



## ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

*A newsletter from the Care for Creation Task Force*

## Happy Summer!

Hello folks! Hopefully this newsletter arrives to you well and sees you in good health and spirits. Summer is the time for growing, harvesting, farmers markets, shady walks in the woods, and trying to keep the kids busy and out of trouble. It's a great time to take a stroll and breathe in the beauty of God's creation!

This is the first newsletter I, Jill Foster, am putting together and organizing for you, along with the help of the Care for Creation Task Force (CCTF) and Tammie of course. If you notice changes in the St. Francis Pledge, that is my fault and I trust you will let me know if I err. I hope to slowly find new designs and ways to make this newsletter beautiful.

Being sequestered at a basement office in Dayton, I find myself doing my best to remain active and seeking out the sun. Every time I emerge from the depths, the warmth of the day God gave us instantly clears my head and I am encouraged. I hope you are finding some encouragement in the world God provided for us too.

### *Looking ahead*

The Season of Creation begins in September! There will be more in the fall letter but if you want to look ahead, the theme is [To Hope and Act With Creation](#).

Pace e bene,

*Archdiocesan Care for Creation Task Force*



## Laudato Si' Action Plan 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 like there is movement on the bill.

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.](#)



## Community Partners

### **EarthConnection**

**Enjoy The Seasons Through The Equinox and Solstice** - a series of mini retreat experiences including some personal reflection, mindfulness practice or ritual, and group sharing around the subject and energies as described in the flyer. [Click here to sign up](#)

Click here to view their catalogue of [past webinars](#).

### **Marianist Environmental Education Center**

Saturday, June 22, 8:00am to 1:00pm - **Native Plant Sale** at Mount Saint John

Saturday, August 3, 9:30am to 5:30pm - **Midwest Native Plant Conference Plant & Artisan Sale**

### **Faith Communities Go Green**

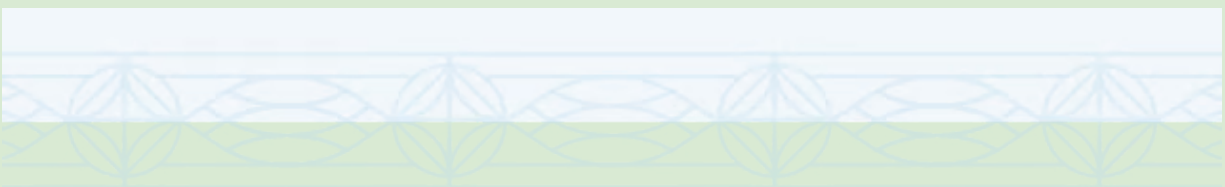
Sunday, August 25th, 12:00pm to 5:00pm - Save the Date for the **Festival of Faiths** at the Cintas Center, visit the FCGG booth, and watch for other webinars and programs

### **Partners for the Environment**

Wednesday, June 26, 8:30am to 11:00am - **Regenerative Agriculture** at Learning Tree Farm ([register here](#))

### **Season of Creation 2024**

Keep an eye out for this year's Season of Creation: To Hope and Act with Creation this upcoming September! Sign up for information and browse their resources on their [web page](#)



## **Lexington Diocese, in heart of coal country, commits to net-zero emissions**

Bishop John Stowe in the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, a mission diocese in the heart of Appalachian coal country, pledges to reach net-zero emissions across its 59 parishes as well



as schools and other institutions in the next six years. [Read more about it.](#)



**ACT**



## HELPFUL HINTS

Do you ever feel bad about pitching kitchen veggie scraps in the trash? Here's a couple of feel good solutions. Composting is a great way to reduce waste and create nutrient-rich soil for your garden or flower bed. Instead of throwing away food scraps and yard waste, turn them into compost. Composting helps reduce the need for synthetic fertilizer, which can be harmful to the environment. Another easy way to use kitchen scraps is with vermiculture ("wormculture"). These bins are kept inside, e.g. the laundry room or basement. Busy little worms convert food waste into vermicompost. Pretty

simple. And worms are cool. Consider looking into these rewarding ways of “recycling” food and yard waste. For a short video on the value of composting in pulling carbon back into the soil, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npu6GBbB-Qc&t=4s>. For a short video on turning a trash bin into a compost bin, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQ9ele74cfs>. For information on the simple task of worm composting, <https://compost.css.cornell.edu/worms/basics.html>



## Eco-Tips

*Shared by Susan Vogt*

**June:** Veggies are good. Especially think root crops like carrots. Carrots provide the absolute most nutrients for the least emissions. Read more about it in [The Climate Diet](#) by Paul Greenberg. It takes some time but try planting your own carrots or other healthy crop.

**July:** Save energy! When possible, use stairs instead of elevators. It doubles as exercise. And during hot weather, you can minimize air conditioner use by using a small fan or maybe install a whole house fan.

**August:** When shopping, consider an email or digital receipt instead of a printed copy. Digital receipts are easier to save and organize, plus they reduce paper waste. When making major purchases, consider the environmental impact, particularly production and transportation, and seek ways to minimize these.



## 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**



## Food Tips



### National Guide to Finding Local Food

This webpage from The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition breaks down resources for finding local food state by state!

### Local Food Directories

This resource from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) helps you search in your area for Consumer-Supported Agriculture Enterprises (CSAs), On-Farm Markets, and farmers markets. You can learn more about these different types of growers and sellers [here](#).







## Pick Your Own

This website helps you find local sites where you can pick your own produce. You can search based on location or the kind of food you're looking for. Availability will vary depending on the season, so you may be inspired to plan a trip for later this summer or fall!



## PRAY

### JUNE

#### **Bulletin Prayer**

Loving Father, you have created the earth and all its glories. Help us to honor You and Your creation.

#### **Papal Quote**

"Small yet strong in the love of God, like St. Francis of Assisi, all of us, as Christians, are called to watch over and protect the fragile world in which we live, and all of its peoples."  
Pope Francis 11/24/13

#### **Intercession**

For the healing of our Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, we pray to the Lord...

### JULY

#### **Bulletin Prayer**

Gracious Father, help us reflect daily Your love for us in our words, actions and deeds.

#### **Papal Quote**

"Our very contract with nature has a deep restorative power; contemplation of its magnificence imparts peace and serenity."  
St. John Paul II  
1990 World Day of Peace

#### **Intercession**

For all peoples of our planet to grow in love and respect for God's creation, we pray to the Lord...

# AUGUST

## Bulletin Prayer

Generous Father, You surround us in the beauty and bounty of Your creation. Help us to protect the glory of Your creation.

## Intercession

For blessings on the world's food supply, the people who provide food for us and and those who will be nourished by this food, we pray to the Lord....

## Papal Quote

"The Earth is indeed a precious gift of the Creator who, in designing its intrinsic order, has given us bearings that guide us as stewards of his creation. Precisely from within this framework, the Church considers matters concerning the environment and its protection intimately linked to the theme of integral human development."

Pope Benedict

General Audience August 26, 2009



## 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 \(Pope Benedict XIII, #48-52\).](#)



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