



Time to Spring Forward!

There has been a lot of debate about Daylight Savings over the years, and as stressful as it can be, the combination of the warming weather and greater light in the evenings has been great for parents wanting to get their children out of the house, taking walks, cycling, and just being outside in the sun!

Not all things bring about simple joys though. Our country's political leaders do not seem to care much about the environment and seem more than eager to allow its exploitation. The Care for Creation Task Force has penned a letter to all faithful Catholics in the Archdiocese expressing our deep concerns and a call to action in a **Statement of Hope** that will be published soon.

Along with the many wonderful events of our partners that you can find below, the Catholic Climate Covenant, Laudato Si' Movement, and other partners are launching **Pilgrims of Hope for Creation**, an initiative working with Catholic Communities across the nation to organize local pilgrimages to pray for the grace to encounter Christ through Creation and restore our relationships with God, Creation, and each other.

The task force has also been keeping busy:

1. In the spring, there are plans for a celebration mass in honor of Sr. Dorothy Stang, a Dayton native and killed in the Amazon advocating for the rights of the local farmers and preserving the environment.
2. If you are familiar with the Laudato Si' Communities, we will be welcoming several new communities into the fold at a ceremony May 1st, 7:00pm at Moeller High School's Chapel.
3. And look out for October as well! On the 11th, Xavier University is hosting the second Archdiocesan Laudato Si' Conference, *Creating a Hope-filled Future Together*.

Although it may not seem like it, there are so many people coming together, working together, all for the greater good. Have hope!

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 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.

Wish to be involved in the Pilgrimages?

Learn more at

www.catholicpilgrimsofhope.org!

Contact Jillian Foster jfoster@catholicaoc.org



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 2026.

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

We have recently started a new legislative year, when we know more about what is coming out, we will update this section.



LEARN

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS



CELEBRATING SR. DOROTHY STANG!

A Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, Sr. Dorothy Stang, a Dayton native, was killed 20 years ago on February 12th, 2005 for standing up for the rights of small farmers in the Amazon. Keep an eye out for [events celebrating her this year!](#)

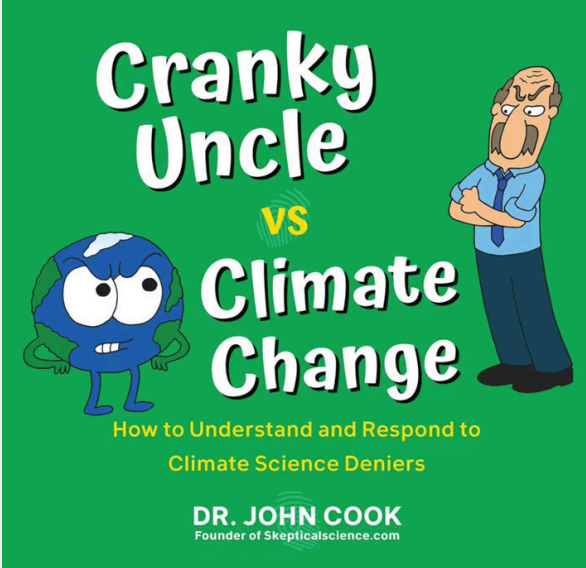
[Special Exhibit Honoring Sr. Dorothy Stang](#)

Through 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!**





With [EarthConnection](#) and
[Faith Communities Go Green](#)

Cranky Uncle vs. Climate Change

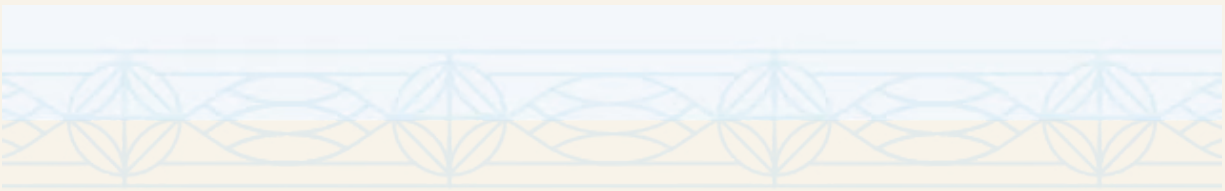
Thursday, March 27, 2025

7:00pm to 8:15pm, Eastern Time

A virtual program lead by

Sr. Cj Willie

[Register here](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for this year's
Laudato Si' Conference

***"Creating a Hope-filled
Future Together"***

Xavier University
Health United Building

Saturday, October 11

9:00am - 4:30pm

More details to come

EMBRACING GOD'S CREATION

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

Embracing God's Creation
Exploring the Ecological Spirituality
of *Laudato Si'*

Understanding Environmental Justice

Wednesday, March 26th, 7PM

Hailstones Hall Room 102

Scan the QR Code to RSVP



Presentation by **Jesse Velazquez**

Climate Justice Manager, Ohio Environmental Council



Embracing God's Creation

A series of presentations, immersions, and prayer experiences focused on
the ecological spirituality of *Laudato Si'*

Wildflower Walk

Join us to take a walk, pray, and enjoy the Spring ephemerals!
Make sure to bring a brown bag lunch for after!

12
April

10 am - 12 pm

Buttercup Valley Nature Preserve

Scan this QR code to
RSVP!





Marianist Environmental Education Center

Gardening With Native Plants Workshop

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Celebrate Ohio Native Plant Month with an in-person, introductory workshop on how to incorporate native species into your yard & garden. Conserve water and energy, provide habitat for wildlife and green your yard! Whether you want to create a bird & butterfly garden, add reliable blooms to a “problem area,” install a rain garden, replace aggressive or invasive species, stabilize a stream bank or establish a prairie patch, we can help make your naye garden a success. We’ll help you select species that will thrive in any area of your garden for season-long color. This workshop will feature a special focus on gardening for butterflies!

Registration is \$35; \$25 for Friends of MEEC.

MORE PARTNERS & EVENTS

EarthConnection

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

Embracing God's Creation at Bellarmine Chapel

(Environmental Justice Presentation and Wildflower Walk information above)

Faith Communities Go Green

Earth-saving Ideas for Busy People:

Small things YOU can do to make a big different for the Earth

Saturday, April 26, 10 am - noon

In person at Christ the King Lutheran Church
7393 Dimmick Road, West Chester, OH 45069
Register here: <https://www.ctluth.org/earth-day.html>

Thursday, June 5th Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit

Thursday, June 5th
Sharonville Convention Center - 15 miles north of Cincinnati, OH.
[EARLY REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN](#)
(ticket prices increase 4/1)
<https://www.midwestsustainabilitysummit.org>

Marianist Environmental Education Center

(Native Plants Workshop information above)

Partners for the Environment

The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund (GDCF) grant application cycle is now open from January 1 to April 1, 2025.

The GDCF seeks to fund initiatives that preserve and restore natural habitats, tackle climate change and environmental injustices, advance sustainable practices, foster education and access to nature, and promote lasting environmental protection through regional collaboration and community involvement.

Grant awards typically range from \$2,500 to \$10,000, with emphasis placed on proposals addressing unmet needs and benefiting the broader community. Applicants must meet specific criteria outlined in the guidelines attached [here](#).

To apply, please submit completed applications [via this google form](#) by April 1st. For inquiries regarding the grant process or application, please reach out to Lucy Baker, Donor Relations Officer, at lbaker@daytonfoundation.org.

For further details about the GDCF and its objectives, visit The Dayton Foundation website: <https://www.daytonfoundation.org/grant-opportunities>

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

March: SHOPPING

1. EASY: When shopping, take reusable bags (canvas bags or reused paper/plastic bags.)
2. CHALLENGING: Contact your local supermarket or other stores. Please encourage them to minimize packaging at checkout, subsidize returnable packaging, etc.

April: ENERGY

1. EASY: Set your computer and/or display to turn off after 15 minutes of inactivity.
2. CHALLENGING: Ensure your home is properly insulated to use less energy and reduce heating and cooling costs.

May: DRINK WATER

1. EASY: Drink water from the tap. It is by far the cheapest drink in both emissions and money. It also avoids plastic bottles and usually has fluoride for healthy teeth.
2. CHALLENGING: Consider buying a reusable water filter dispenser to reduce chlorine, lead, mercury... I use the Pur dispensers with a filter.



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

March

Bulletin Prayer

All loving God, give us the desire and strength during this Lenten season to see you in all creation, but especially this year in the faces of our immigrant brothers and sisters. Help us to reach out to those in our own communities who need our love and understanding and help us to remember that we are all your children.

Intercession

That our words and actions today will reflect love and compassion, especially for our immigrant brothers and sisters who are most in need at this time, we pray to the Lord.

Papal Quote

"It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father."

*Pope Francis
Lent 2025*

April

Bulletin Prayer

God of infinite love, grant us the wisdom and courage to evaluate our lifestyles; to

look with eyes wide open to the damage our consumer society is doing to Earth. Let us be open to personal changes that we can make in our daily lives that will reflect our love for you and all creation.

Intercession

Help us to be grateful for all that we have and to learn to distinguish between our wants and needs. Grant us the joy that is found in simplicity and generosity, we pray to the Lord.

Papal Quote

"A broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact."

*Pope Francis
Laudate Deum 72*

May

Bulletin Prayer

All loving Creator, you call us to dream with our eyes wide open, impelled by a desire for love, fraternity, friendship and justice for all. You invite us to enter into the depths of the world's suffering and continually remind us that we are called to embrace not only humanity but also the entire universe.

Intercession

That we may heed God's call to enter into the depths of the world's suffering and embrace not only our brothers and sister throughout the world, but also the entire universe, nature itself, we pray to the Lord.

Papal Quote

"As people who dare to dream, we must dream with our eyes wide open, impelled by a desire for love, fraternity, friendship and justice for all. Christian salvation enters into the depths of the world's suffering, which embraces not only humanity but also the entire universe, nature itself, and the oikos, the home and living environment of humanity."

*Pope Francis
World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
2024*



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

Sent to: amusgrave@catholicaoc.org

[Unsubscribe](#)

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