



ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

A newsletter from the Care for Creation Task Force

"Magnificent Humanity"

In 2022, when artificial intelligence started becoming more prominent, I was in Haiti at the time. When I returned and moved to Dayton for this role, I spent more time with friends who would mention ChatGPT and the problems college teachers and others were having these days with students using it. Unfamiliar with it, I would ask what they were talking about and they would all give me an incredulous look until they remembered I was still catching up from being gone for three years. Now it's been three years since my mission work in Haiti and I think I've caught up just in time for Pope Leo XIV's newest encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, on safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence.

A lengthy document, "Magnificent Humanity" addresses that technology can be an amazing tool for good but can also easily exploit and exclude human beings. Referencing Catholic Social Doctrine and previous papal documents contributing to it, Pope Leo emphasizes all the principles upholding human life and dignity, affirming that *development is authentic only if it is "integral," meaning that it can "foster the development of each man and of the whole man"* (82). It is too easy to leave the poor and vulnerable behind in new technological advances as new injustices arise from new development.

And there are many new injustices we are facing and many more we potentially face. From replacing jobs with AI to the stress it puts on energy resources and the environment, this encyclical addresses not only humanity, but also creation as a major stakeholder in this new technological paradigm. We see how the rapid building of AI data centers takes up farmable land, uses a certain amount of water, and contributes to more air and sound pollution in the areas they are built.

Pace e bene,

Jill Foster and the Archdiocesan Care for Creation Task Force



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**

If you are interested in exploring one (or more) of these groups, please contact Jillian Foster. All are welcome!

Catholic Community News



Stella Maris
INSTITUTE

Why Creation Needs the Church: Laudato Si' and Its Relevance Today

Thursday, June 18 | 7:00 pm | Stievenard Hall, St. Bernadette



Presented by: Richard Gallenstein, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics and Director of the Master of Public Policy program at The Catholic University of America. He joined the faculty at CUA in the fall of 2017 after finishing his Ph.D. in Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University.



ADVOCATE

Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is a massive piece of legislation that supports farms, foreign aid, and food assistance. Parts of the 2018 Farm Bill has been extended once again until September 30, 2026. Please see some new information below on it!

The Farm Bill, H.R. 7567, pass in the House of Representatives on April 30th with a bipartisan vote of 224-200. With some last minute changes, it will now move on to the Senate.

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](#)

[Tips for using the Creation Mass setting](#)

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

Other Advocacy

Keep an eye on these bills:

HB 471 – Fix Our Forests Act – for wildfire prevention and supports environmental work in forests. BUT there is concern about possible permissions for loggers to be more active. It has bipartisan support, but environmental agencies are split. The Catholic Conference has not spoken on it.

HB 303 is the bill for Community Solar which passed in the House and is moving on to the Senate. The Catholic Conference has supported it in the past but the president of the Senate is all for fossil fuels and is making it difficult to allow into the Senate (Rob McColley). [HB 303 Messaging Guidelines - Google Docs](#)

Read up on **The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**, which is trying to get nations around the world to: stop FF expansion, wind down production of fossil fuels, and ensure equity.



LEARN

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS

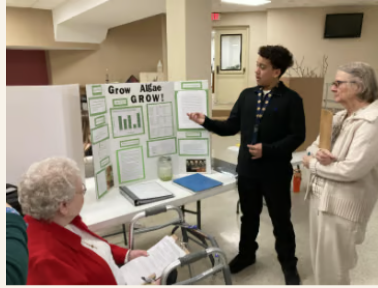
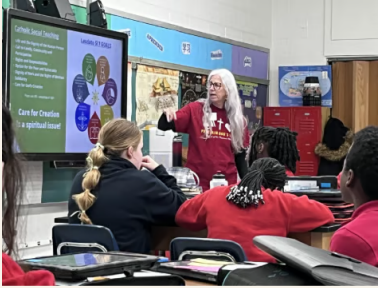


Sisters of the
Precious Blood

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 or 937-837-3302 x 116



FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

Restoring our Place in Nature: A New Story from Old Wisdom

June 19-20, 2026

at Xavier University

Featuring Peter Block, Tish O'Dell and Nancy Stranahan

[Register Here](#)

You can [view past webinars here](#).

EMBRACING GOD'S CREATION

More information at www.bellarminechapel.org

Find presentations and learn more about [Embracing God's Creation](#) at
Bellarmine Chapel!



[Marianist Environmental Education Center](#)

Find more information on these events at their [Calendar of Events here!](#)

Marianist PULSE Sending Forth Mass & Reception

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 - 7:00pm

Plein Air Paint Out

Saturday, June 27, 2026 - 9:00am to 2:00pm

Wild Church - July

Saturday, July 18, 2026 - 10:00am to 12:00pm

MLC-NA Continental Assembly

Thursday, July 23, 2026 - 12:00am to Sunday, July 26, 2026 - 12:00am

Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society hike

Saturday, July 25, 2026 - 10:00am

Ecological Society of America Meeting - Salt Lake City, Utah

Sunday, July 26, 2026 - 12:00am to Thursday, July 30, 2026 - 12:00am

Midwest Native Plant Society Annual Conference

Friday, July 31, 2026 - 12:00am to Sunday, August 2, 2026 - 12:00am

MWNPC Native Plant & Artisan Sale

Saturday, August 1, 2026 - 10:00am to 5:30pm

Wild Church - August

Friday, August 21, 2026 - 10:00am to 12:00pm



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](#)

[Sisters of Earth](#)

Sisters of Earth meeting

July 30-August 2

It will start Thursday evening with supper at 5:00 PM and end with lunch at noon on Sunday.

Cost is \$200 for those who will be boarding at Mt. St. Joseph University and \$120 for commuters.

Contact Sr. Cj at cjwilliengo@gmail.com.

[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 and FCGG

June: WATER

1. EASY: Take shorter showers with warm water rather than hot water.
2. CHALLENGING: Reduce use of hot water by maybe 10-20%.

July: FOOD

1. EASY: Research indicates that Americans throw out about 40% of their food. Don't be part of this statistic. Only buy what you need.
2. CHALLENGING: When possible, buy food without the packaging, especially plastic packaging.

August: ENERGY USE

1. EASY: Air conditioning increases electricity use. Watch your thermostat this month. What's your average indoor temperature during hot weather.
2. CHALLENGING: If AC is necessary, keep it on the warmer side in summer (around 75 degrees). Use fans instead when feasible.



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

Creating God, let all the earth shout in joy for your wondrous creations.

Intercession

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

Papal Quote

“Small but 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, 24 November 2013

July

Bulletin Prayer

Gracious God, send clement weather for our growing season so that there may be food for all.

Papal Quote

“The environment is God’s gift to everyone and in our use of it, we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards

Intercession

Inspire endeavors to preserve our farms and all natural resources, we pray... Lord, hear our prayer.

future generations and towards humanity as a whole.”

Saint John Paul II, 2009

August

Bulletin Prayer

Loving God, encourage us to share your gracious bounty with others especially those in need.

Intercession

For a safe and bountiful harvest, we pray...Lord, hear our prayer.

Papal Quote

“God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that he created for the benefit of all and for future generations, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters--what will your answer be, dear friends?”

Pope Leo XIV 2025

Treat the earth well. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

Native American Proverb



ASSESS

Resources

[Laudato Si & Laudate Deum](#)

[Laudato Si' Action Platform](#)

[USCCB on Care for Creation](#)

[CRS on Climate Change](#)

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

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

[Catholic Climate Covenant](#)

[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