



ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

A newsletter from the Care for Creation Task Force



Going into a Dry Fall

It's hard to believe we are already half-way through September and autumn is just about here. Though it doesn't feel like fall yet, some days have cooled down, but other days are still quite warm. Ohio hasn't quite made up its mind which season it wants to be in yet. Nevertheless, schools are back in full swing everyone is so busy! It has also been one year since I was hired and started work at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Time really does fly.

Over the past month or so, I can't help but notice how dry it has been. When walking into the Dayton office building for work, I often cut through the grass to a side door. Earlier in the year, I took the long way around on the path due the lawn often being wet, but it's been a long time since I've needed to do that. The grass is dry and prickly if I ever try and eat lunch outside and it clings to my clothes like pieces of hay.

So, as we move into fall, let's pray for some rain. Farms will be harvesting and it's time for fall crops to be planted before winter. Please consider praying the prayer and intentions below from Sr. Christine and the Catholic Rural Life Chapter east of Cincinnati and consider sharing it in your communities.

Pace e bene,

Jillian Foster and the Archdiocesan Care for Creation Task Force

Prayer in Time of Drought

We turn to our loving, Creator God as we pray for our farming brothers and sisters: Look to our dry hills and fields, O God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers and streams will sing your praise and the hearts of all will be made glad. Amen.

Intercession:

For sufficient rain to sustain human, animal and plant life, we pray to the Lord...

For all who work the land that they may derive a just livelihood for themselves and their families, we pray to the Lord...



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.](#)

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.](#)



LEARN

Community Partners

EarthConnection

[A Sense of Sacred: Teilhard's Spirituality of Evolution](#) - Webinar

Thursday, September 19, 1:00pm-2:00pm

[Autumn Equinox](#) - Mini Retreat

Saturday, September 21, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Each mini-retreat day experience for ENJOY THE SEASONS THRU THE EQUINOX AND SOLSTICE will include some personal reflection, mindfulness practice or ritual, and group sharing around the subject and energies as described in the flyer.

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

Marianist Environmental Education Center

[Marianist Encounter Conference](#)

Thursday, October 3, 2024, 6:00pm through Sunday, October 6, 2024, 12:00pm

The Marianist Encounters Conference is an opportunity for the Marianist Family to deepen its commitment to *Laudato Si'* and the Global Compact on Education through prayer, presentations, workshops, and experiential learning. The conference will be held at the Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning at Mount Saint John.

Faith Communities Go Green

FCGG partners with religious communities to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all by mobilizing their moral voice to reduce the risk of catastrophic climate change. Please visit their site to learn more!

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.

B-W Greenway Community Land Trust

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

[Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up](#)

Saturday, September 14, 9:00pm - 11:00pm

Calling all High School Students! Bob and the Highway Crew will be cleaning B-W Greenway's section of 675. Please meet at the Fairborn High School at 9:00 am (Old).

Annual Potluck Picnic

Sunday, September 22, 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Bring a friend, bring a neighbor, bring your family. All are welcome! Our Annual Potluck Picnic is back with stories and entertainment at Fairborn Community Park, pavilion 4. Please bring a dish to share, along with your utensils and preferred drink.

Jurick Homestead Honeysuckle Hacking

Saturday, September 28, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Hack the honeysuckle at the Jurick Homestead, 8957 Haddix Road, Fairborn, OH with B-W Greenway's Honeysuckle Hackers! Please wear appropriate attire and bring a water bottle.



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

Season of Creation 2024

It's the Season of Creation! Go check out the celebration guide and see how you and your communities could be active and involved!

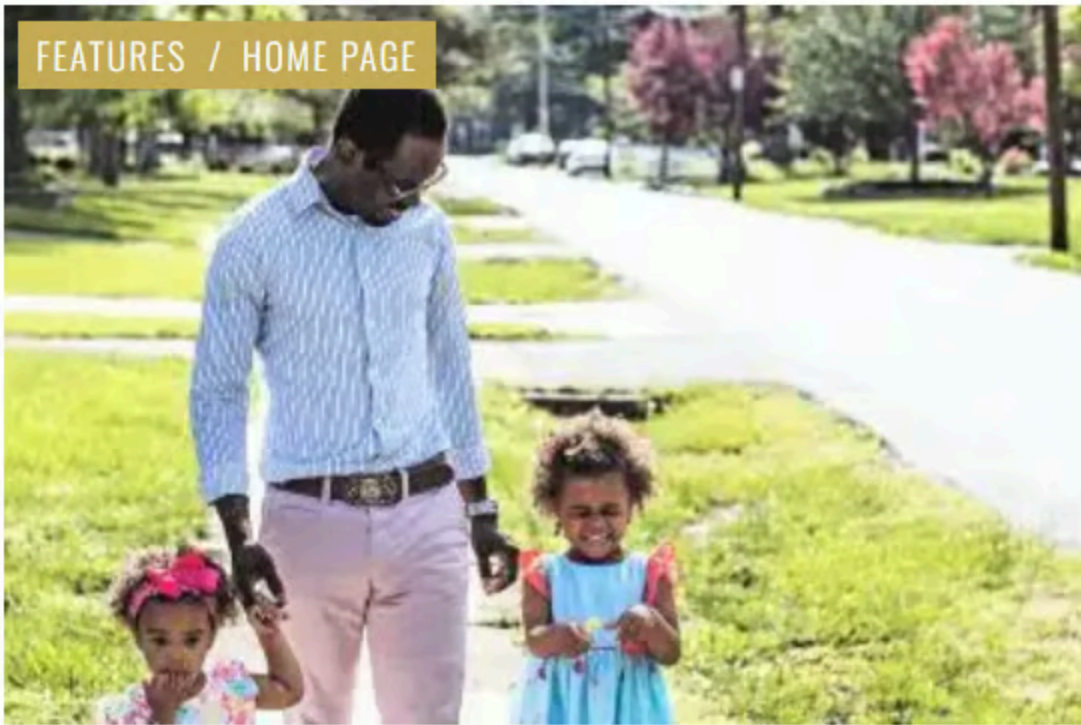
Pope Francis unveils plan for Vatican to go solar

Pope Francis has announced measures to transition Vatican City to using solar energy as its main source of electricity, as outlined in his latest motu proprio titled *Fratello Sole*, or "Brother Sun." [Read more about it.](#)



***The Catholic Telegraph* September Issue**

The theme of this issue of *The Catholic Telegraph* is "Care for Creation." Keep an eye out as stories from around the Archdiocese are posted online throughout this month! Visit [The Catholic Telegraph](#).



WE CARE FOR CREATION BECAUSE CREATION
CARES FOR US



ACT

HELPFUL HINTS

Tips: GREEN YOUR RIDE. We all know these eco practices. The question is, how many of them do we practice?

Watch your speed (gas mileage lowers most rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour.)

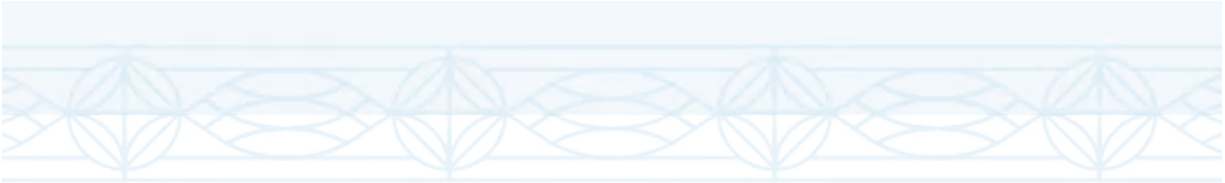
Avoid idling (turning the motor off when waiting for school children, at railroad stops, in stopped traffic)

Maintain your vehicle

Take care of tires

Plan errands (combine errands in one trip)

Alternate transportation (carpool, walk, bike)



Eco-Tips

Shared by Susan Vogt

September: PAPER

1. EASY: Stop junk mail. Opt out at 1-888-567-8688 or [click here](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-to-stop-junk-mail_n_5b27beb7e4b056b2263c5b54) to find out how. (https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-to-stop-junk-mail_n_5b27beb7e4b056b2263c5b54)
2. CHALLENGING: Use recycled, post-consumer paper products for kitchen, bathroom, and cleaning.

October: BATHROOM

1. EASY: Purchase body, facial, and shampoo soaps that come in bar form to avoid plastic containers. Look up a "refillery" near you to reduce the amount plastic shampoo and conditioner bottles you go through.
2. CHALLENGING: Go the extra mile and choose products that list natural ingredients and come in paper or compostable packaging.

November: ENERGY USE

1. EASY: Try an electricity free day. Candlelight at night can be romantic. It's OK to keep the refrigerator or other essential appliance running.
2. CHALLENGING: Consider whether you can eliminate one electric appliance (shaver, fan, dryer, AC) from your home – or at least reduce its use.



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

SEPTEMBER

Bulletin Prayer

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people going back to school, who are resolutely committed to this.

Intercession

For all God's children, for abundant harvest, and sharing of our resources, we pray...

Papal Quote

"The gradual depletion of the ozone layer and the related 'greenhouse effect' has now reached crisis proportions as a consequence of industrial growth, massive urban concentrations and vastly increased energy needs ... When the ecological crisis is set within the broader context of the search for peace within society, we can understand better the importance of giving attention to what the earth and its atmosphere are telling us: namely, that there is an order in the universe which must be respected, and that the human person, endowed with the capability of choosing freely, has a grave responsibility to preserve this order for the well-being of future generations. I wish to repeat that the ecological crisis is a moral issue."

Saint John Paul II, Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All Creation - 1990 World Day of Peace Message, nos. 6, 9.

OCTOBER

Bulletin Prayer

In honor of St. Francis, the patron saint of the environment, let us recommit to Care for ALL of God's Creation. May we live by his example and treasure all our sisters and brothers in creation; all creatures, trees and plants.

Intercession

For all of God's creation from the teeniest, tiny quark to the most vast galactic filament, we pray...

Papal Quote

"Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change ... ? Humanity needs a profound cultural renewal; it needs to rediscover those values which can serve as the solid basis for building a brighter future for all. Our present crises – be they economic, food-related, environmental or social – are ultimately also moral crises, and all of them are interrelated. They require us to rethink the path which we are traveling together."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation - 2010 World Day of Peace Message, nos. 4, 5.

NOVEMBER

Bulletin Prayer

Papal Quote

"It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule

Generous God, give us the grace to live in full compassion with our brothers and sisters of other religions, open to all, grateful for our blessed diversity.

Intercession

For all God's people in this season of gratitude and thanksgiving, we pray...

expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an 'ecological conversion,' whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si', 217



ASSESS

Resources

[Laudato Si' & Laudate Deum](#)

[Laudato Si' Action Platform](#)

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

[Catholic Climate Covenant](#)

[USCCB on Care for Creation](#)

[CRS on Climate Change](#)

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



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

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

[Unsubscribe](#)

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