert Downey, Jr.

Next meeting will be March 18th at 7:30PM in the Commons. No meeting in February.

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 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

*Laudatosiactionplatform.org*



LSAP Ideas for  
consideration.pdf

