

Care for Creation Committee Meeting

Vision Statement:

Honor God the Creator by challenging one another to live as partners with Creation by being good stewards of the earth's resources.

Mission Statement:

As a parish, we shall identify and implement programs that exercise environmental stewardship in a manner that respects and protects the integrity of God's Creation and provides for the Common Good.

Meeting Date: September 20, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM (Sacred Heart Commons)

Attendees: Frank Murphy (chairman), Patricia Britz, William Wallace, and Annette Field

Opening "Prayer of St. Francis" by Frank.

Goals for 2021-2022:

1. Support the "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" Adopt -A-Street program on a quarterly basis by having parishioners clean Sacred Heart's designated portion of West Princess Anne Road.
2. Participate in a 2022 Earth Day event.
3. Support programs that reduce waste while implementing additional resource saving programs. Reduce the parish's paper consumption by 25% by the end June, 2022.
4. Educate the parish membership on how to reduce waste, reuse goods and recycle. Publish a relevant note at least once per month; use social media to further educate the parish during the 2021-2022 Church year.
5. Conduct at least two youth/family programs that emphasize waste reduction, recycling, and environmental stewardship during the 2021-2022 Church year

Discussion and action plans regarding the goals for the year were discussed in order and as follows...

Keep Norfolk Beautiful: The commitment of performing our quarterly clean-up of Princess Anne Road continues with Frank retrieving the equipment needed from Fleta Jackson of the “Keep Norfolk Beautiful” office and asking parishioners to participate in cleaning up Princess Anne Road from Hampton Boulevard to Monticello Avenue on a bi-monthly schedule. The next clean-up is scheduled for November 13. The information and date of the clean-up will be posted in the Bulletin at least two weeks prior and through the Constant Contact application. We want to encourage parishioner participation and awareness that this is a PARISH action, not just that of the committee. It was suggested by Patricia that we should publicly (via the Bulletin) thank participants for their efforts in supporting the Keep Norfolk Beautiful program.

Earth Day: Earth Day is April 22, 2022. Frank will contact Steve Baggerly about speaking at our January meeting to address our participation in Earth Day activities and what we can do in addition to our educational activities.

Reduction of waste: Now that we have returned to some more normal activities from COVID restrictions, we need to be more attentive to the liturgy guides. Frank proposes to meet with Meg Lehman to discuss possible ways to reduce the number of pages in our current model. We have had some success with the Bulletins but would like to see those reduced in number as well by encouraging parishioners to use the QR codes and emails that have the Bulletin online.

Education: Jane continues to provide Care for Creation notes in the Bulletin and has increased the number of times these appear to twice a month in an effort to inform parishioners of ways to reduce their impacts on the environment at home and in the community. She has done an excellent job of providing these and we are happy she will continue them.

Youth/family programs: Jane and Amy will be working on these in the coming weeks.

Other business: Frank repeated a former interest in adding parishioner activities, such as work by garden clubs or other organizations, to boost our participation as a River Star Business. Various possibilities for determining which parishioners are members of the River Star Homes program were discussed, including consulting Pam Boatright from the Elizabeth River Project

about membership and allowing us to access those names, or, failing that, trying a more personal touch by just asking various parishioners if they participate or know of anyone at Sacred Heart who participates. We just need to know “How many?”

Patricia would like to see more visible mention of the Care for Creation’s impact and Sacred Heart’s environmental stewardship in the Commons area. Maybe a banner? Or?

Closing prayer by William: “A prayer for our earth”.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.

Bulletin Submissions of the Care for Creation Committee – October, 2021

3 October 2021

Let’s Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with an Ecological Conversion

October 4th is Feast of St. Francis, who is often referred to as the Father of Ecology. In his encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis calls us to recognize that St. Francis shows us the inseparable bond between concern for nature and justice for the poor. Pope Francis describes St. Francis as the example of care for the vulnerable and concern for the environment. For Saint Francis each and every creature was a sister or brother united to him by bonds of affection. The poverty and austerity of St. Francis were a refusal to turn our common home into an object to be used and controlled. The pope writes that everything is interconnected and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others. He brings out that we all need 'ecological conversion', whereby the effects of the encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world and its inhabitants. Our daily lives and decisions need to be observable statements of our respect for the earth and our concern for our brothers and sisters on this planet. St. Francis and the Pope both call us to be true followers of Jesus by their life examples and their teachings. Let us give praise to God for both of them and heed their call more seriously.

adapted from Creation Corner by Ed Marroni

17 October 2021

What Covid-19 is Teaching Us About the Fight Against Climate Change

In her article, [What COVID-19 Is Teaching Us About the Fight Against Climate Change | Green America](#) in the 2020 Winter issue of *The Green American* magazine, Sytonia Reed writes that one way to move people to action is explaining how climate change not only damages the planet's health, but ours too. Overcoming climate change requires both collective behavioral changes on the part of everyday people

and bold government policy as the pandemic has shown us. "As a society we do not talk much about the human toll associated with unmitigated climate change, but it is projected to get worse if we do not rise to the challenge' says Dr. Vijay Limaye, an epidemiologist and climate and health scientist.

excerpted from Creation Corner by Ed Marroni