

Monthly Bulletin

Parish Disaster Ministries

Preparation with a Long View

In his 2016 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis wrote,

“It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an ‘ecological conversion,’ whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in their relationship with the world around them.” Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si'*, 217

Our society has changed rapidly in the last centuries, and, in the excitement of new technologies, we have forgotten to listen to the “cry of the earth”. Our relationship with the earth is wildly out of balance.

In the world of Disaster Preparedness, we notice evidence of this imbalance. We are learning to expect ever more destructive storms and weather patterns. In past bulletins, we have discussed mitigation and preparation for inclement weather and disasters. However, there is a vital element of preparation which we must not forget: unless we change of our habits of consumption, storms will continue to increase in frequency and severity. It is imperative that we take seriously Pope Francis’ call to care for creation.

Catholic Climate Covenant: Resources for Your Community

Creation Care is a Pro-Life issue; it is a virtue that Catholics and all people of goodwill can work together to perfect. The Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC) has a plethora of resources to help your community continue to think through challenges and opportunities.

Begin with Prayer: In spite of the urgency of climate action, we must always remember to slow down and listen to the “still, small voice” of God. The complexity of the current climate crisis means that we humans cannot hope to solve this on our own. We need to ask for God’s guidance.

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint: As Mother Teresa said, “We cannot do great

things. Only small things with great love.” There are many small changes that individuals, and households can make. Together with some of the big-picture solutions, these small changes can have a huge impact.

Creation Care Teams (CCT): This is a project that your Parish Disaster Ministry can take on, or delegate out to another parish group. A CCT can be an effective vehicle to institute the small changes mentioned above by informing and encouraging households as well as the Parish as a whole.

Catholic Energies: Energy consumption contributes a lot to our carbon footprints - not to mention the dollar costs associated. Your parish could get an energy efficiency upgrade or solar panels with help from this program. They provide expertise and turnkey services, including project design, development, management and capital to pay for your installation without debt financing or risk of ownership.

These are just highlights from Catholic Climate Covenant. We encourage you to visit their website to explore other programs and expertise they have to offer. Simply visit www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org to learn more.

As always, you can also reach out to Kate or Lora for additional help!

Questions? Contact Us!

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