



## New Season, New Flowers, New Hope

During the first week of June, I had the privilege to go to Loveland, my hometown, and meet up with active parishioners who are passionate about the environment and are engaging their own communities in garden, zero-waste, and recycling initiatives. We met up at one of the member's house to take a tour of their [native prairie](#). I was there once before but in a different season. This time around, there were many, many white foxglove penstemons flowering. In a few weeks, it will look different, changing not just through the seasons, but in mere weeks.

There has been a lot of change these past months, and many of them not for the best in regards to the environment. With looming budget cuts, lifting of environmental protections, and fracking on state parks, there is a lot to be concerned about. But we don't have to be idle in the midst of all of this.

The Care for Creation Task Force and its partners have been hard at work preparing for many projects: Sr. Dorothy Stang Memorial Masses, Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation, Laudato Si' Communities, and the Laudato Si' Conference to name a few. We hope this work brings continued awareness and hope for those who are also tirelessly working to be, with God's guidance, faithful stewards to this beautiful world.

As individuals, we can participate too. In our daily lives and in our communities, we can educate ourselves and educate others into sincere actions to care for God's Creation.

Pace e bene,

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



## Laudato Si' Sector Sessions

We 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.

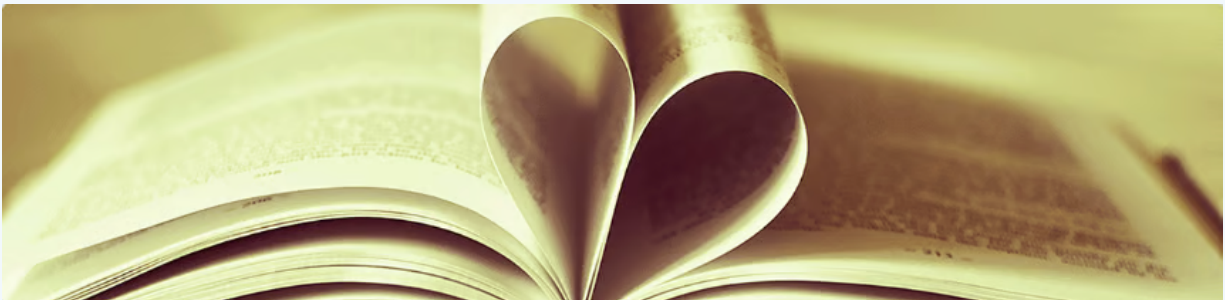
Wish to be involved in the Pilgrimages?

Learn more at

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

or contact Jillian Foster

[jfoster@catholicaoc.org](mailto:jfoster@catholicaoc.org)



## Laudato Si' Summer Reading Challenge!

From the Laudato Si' Movement

What is the most quoted writing by a pope? What encyclical is addressed to all the people of the world? What encyclical embraces all that God created and shows how all creation is interconnected?

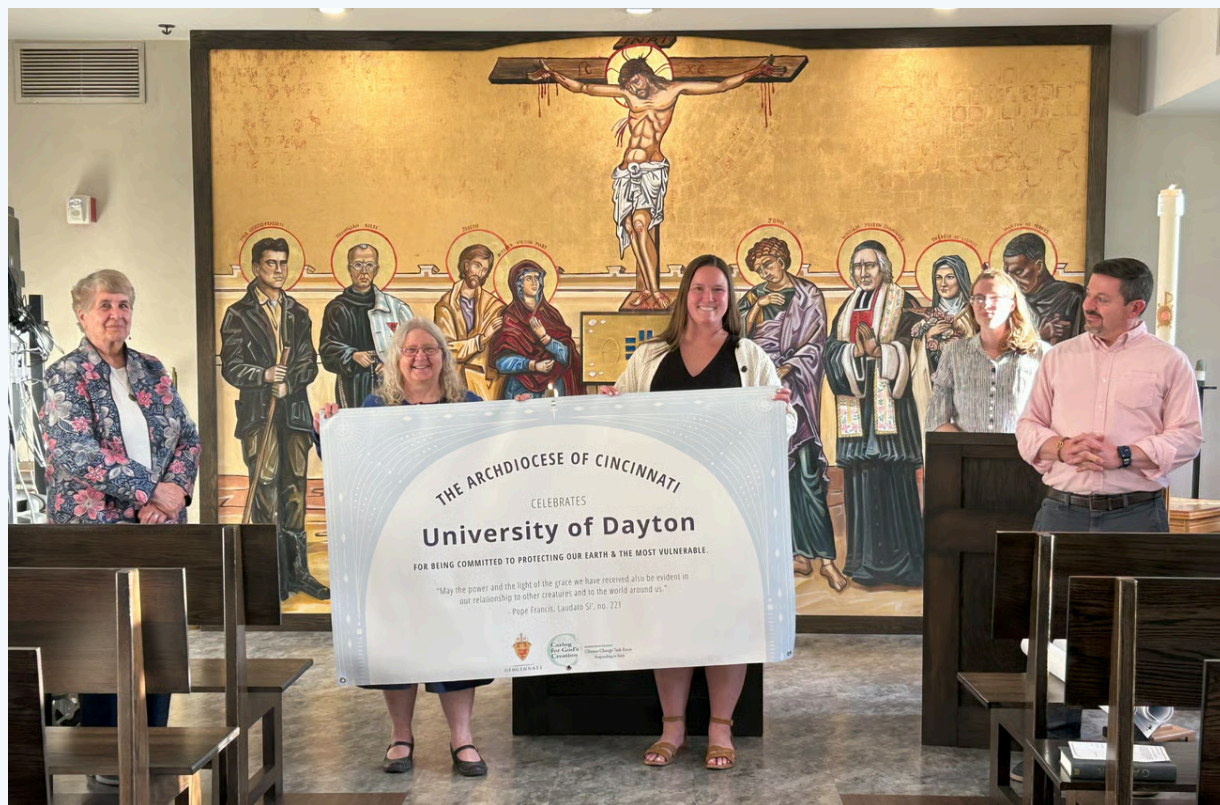


Learn for yourself why this 70-page document called *Laudato Si'* that Pope Francis revealed to us is so relevant to every being on our planet. Start your reading during summer break and complete it by August 31.

### It's not too late!

Having already started May 24, a bi-weekly email will be sent with Reflection Questions, video links and Spiritual Challenges. You will have the opportunity to partake in a virtual or in-person group discussion in September. There is no cost and the encyclical can be found online for free. All are welcome to partake in this challenge.

[Sign up for emails here!](#)



## 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 **University of Dayton** integrates Sustainability and *Laudato Si'* with its Catholic, Marianist mission, becoming a national leader as the first US Catholic University to divest from fossil fuels and achieved a GOLD rating in the Sustainable Tracking & Rating System (STARS) of The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). On campus, student leaders formed *Environmental Hope in Action* to advance Pope Francis' vision through



engagement in *Laudato Si'* and Marianist encounters. Staff across all operations divisions of the University undertook a year-long process to explore and implement workplace initiatives to increase sustainability. Serving the broader Archdiocese and Church, UD sponsored a national conference on fossil fuel divestment for Catholic institutions, a scholars conference that produced a book, *The Theological and Ecological Vision of Laudato Si': Everything is Connected*. They also hosted the first Archdiocese *Laudato Si'* Conference in 2024, and members are active in the ongoing Catholic Social Action Office's Creation Care/*Laudato Si'* initiatives and the national work of Catholic Climate Covenant.



## 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.

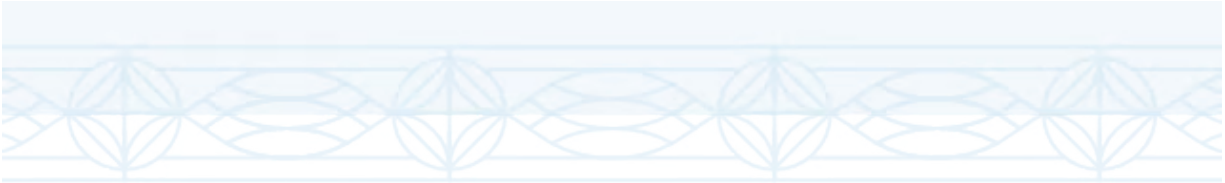


UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

# Tell the Senate to Protect God's Creation in Budget Reconciliation

As the Senate engages in the budget reconciliation process, please urge your Senators to oppose cuts to climate and environmental justice investments.

[Click here to submit your message](#)



## Advocate to Help Our Global Family Impacted by Climate Change

Tell Congress to address the impact of climate change by providing robust funding for poverty-reducing international assistance programs in the fiscal year 2026 budget, especially for the Green Climate Fund and Development Assistance.

(similar to USCCB's Action Alert)

[Click here to submit your message](#)



**LEARN**

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS**

[Sign up here to stay updated on registration](#)

# SAVE THE DATE!

Laudato Si' Conference  
*Creating a Hope-filled Future Together*



*Registration is not up yet,  
but sign up here to stay  
up to date!*

## Saturday 10.11.2025

9:00AM - 4:30PM

*Xavier University, Cincinnati*



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL  
ACTION OFFICE



## FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

### Join the FCGG Book Club

June 25th at 7:00 to discuss

#### The Man Who Planted Trees:

**A Story of Lost Groves, the Science of Trees, and a Plan to Save the Planet**

by Jim Robbins

[Register for the Book Club here](#)



# EMBRACING GOD'S CREATION

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

There are currently no upcoming events.



## [Marianist Environmental Education Center](#)

### [2025 Native Plant Sale](#)

Saturday, June 21, 2025 - 8:00am to 1:00pm  
Mount St. John

**2025 catalog link is posted below.**

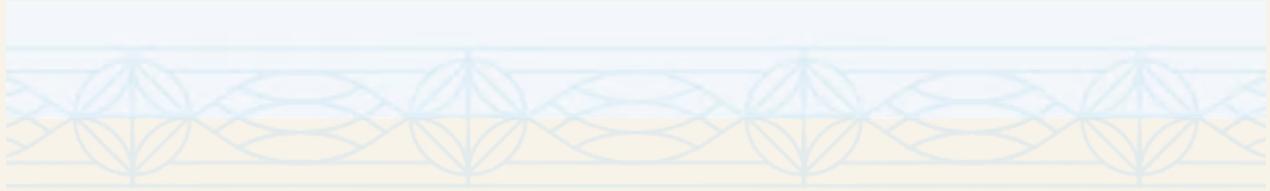
We're back with more than 100 species of wildflowers, grasses and sedges, and shrubs! We've been cultivating and sharing straight species (no "nativars") of local genotype natives raised in our own nurseries right here at Mount Saint John for more than 25 years. Whether your site is sunny, shady, wet or dry, we have plenty of options for season-long beauty. Best of all, native species protect our native pollinators. Using these plants in your landscape is one of the most important things you can do to build habitat and support the local ecology. Experts will be available at the sale to answer all your questions and offer suggestions. We'll also offer tours of

the native garden beds around the Mount Saint John campus at designated times during the sale.

If you're looking for a species and don't see it listed, just ask! We have more than 300 species in our nurseries, and we may be able to find what you're looking for. Email us at [info@meec.center](mailto:info@meec.center).

[2025 MEEC native plant catalog.pdf](#)

[2025 MEEC plant sale order form.pdf](#)



## 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](#)

(FCGG Book Club information above)

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

(Native Plant Sale information above)

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

### [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*

## **June:** CLOTHING

1. EASY: When shopping for clothes, evaluate whether you really need another X, Y, or Z. Count how many you already have. Then decide if the clothing item really is a necessary purchase.
2. CHALLENGING: Clothing, particularly petroleum-based garments, are often treated with flame retardant chemicals (PFAS). Check labels to avoid contamination.

## **July:** CLEANING

1. EASY: Use safe cleaning products. Continue to reduce Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) like clam shells, plastic grocery bags, and plastic cups/plates...
2. CHALLENGING: Research safe household cleaners and consider making your own! Save money, reduce your exposure to harmful chemicals, and produce less waste. Find recipes online for natural cleaners.

## **August:** SYSTEMIC CHANGE

1. EASY: Write or call a local or national politician asking for more effective environmental legislation.
2. CHALLENGING: Attend a local planning board meeting. Speak about any projects you feel don't pass environmental muster.



## **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**

## June

### **Bulletin Prayer**

Loving God, guide us into a time of peace and growing in love for our neighbors near and far.

### **Intercession**

For an abundant growing season, we pray... Lord, hear our prayer.

### **Papal Quote**

It is time to shift "from words to action."

*Cardinal Robert Prevost  
Seminar on the State of the Environment  
Rome, November 2024  
(full quote unavailable)*

## July

### **Bulletin Prayer**

Gracious God, guide us into a time of quiet listening to your voice in our heart and soul.

### **Intercession**

### **Papal Quote**

"A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family and so many other wounds that afflict our society."

For a time of quiet peace and growth, we pray... Lord, hear our prayer.

*Pope Leo XIV*

*May 9, 2025*

*His First Mass in the Sistine Chapel*

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## August

### Bulletin Prayer

Generous God, guide us in a spirit of generosity in sharing the fruits of labor.

### 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... Lord, hear our prayer.

### Papal Quote

"Humans must engage in a relationship of reciprocity with the environment rather than the tyrannical."

*Cardinal Robert Prevost*

*Seminar on the State of the Environment*

*Rome, November 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 \(Pope Benedict XIII, #48-52\)](#)



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Sent to: amusgrave@catholicaoc.org

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