

Care for Creation Ministry

Virtual Meeting, Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Attendees:

Jose Aguto
Rachel Peterson
Tiffany Baker
Louise Stringham
Lynn Thompson
Donna Stauffer

Notes per Agenda Item

1. Introduction of new members
 - a. Rachel Peterson and Tiffany Baker introduced themselves
2. Opening Prayer
3. Issues and activities of focus for first 3-6 months
 - a. Updates since last meeting
 - i. Grant: Rachel and Donna worked with Leah Tenorio to submit an application for a \$1,000 grant to Catholic Climate Covenant; funds would be used for energy-efficiency actions as discussed in our first meeting. We expect to hear back in early June.
 - ii. Food Waste: Lynn has a link to a Washington post article with “20 ways to go green in the kitchen” which we can share with parishioners. She also gathered information about disposing of food waste through a compost company that collects for a monthly fee; they pick up at homes or we could obtain a large bin for collection at church if desired, or parishioners could drop off at the weekly Farmers’ Market.
 - iii. Energy Audit: Jose contacted Catholic Energies which can do an energy audit for the church for free. Now trying to schedule an appointment at the church. Father Tom asked that they work with Claudia, the parish administrator.

- iv. Sharing Garden: Leah has assigned a plot to the group, and work can start at any time. Tiffany expressed an interest in taking the lead on this work. Lynn shared some useful advice based on her past experience of managing a plot in the garden. We also discussed the possibility of incorporating more native plants into the landscaping, perhaps following the renovations.
- b. Further discussion
 - i. Integrating Care for Creation into GSCC religious education
 1. Louisa volunteered to reach out to Stacy Austin to find out what materials are currently being provided in RE packages to families, the schedule for instruction over the coming months, and to begin to look at available/relevant materials on themes central to Laudato Si that might be incorporated in future. She has already begun collecting website links. We will schedule a separate meeting to discuss this in future.
 2. Some group members recommended that we step back from scheduling additional actions/activities until we had a good understanding of Laudato Si and could ground our work in the spiritual dimension of the encyclical. All present agreed with that recommendation. We decided to begin discussing Chapters at each meeting, beginning June 7th. This will help us determine what themes/messages we want to share with the broader parish and other ministries, including through religious education, and around which to organize events.
 - ii. Planning for events (e.g. energy efficiency, other themes)
 1. Jose reminded the group that September 1st – October 4th (Feast of St. Francis) of this year has been designated the “Season of Creation” and that it would be a great opportunity to hold events. Possibilities include having an environmental “fair” with different tables at the church on a Sunday to which organizations could share information (e.g. on energy efficiency, reducing resource

use, reducing food waste), perhaps on a weekend when families stay for a pancake breakfast; and/or having a booth at the International Festival held on Labor Day weekend.

2. We also discussed having an event focused specifically on Laudato Si, at which a multi-media presentation could be delivered.

iii. Coordination with Diocesan Network

1. Lynn Thompson volunteered to attend the quarterly Diocesan Care for Creation network meetings to represent our group and to share information back.

iv. Plan for next meeting – facilitator, topic, invited guest?

1. The next meeting will be held in-person at Good Shepherd on May 17th. Jose will facilitate. The agenda will include updates on actions and getting to know each other better-interests.
2. The following meeting will be on June 7th at 7:00 and will be held virtually. We will begin an in-depth discussion of Laudato Si (overview and Chapter 1, facilitated by Jose).

4. Information Sharing -- upcoming events outside Good Shepherd

- a. Next Diocesan Care for Creation webinar will be held on May 25th. The Diocesan Peace and Justice Commission's annual conference with the theme of Care for Creation will be held in September; registration via the Commission's website.

5. Other