

## Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: Aug 8, 2022

Location: home of Denise Rowland

Facilitator: Claire Foley

Note-taker: Brian Stefan-Szittai

Prayer: Dick Weber

[Creation.Care@stpatrickbridge.org](mailto:Creation.Care@stpatrickbridge.org)

Previous meeting of the full committee: June 13 2022 (there was no meeting in July)

Next meetings:

Sep 12 Facilitator: Mary Grace.

Prayer: Kate

Notes: Brian

Oct 10 Facilitator: Claire.

Prayer: Denise

Notes: Brenna

Creation Care: striving to be a parish where the culture is love and care for God's creation

## St Pat's Creation Care - MINUTES – Aug 8, 2022

**1) Opening prayer** (Dick Weber): Psalm 38 (adapted) – The Earth, wounded and weak, cries out for the Breath of Creation's help

**2) Review of minutes** from June 13 meeting: <https://stpatrickbridge.org/archives/#creationcare>  
(note: there was no meeting in July)

**3) Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) grant** for storm water diversion (Jared Bartley)  
-Jared (absent today), updated us by email that he will check with Brenna Davis and Dick Weber about getting the grant application submitted by the deadline of Sep 12.

From Jared via email:

As for the Sewer District Green Infrastructure Grant, applications are due September 12. The application and other useful resources (recording of the presentation about applying, etc) are available at <https://www.neorsd.org/stormwater-2/green-infrastructure-grant-program/>. I'll be back next week and will schedule a time to get together with Brenna, Dick and anyone else who wants to be involved. I will also get confirmation from Fr. Gurnick and Scott about official procedure for submitting the grant.

**4) Parish Facilities and Grounds coordination.** (we skipped this agenda item but need to return to it in September)

– Facilities Committee, chaired by Brian Jecker [BJecker@gmail.com](mailto:BJecker@gmail.com), meets third Wednesday of the month, 3-4:30pm.

-Judy and Jared have not checked in with Brian Jecker. Will do so.

## 5) Kateri Garden

-Brenna submitted grant application (\$1,000) to Victory Knoll to plant a pollinator/native plant garden somewhere on the campus that is not immediately adjacent to the church building (e.g., in a bump out in the west parking lot) . Father Gurnick gave her permission to submit the application with his email as the contact.

-Father Gurnick told Brian that he has not received any update on this yet. Says he is keeping his eye on email and US mail for any word from Victory Knoll

-Judy Opalach also said that she has not heard from Victory Knoll re the application submitted by Congregation of St Joseph

## **6) Laudato Si Action Platform (7 goals, 7 sectors, 7 years)**

- Mary Grace and Kate wrote this up for the parish bulletin:

Over the next several months, our parish Creation Care team will be addressing the seven goals of Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home: 1) Cry of the Earth, 2) Cry of the Poor, 3) Ecological Economics, 4) Sustainable Lifestyle, 5) Ecological Education, 6) Ecological Spirituality, 7) Community Engagement and Action. [www.stpatrickbridge.org/creation-care](http://www.stpatrickbridge.org/creation-care).

In a subsequent bulletin, we will present:

The first of seven goals of Laudato Si' is Cry of the Earth, a call to protect our common home for the well-being of all. Together we strive to equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. Mining provides us with necessary materials for products like 1) batteries ( cadmium, lithium, nickel, cobalt), 2) computer screens (silicon, boron, lead, phosphorous, indium), 3) musical instruments ( copper, silver, steel, nickel, brass, iron, aluminum), and 4) eyeglasses (limestone, feldspar, soda ash). Let us be aware of our sisters and brothers who do this dangerous work and ask God to bless and protect them and to give us the grace to be aware of any needs they may have. To read about mining in Ohio, see [www.stpatrickbridge.org/creation-care](http://www.stpatrickbridge.org/creation-care).

Today's meeting:

1- Cry of the Earth

-mining in Ohio – bulletin announcement is ready

-Mary Grace will write something about mining in Ohio to put on website

2- Cry of the Poor

-defend human life and all life on Earth, including refugees, children at risk from ozone asthma, heat related deaths (4x the rate in infants), conception (heat recues sperm counts), more animals will be killed with 5x the rate of natural disasters predicted.

-local : are there any studies or reports about the impacts of climate change on poor neighborhoods in Cleveland, racism and climate crisis. What about efforts to mitigate impacts of climate change, e.g., new gardens (Western Reserve Land Conservancy).

-Kate and Mary Grace will write up something on Cry of the Poor to share with us at next meeting

## **7) Charity of the Month**

-can we think about how we might disburse funds if we get Creation Care as one of the charities of the month next year (e.g. addressing climate refugees, addressing impacts of climate change on poor neighborhoods in Cleveland)

-Mary Grace will ask the parish office if Creation Care can be added to Charity of the Month

## **8) Parish Picnic Aug 28 – Denise will communicate this to Scott Menningen and Brian Jecker**

1. Compost and recycle bins (Brenna Davis, Dick Weber, Brian Stefan Szittai. Brian will ask Rust Belt Riders for compost bin, will ask Toney Vento for blue recycle bin)

2. Face Painting (nature scenes), Mother Earth photos (need 1 table and chairs)Denise Rowland, Mary Grace

3. Recycled seed planter activity (Claire Foley) 1 Table

4. Creation Care game for kids (Judy Opalach) (designated space)

5. Contact John Ranally if he still has upcycled earth bike for rides (Brian)

6. Creation Care T/F quiz (Denise)

## **9) Season of Creation <https://seasonofcreation.org/>**

-make a commitment to a green footprint (Judy)

-petitions (Dick, to submit to Fr Hollis, for Sep 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct 2)

-banner (Brian and Denise)

-songs (music group: Tend the Earth, Laudato Si')

-blessing of the four directions (Kate )

-weekly bulletin announcements. Aug 28 intro; Sep 4 week one; Sep 11 week two, etc (Brian)

-bulletins: brian to ask parish office if Creation Care can have its own heading (and not put it under Community News)

**10) West Side Creation Care Team** (this is an addendum to the minutes of Aug 8. Brian represented St Pat's at the monthly WSCCT meeting held outdoors at St Paul's on Aug 17)

Some highlights from the meeting

Fri, Sep 9 – Calvary Reformed Church is hosting a brainstorming session (breakfast 8-10am) to engage more churches in creation care. Is a planning session for a larger gathering on Nov 11 or Nov 12. Suresh Pillay and Pastor Dean Van Farowe are leading this.

Sat, Sep 17, 9am-3pm – Our Common Home in Peril: Gathering for a Just and Sacred Future. Organized by a collaborative of orders of women religious (their JPIC group – Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation ) . Held at Magnificat High School. Presenters include St Pat's Creation Care members Brenna Davis, Brian Stefan-Szittai. Organizers include WSCCT member Karen Morley (a teacher at Magnificat and former Director of Religious Education at Community of St Malachi). WSCCT will have an outreach/take action table at the event: *"a day of connection and conversation, guided by the goals of Laudato Si', to understand how organizations of greater Cleveland are responding to the current ecological crisis."*

Registration is free: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-common-home-in-peril-gathering-for-a-just-and-sacred-future-registration-330783952707>

Tue, Sep 27, 7-8pm via zoom: St Francis Day event hosted by Diocesan Social Action Office. Jeanette Napier (St Christopher) is one of the organizers. **St Pat's needs to send one person to be a reader during the closing prayer.** Event is co-hosted by Mike Reilling and Brenna Davis. Schedule includes: creation care successes and challenges from schools, women religious, parishes; enrollment in Laudato Si' Action Platform; legislative success story; closing prayer .

Litter Pilgrimage:

Aug 20 – St Pat's

[https://stpatrickbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/LitterPilgrimage\\_flyer\\_08.20.22.pdf](https://stpatrickbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/LitterPilgrimage_flyer_08.20.22.pdf)

Sep 24 – St Malachi

LaudatoSiActionPlatform.org

Jeanette Napier encourages all of us to 1) take the survey as an individual/household, then 2) do it together with your pastor or other parish leader . Do it alone first so you know what questions to expect and what info you need to have handy (e.g., electric bills) . It takes about an hour.