

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 18, 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 "Creator Spirit" 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>

Keep Norfolk Beautiful: The clean-up of our section of Princess Anne Road was done on March 16, 2024 (third Saturday), at 8:45 AM. Frank determined that we had collected about 75 pounds of trash, combining general litter and recycleables. There were some new volunteers for this and we appreciate their help.

Frank Murphy announced that he would be resigning the chairmanship of this committee in June. We will need to recruit a new person for this position over the summer, if not before.

Earth Day: Earth Day is April 22, 2024, with the theme of “Planet vs. Plastics”. Some ideas for the students and young people of the parish were 1) inspecting the trash cans we have for items in the wrong bins and the importance of discarding items in the correct bins for recycling and 2) making small scrap paper books that they can take home. The general parish could be encouraged to do the same at home.

Reduction of waste: It was noted that the number of bulletins has dramatically increased. There were 160 left over from the weekend of March 9/10 and 71 from March 16/17. This is substantially more than we have had in the past and needs to be addressed. Patricia volunteered to speak with Chrissy, who is still learning the routines of the parish.

Education: The Bulletin Notes continue to be developed by Jane and submitted to the office and Patricia for Social Ministry information. It was noted that there have been only occasional prayers related to the environment and Care for Creation in our Prayers of the Faithful from the pulpit. We would like to have more, at least one per weekend. Patricia indicated that she would work with Sandra, who formulates the prayers, and try to provide input for them.

For the Youth and Families, Jane suggested that we do a homework project in the Spring/early Summer since the children attend Religious Education every Sunday now, instead of taking one weekend “off”. (See above, under Reduction of Waste).

Laudato Si Action Plan: Jane is ready to prepare the application for the Action Plan. We already respond to parts of the Plan, such as the Cry of the Poor by feeding the homeless on Sundays and providing Thanksgiving bags full of food on that holiday, providing school supplies to the migrant children on the Eastern Shore, and other activities. For Ecological Education we publish Bulletin Notes each month and work with the children on various activities. We encourage

Sustainable Lifestyles through the Bulletin Notes and post information on the kiosk in the Commons.

For the next meeting we need to prepare a summary of our reflections on the Action Plan. We need some solid ideas for aspects of the Plan that we haven't addressed here. Jane wants to determine our current energy footprint for the application. Frank believes that this is very doable.

Next meeting will be April 15th at 7:00PM in the Commons. There was no meeting in February and Frank announced that he will be taking us to dinner at Fellini's in May.

Closing prayer by William.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

Bulletin Submission for Care for Creation – March 2024

3 March

Become a careful online shopper and return less. Help the earth in the process.

that it will be returned to inventory and resold. However, returned items are more often discarded rather than resold, because it is cheaper for a company to discard the item than to resell it. [Earth.org](#) reports that 2.6 million tons of returned clothes ended up in landfills in 2020 in the US alone. Lent is a special time set aside each year to reflect on the consequences of our actions and to consider change where necessary. Earth.org in its article, [The Environmental Impact of Online Shopping](#), exposes the consequences of online shopping and asks us to consider changing our online purchasing patterns. Make a difference for the earth this Lent by reducing online purchases and becoming a more careful online shopper. The earth will thank you.

17 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.

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