



ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

A newsletter from the Care for Creation Task Force

Winter: A Season of Transition

Winter marks the end of an old year and the beginning of a new one. There is a lot to reflect on for this year, and a lot to watch out for next year. In Advent's spirit of waiting and preparation, let's reflect together a bit:

What did you do this year?

Where did you go?

What did you find difficult this year? What weighs on you?

What was your biggest blessing this year? How has that brought you joy?

Did you make any new friends? Did you deepen any friendships?

What are you worried about for next year?

How will you approach those troubles and worries?

What are you excited for next year?

What is something that you want to work on?

There is a lot of apprehension moving into 2025. Changes that may or may not happen loom on the horizon. But we can have hope and be joyful even in the midst of uncertainty. Even with ice, cold, blizzards, and slush, winter is still beautiful. It blankets the ground with soft, white snow at times, trapping sound and bringing refreshing quiet to our bustling lives.

"[W]e boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,⁴and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us." - Romans 5:2-5

Pace e bene,

Jillian Foster and the Archdiocesan Care for Creation Task Force



Laudato Si' Sector Sessions

We are still working on ways to build on the energy gathered and further our efforts to care for God's creation in our archdiocese. In its structure, the LSAP names seven sectors where unique opportunities for partnership might exist, and we'd like to support the formation of networking groups in a few of these areas: **families of parishes, religious communities, and education (secondary and higher education).**

These sectors have begun meeting and if you are interested in exploring one (or more) of these groups, please contact Liliana Sierra. All are welcome!



ADVOCATE

Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is a massive piece of legislation that supports farms, foreign aid, and food assistance. Every five years is up for reauthorization. When it was up for reauthorization last year, due to the continued troubles our Congress is having, they decided to pass a temporary extension of the current funding levels for an extra year.

It looks appears the Farm Bill will not be addressed, once again, until 2025.

Please utilize our Farm Bill [web page](#) which has a number of resources to keep yourself informed. Keep reminding our members of Congress how important this bill is and encourage them to work for increased support for our farmers, our sisters and brothers around the world, and those who are struggling with food insecurity here in our country.



Advocate to Help Communities Impacted by Climate Change

Urge Congress to support the Green Climate Fund and
Development Assistance.

[Click here to submit your message](#)

Local and State Advocacy

Take a look into these State Bills

HB 79 Permit Electric Distribution Utility Establish Certain Portfolios

This bill allows for energy distribution utilities to establish energy efficiency and demand reduction portfolios to allow for a more moderate distribution of energy. [Check it's status here.](#) **The final hearing for this bill was cancelled and the legislature will reset at the end of this year. We can keep an eye out for a chance to be reintroduced in the next legislative session.**

HB 197 Establish community solar pilot and solar development programs

This bill presents Ohioans with an opportunity to lower their electricity bills while enjoying a cleaner electricity grid. Catholic Conference submitted [testimony](#) on it. [You can advocate for it here.](#) [Check it's status here.](#) **Unfortunately, this bill did not pass the House this year. Let's pray for a possibility for reintroduction next year!**



**LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT**
Catholics for Our Common Home



CCC and Laudato Si Movement Statement on Donald Trump's Presidential Victory

Take a look at the joint statement regarding the Presidential
Election of President Donald Trump

[Statement Here](#)



LEARN

CELEBRATING SR. DOROTHY STANG!

A Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, Sr. Dorothy Stang was killed 20 years ago on February 12th, 2004 for standing up for the rights of farmers in the Amazon. Keep an eye out for these events!

Public Ceremony to honor Sister Dorothy Stang

January 10, 2025, All Day - in Italy (7 hours ahead of EST)

Live Stream Link: youtube.com/@santegidio

Remembering Sr. Dorothy Stang, other Eco-Martyrs, and Lost Species -

Webinar

February 11, 2025, 7:00pm-8:15pm

REGISTER: email Monica Kleimeyer at laudatosicircle@gmail.com or text 513-520-0125. Deadline to register: Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5 p.m.

Mass Celebrating Sr. Dorothy Stang - 20th anniversary of her death

February 12, 2025, 9:00am

Mount Notre Dame Chapel, 699 E. Columbia Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45215

Special Exhibit Honoring Sr. Dorothy Stang

June 7, 2025, open by appointment

Sign up here: [Schedule to Visit the Heritage Hall and Museum](#)

**Stay tuned for information on a
Dayton Bus Tour of Sr. Dorothy Stang's hangouts!**



COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS

EarthConnection

Hope in great uncertainty - blog post

Messages from the prophets. As we begin this Advent season, let each of us take the time to pray and reflect on the wisdom we possess that is needed in the world today. Pope Francis reminds us that "Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable." We are called to be people of hope. Remember, the wisdom is within.

[More information on events.](#) View their catalogue of [past webinars.](#)

Marianist Environmental Education Center

Winter Solstice Sunrise Celebration

Friday, December 20, 2024 - 6:30am

We will observe the longest night of the year with prayers for world peace and a reflective candlelight procession through the woods of Mount St. John. A bonfire in the prairie at sunrise will welcome the Prince of Peace. Hot beverages and a light breakfast provided.

RSVP: 937/429-3582 or info@meec.center

Partners for the Environment

The Partners for the Environment is an alliance of organizations who share the common goal of protecting, restoring, preserving, and promoting the environmental and agricultural resources of the Great Miami River and Little Miami River Watersheds.

Faith Communities Go Green

FCGC Book Club: *The Hidden Lives of Trees, What They Feel, How They Communicate* by Peter Wohlleben

January 22, 2025, 7:30pm-8:30pm

[REGISTER](#) to get the zoom link.

[Book Information](#)

B-W Greenway Community Land Trust

B-W Greenway is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of wetlands and woodlands.



ACT

Eco-Tips

Shared by Susan Vogt

December: HEATING

1. EASY: Winter heating: Change the air filter on your furnace once per month during the heating season. A dirty filter restricts air flow and causes the system to run less efficiently.
2. CHALLENGING: Inspect the ductwork in exposed areas (basement or attic). Repair any leaks from electrical lines, plumbing, and gas pipes from

outdoors. Seal with foam insulation OR, if your heating system is in need of repair, replace it with an ENERGY STAR®-certified furnace, boiler or heat pump.

January: STARTING A NEW YEAR

1. EASY: Review 2024 with an environmental eye. Make at least one New Year's Resolution that involves an environmentally friendly new practice.
2. CHALLENGING: Looking ahead to 2025 and knowing that global warming remains a serious threat, decide one political or public action you can take to influence positive systemic environmental progress.

February: FOOD

1. EASY: Ease up on the meat and cheese; consider chicken and wild fish instead.
2. CHALLENGING: Buy locally sourced and organic food. It is estimated that food production and transportation account for 13 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the USA, primarily in the form of fuel and fertilizer.



Laudate Deum Action Pledge

In honor of the Pope's new exhortation, the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) has created a new way to pledge action and commitment.

In *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis calls “all people of good will” to take action on the climate crisis and “*move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes.*” (LD 56) He particularly calls on us in the United States to make personal changes to our consumerist lifestyles, reduce our fossil fuel use, and to also advocate for systemic actions to address the climate crisis.

Together we can courageously commit to specific actions that will produce a much needed culture shift and produce a better future for our common home.

Take the Pledge



PRAY

December

Bulletin Prayer

Creator God, during this Advent Christmas season, help us to remember the gifts for life you have given us from the beginning of creation. Give us the courage and wisdom to care for all creation by our life-style choice, that we may model Jesus who came among us to renew the face of the earth.

Intercession

For all who share their gifts and talents as they work for justice and peace for all who share life on our common home.

Papal Quote

“ It is becoming more and more evident that the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our life-style and the prevailing models of consumption and production, which are often unsustainable from a social, environmental and even economic point of view. We can no longer do without a real change of outlook which will result in new lifestyles, ‘ in which the quest for truth, beauty, goodness and communion with others for the sake of common growth are the factors which determine consumer choices, savings and investments’”. #11

Pope Benedict XVI World Day of Peace 2010

January

Bulletin Prayer

God of justice, during the transition of leadership in our country, we pray that they may be open to and guided to act responsibly and compassionately to preserve and protect all creation, especially those most vulnerable to environmental degradation and its social consequences.

Papal Quote

“ At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political problems, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God’s creation and the one human family. As Catholic bishops, we seek to offer a distinctly religious and moral perspective to what is necessarily a complicated scientific, economic and political discussion. Ethical questions lie at the heart of the challenges facing us.”

Intercession

For all in elected leadership, that they may use their decision-making processes to work together to pass legislation that protects and enhances the well-being of God's creation and the one human family.

*US Bishops Global Climate Change: A Pleas
for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common
Good 2001*

February

Bulletin Prayer

Loving God, we ask that you give us the courage and creativity to embrace personal and public choices that will sustain life on the planet. Help us to act for the good of all life in our common home, both by our personal actions and by influencing those with decision making authority to consider the common good in all in their deliberations.

Intercession

For all policy influencers and decision makers that they may address the complex challenges facing our human and earth community with courage, creativity and cooperation to safeguard life for all on our common home.

Papal Quote

"Our world has become so multipolar and at the same time so complex that a different framework for effective cooperation is required. It is not enough to think only of balances of power but also of the need to provide a response to new problems and to react with global mechanisms to the environment, public health, cultural and social challenges, especially in order to consolidate respect for the most elementary human rights, social rights and the protection of our common home. It is a matter of establishing global and effective rules that can permit "providing for" this global safeguarding." #42

Pope Francis Laudate Deum 2023



ASSESS

Resources

[Laudato Si' & Laudate Deum](#)

[USCCB on Care for Creation](#)

[Laudato Si' Action Platform](#)

[CRS on Climate Change](#)

[U.S. LSAP website - God's Planet](#)

[Caritas et Veritate \(Pope Benedict XIII, #48-52\)](#)

[Catholic Climate Covenant](#)



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —
**CATHOLIC SOCIAL
ACTION OFFICE**

Catholic Social Action Office | 100 East Eighth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Sent to: amusgrave@catholicaoc.org

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Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E 8th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202, United States