



## ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

*A newsletter from the Care for Creation Task Force*

### Sun and Rain, Together

We are nearing the end of the Season of Creation, culminating on October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis. The past few weeks have seen several local Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation in both Dayton and Cincinnati, all of which are special and unique in their own way.

As of writing this, two of the four pilgrimages are completed (with this newsletter being sent out just after the third). The first focused on Sister Dorothy Stang who was killed standing up for the Amazon and the local farmers against wealthy ranchers. It was virtual, based off of the pilgrimage in Dayton that took place last spring. Hosted at the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, hearing the stories of Dorothy from those who knew her and are intimately knowledgeable of her journey made her spirit come alive. It was a beautiful, emotional, and inspiring time for all who could attend and reflect together.

The second pilgrimage visited sites across northwest Dayton. It was a beautiful day! A little cool in the morning but clear and warm by the end. It was a reminder to be grateful for the sun and the life it gives, but it was also a reminder of the challenges many of our farmers are facing. With very little rain over the summer, I am observing how affected farms and gardens have been, with the impacts not just in grocery stores but in local food pantries' ability to supply fresh fruits and vegetables to those most in need.

We must be grateful for all aspects of Creation, like the sun *and* the rain, as one does not nourish life without the other.

As we move into fall, let's remind ourselves to not take God's gifts for granted. In this time of harvest when the harvest is low, do not forget to be generous to those without and share God's gifts and His Abundant Love with others.

Pace e bene,

*Jill Foster and the Archdiocesan Care for Creation Task Force*



## Free Laudato Si' Conference on October 11th!

[Learn more about it here](#)



*The Archdiocese of Cincinnati presents*

## Creating a Hope-filled Future Together A Laudato Si' Conference



*Join us for a day of connection, education, and creating a more hopeful future for our Earth.*

**Saturday October 11, 2025**

**9:00am-4:30pm**



Keynote:  
Gail Worcelo, SEC

Xavier University,  
Health United Building  
1723 Cleneay Ave, Cincinnati



*For more information, contact Jillian Foster at [jfoster@catholicaoc.org](mailto:jfoster@catholicaoc.org)*



*Sisters of Charity*  
of Cincinnati



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ACTION OFFICE



Sisters of the  
**Precious Blood**

Sisters of  
Mercy



Hermanas de la  
Misericordia



**LAUDATO SI'**  
Action Platform

# Laudato Si' Sector Sessions

We are furthering our efforts to care for God's creation in our archdiocese. In its structure, the Laudato Si' Action Platform names seven sectors where unique opportunities for partnership might exist. We are currently supporting networking groups in these areas:

- **Families of parishes**
- **Religious communities**
- **Universities**
- **High Schools**

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

## PILGRIMS OF HOPE FOR CREATION



***Creation is a sacrament of  
God's love for us.***

***Do we love God's creation with the  
same love that God does?***

This Jubilee year, Catholic communities across the United States will plan local pilgrimages to pray for the grace to encounter Christ in Creation and restore our relationships with God, Creation, and one another.

Learn more at  
[www.catholicpilgrimsofhope.org](http://www.catholicpilgrimsofhope.org)!

or contact Jillian Foster  
[jfoster@catholicaoc.org](mailto:jfoster@catholicaoc.org)  
[Learn more about the Pilgrimages in the AOC  
here!](#)





# PILGRIMAGES OF HOPE FOR CREATION

Join the **Archdiocese of Cincinnati** as Pilgrims of Hope for Creation!  
Catholic communities across the U.S. are organizing local pilgrimages as sacred opportunities to pray for the grace to encounter Christ in Creation and renew our relationships with God, the Earth, and one another.



SAT  
SEPT 06  
9 AM

**Cincinnati Virtual Pilgrimage**  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur  
701 E Columbia Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45215

SAT  
SEPT 13  
9 AM

**Dayton NW Pilgrimage**  
Aullwood Audubon Nature Center  
1000 Aullwood Rd, Dayton, OH 45414

SAT  
SEPT 27  
9 AM

**Cincinnati Pilgrimage**  
Mill Creek and Lick Run Greenway  
Exact location TBD

SAT  
OCT 04  
9 AM

**Dayton East Pilgrimage**  
Mount Saint John  
4435 E. Patterson Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45430

SAT  
OCT 11  
9 AM - 4 PM

**Laudato Si' Conference**  
Xavier University, Health United Building  
1723 Cleary Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45212



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For more information, contact Jillian Foster  
[jfoster@catholicaoc.org](mailto:jfoster@catholicaoc.org)

For more on Pilgrimages of Hope go to  
[www.catholicpilgrimagesofhope.org](http://www.catholicpilgrimagesofhope.org)

[Registration and  
Information Here:](#)

\*these pilgrimages will  
not be on foot





## Celebrating Laudato Si' Communities!

*On May 1st, 2025, the Archdiocese celebrated 4 new Laudato Si' Communities at Moeller High School!*

*For the next few issues, we will introduce them to you.*

The **St. Bernard Laudato Si' Committee** met for the first time in December 2023. From that first meeting, members expressed a strong interest in facilitating the practice of the three R's—Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle—among parishioners. Parish tours were organized at the Rumpke single-stream recycling center in St. Bernard and at the Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Center in Queengate. This summer parishioners will tour the Rumpke Landfill in Colerain Township.

To encourage recycling, educational displays and brief presentations on curbside recycling and the use of Rumpke orange bags was included as part of monthly parish breakfasts. In April of this year, they launched a first effort to collect onsite at St. Bernard selected items not appropriate for curbside bins—items ranging from #1 rigid plastics to Styrofoam—which will be delivered to the Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub on a regular basis. Right now, committee members are awaiting the flowering of the pollinator garden they planted on parish grounds last fall.

Future plans include a program on solar panels and education about the importance of reuse in care for creation—and a redo of the parish household survey to see what impact the committee is having on parishioner practices.





## 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.

The American Relief Act has extended the current (and outdated) bill to September 20, 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.



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Feel free to use the **Creation Mass** from Pope Leo XIV!

[Holy Mass for the Care of Creation](#)

[USCCB Article](#)

Keep an eye out for current USCCB [Action Alerts here!](#)



## LEARN

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS



## Introducing the Precious Planet Award!

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood is inviting all elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to participate in the Precious Planet Award, a special initiative as part of the school's science fair. Inspired by Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* and *Laudate Deum*, this award promotes environmental stewardship among students in grades 7-8. Winners in the 8th grade will receive a \$500 scholarship, and all participants will be awarded certificates and medals.

Don't miss this scholarship opportunity. Contact *Jen Morin-Williamson, Peace, Justice and Ecology Coordinator for the Sisters of the Precious Blood*. [jmorin-williamson@cppsadmin.org](mailto:jmorin-williamson@cppsadmin.org) or 937-837-3302 x 116







# FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

Join us Thursday, October 16, 2025  
at 7:00pm to 8:30pm ET

Discussion facilitated by  
Deborah Jordan

## **Common Ground: How the Crisis of the Earth is Saving Us from Our Illusion of Separation**

By Eileen Flanagan

LIVE ON ZOOM  
[REGISTER HERE](#)



Learn more about [Embracing God's Creation](#) at Bellarmine Chapel!

### **Sunday Song and Solar Festival**

In this season of creation on **September 21, 1-5 p.m.**, there is a free Sun Day Song and Solar Festival at Cincinnati's New Public Radio Building, 2117 Dana Ave., featuring an eclectic blend of musical performers, booths featuring solar experts and installers, related environmental groups, test driving of electric vehicles, craft activities for children and refreshments. Sun Day is a nationwide celebration of clean energy sponsored by Third Act, with local organization by Third Act Ohio, with support by Just Earth – Cincinnati. Sun Day is designed to engage people all across the country in support of solar power and clean energy.

### **RSVP Today for Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation along the Mill Creek!**

Join the Cincinnati Jesuit Works and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for our fall Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation this this Season of Creation (Sept 1 - Oct 4) and Jubilee Year. On **Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, our pilgrimage will begin at Xavier University and visit locations along the Mill Creek, once the most polluted urban stream in the United States, to learn about the environmental justice issues faced by local communities and successful mitigation and reclamation efforts. Stops include the Yellow Bridge with the Mill Creek Alliance, sites along the Beekman Corridor with Working In Neighborhoods, and the Lick Run Greenway. Transportation and lunch will

be provided for a suggested donation of \$25, though assistance is available to make this pilgrimage accessible to all. [RSVP here](#) by September 20, as space is limited! [Flyer here.](#)



## **Marianist Environmental Education Center**

Check out their [Calendar of Events here!](#)

### **September**

The Nature of Hope: An Autumn Inspiration Retreat

Saturday, September 20, 2025 - 9:00am to 4:00pm

Wild Church - September

Saturday, September 27, 2025 - 10:00am to 12:00pm

### **October**

A Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation

Saturday, October 4, 2025 - 9:00am

Land Service Volunteer Day - October

Saturday, October 4, 2025 - 1:00pm to 4:00pm

2025 Laudato Si' Conference: Building a Hope-filled Future Together

Saturday, October 11, 2025 - 9:00am to 4:30pm

Wild Church - October

Saturday, October 25, 2025 - 10:00am to 12:00pm

### **November**

Land Service Volunteer Day - November

Saturday, November 1, 2025 - 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Wild Church - November

Saturday, November 15, 2025 - 10:00am to 12:00pm

MEEC Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 - 6:30pm



## MORE PARTNERS & EVENTS

### [EarthConnection](#)

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

[Embracing God's Creation](#) at Bellarmine Chapel

### [Faith Communities Go Green](#)

### [Marianist Environmental Education Center](#)

### [Partners for the Environment](#)

### [B-W Greenway Community Land Trust](#)

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



**ACT**

## Eco-Tips

*Shared by Susan Vogt*

### **September:** LAUNDRY

1. EASY: Only wash laundry items when necessary. You can get more than one wear out of many clothing items before they need cleaning.

2. CHALLENGING: Avoid using laundry detergents that come in plastic containers. Consider paper-like alternatives like Earth Breeze (<https://earthbreeze.com/>) which comes in liquid-less eco sheets.

## **October:** GARBAGE

1. EASY: Do a waste audit in your household and track your garbage for the next week. Where can you make changes to reduce your impact?
2. CHALLENGING: How much of your recycling bin is filled with paper bills? Most companies and organizations now have paperless billing/notification options. Time to make the switch?

## **November:** SHARING

1. EASY: If you have leftover food, extra supplies (pens/pencils/tools) share it with neighbors.
2. CHALLENGING: Even better, find a way to share with those who don't have the money to buy it themselves. Investigate local charities and donate to those who need stuff more than you do. For reusable supplies check the *Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub* website.





# 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

### 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

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

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.)

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## 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 as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si*. 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.

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## November

### Bulletin Prayer

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....

### Papal Quote

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

4



## 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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