

Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: Sep 12, 2022

Location: Mission House

Facilitator: Mary Grace DeStefanis

Note-taker: Brian Stefan-Szittai

Prayer: Kate Campbell

See minutes of previous meetings archived at <https://stpatrickbridge.org/creation-care/>

Contact us at Creation.Care@stpatrickbridge.org

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

St Pat's Creation Care - MINUTES – SEP 12, 2022

Names are highlighted in yellow if they have homework for the next meeting

1) Opening prayer (Kate Campbell): prayers for animals, prayers of the animals

2) Approval of minutes from August 8 meeting was made via email during August and posted to website: <https://stpatrickbridge.org/archives/#creationcare>

3) Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS D) grant for storm water diversion (Jared Bartley)
-Jared and Brenna started a draft of the application and requested from Councilperson Kerry McCormack a letter of support but have not heard back. Jared will contact NEORS D and ask for an extension because the grant application was due today, Sep 12.

-Jared received reassurance from parish administrator Scott Menningen to go ahead and submit the application

-Brian received reassurance from Fr Gurnick to submit the application; Fr Gurnick is hoping that the parish can reconstruct the parking lots in 2023 with permeable pavers

<https://www.neorsd.org/stormwater-2/green-infrastructure-grant-program/>.

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

– Facilities Committee, chaired by Brian Jecker 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 (in August) that she had not heard from Victory Knoll re the application submitted by Congregation of St Joseph

-Brenna can stay in touch with Fr Gurnick and with Victory Knoll for updates

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.

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.

Seven Goals

1- Cry of the Earth

-mining in Ohio – bulletin announcement is ready, awaiting the write-up from **Mary Grace** to post on the website so that we can post this bulletin announcement

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 submitted a bulletin announcement about Goal #2 to Cookie Carroll

3- Ecological Economics

-**Kate** will write up a draft to discuss at the October meeting

4- Sustainable Lifestyle

-we need someone to write a draft for this to discuss at the November meeting

5- Ecological Education

-we need someone to write a draft for this to discuss at the December meeting

6- Ecological Spirituality

-we need someone to write a draft for this to discuss at the January meeting

7- Community Engagement and Action

-we need someone to write a draft for this to discuss at the February meeting

7) Charity of the Month

-Bill said that 11 charities have been selected as Charity of the Month, Jan-Nov. **Bill** will get us the list. Maybe we can talk to one of the charities and see if there is any connection to Creation Care

-December is not included as a Charity of the Month month because there is a special Giving Tree for a variety of charities and causes.

-at the October meeting, we will talk about whether we can we think about how me might include Giving Tree ornaments for Creation Care as one of the charities on the tree (e.g. addressing climate refugees, addressing impacts of climate change on poor neighborhoods in Cleveland)

-**Mary Grace** might ask the parish office if Creation Care can be added to Charity of the Month, once we see the established list of 11 charities

8) Parish Picnic Aug 28 – review/evaluation for next year

a. Compost and recycle bins. 2023 YES. Brian purchased BPI-certified compostable plates, cups, bowls, cutlery from Dean Supply. Brian bought 8-gallon compostable bags from Rust Belt Riders. Brian set up a

compost station at the picnic to sort and organize the waste. Bill brought a recycling can for aluminum cans, which were given to Decontee (sp?) to sell as scrap . Brian took 6 bags of compostable waste to Rust Belt Riders. For 2023: a) ask that there be a picnic committee to organize everything, established by June ; b) ask that there be no single-serve disposable items (drinks, chips, other snacks); c) strive to make this more of a Zero Waste event. **Brian** will write up a summary of the Creation Care Ministry efforts at the picnic and ask Christy to post on website.

b. Face Painting (nature scenes) by Jesuit Volunteers. 2023 YES.

c. Recycled seed planter activity by Claire. 2023 YES

d. Creation Care game for kids (we didn't do this). 2023 ?

e. Contact John Ranally if he still has upcycled earth bike for rides (Brian did not do this)

f. Creation Care T/F quiz by Denise. 2023 YES

g. Mask-making by Mary Grace and others. 2023 YES – maybe a theme of make an Eco-Guardian mask

9. Eco Super Hero . 2023 NO

10. Compost Raffle by Kate and Dick. 2023 NO

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

-Green FootPrint – Judy made draft flyer. **Brian** will ask her if we can make adjustments. **Kate** will ask Judy if she will talk to Fr Gurnick about putting in the back of church: blank paper footprints, box to collect the footprints once parishioners write their commitment on it, a sign in a frame (regular paper size) next to the boxes to explain what it is, copies of flyer (from Judy's draft) for people to take home; some Creation Care members offered to stand at the back of church the weekend of Sep 24/25 but we didn't really make a firm decision or commitment . **Brian** will ask Christy to post the final version on the website.

-petitions . Dick has submitted to Fr Hollis for Sep 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct 2 and they are being read each Sunday.

-banner. Fr Gurnick denied permission to put the banner inside the church, citing too much going on inside the church building with scaffolding for window replacements and painting of the Mary Shrine and Joseph Shrine; offered to put the banner in the lower hall for coffee and donuts but we declined the offer because of lack of visibility. We did hang the banner outside during the August 28 outdoor Mass and picnic.

-songs . music group is using each week either Tend the Earth or Laudato Si'.

-blessing of the four directions: **Kate** will ask Judy to ask Fr Gurnick if the presider can do the blessing at all masses the weekend of Oct 1/2

-weekly bulletin announcements. Brian has been asked by Cookie to have two weeks of bulletin announcements ready at all times. **Brian** will try to keep up on this. Denise asked the parish office if Creation Care can have its own heading (and not put it under Community News) but was denied

-weekly e-news: **Brian** will get a longer version of the printed bulletin announcements to Christy each week. For October (which is month of the rosary), Brian will look at announcements from St Albert the Great (suggested by Mary Grace) and construct announcements with rosary themes. (note: St Albert the Great will be holding a Rosary for Climate Change at their parish) .

10) West Side Creation Care Team

-Sep 21: monthly meeting convened by Judy Slivka of St Malachi. **Brian** will represent St Pat's

-Sep 24: monthly Litter Pilgrimage organized by St Malachi. Meet 10am at St Malachi parking behind the school/church. **Mary Grace** will try to get work gloves. No one from St Pat's Creation Care committed to going.

Sep 9 – Calvary Reformed Church held 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.

11) St Francis Day events

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.

"Listen to the Voice of Creation"

Hear how the Social Action Office, parishes, schools and religious communities are building a diocesan-wide Laudato Si' Movement! Enjoy local Laudato Si' success stories from parishes and schools! Learn more about the Laudato Si' Action Platform and how your parish/school, household and organization can enroll to live the Laudato Si' Action Platform goals in your life! To register and receive the Zoom link, email Jeff

Campbell, jcampbell@ccdocle.org

-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 .

-**Judy O** has offered to represent St Pat's as a reader for the closing prayer that Jeannette Napier is organizing and will be in touch with Jeannette about it.

Sun, Oct 2, 11am Mass (the Sunday closest to St Francis Day, October 4)

-**Denise** is the music coordinator. Will incorporate more Creation Care themes

Tue, Oct 4, 8am weekday Mass:

-**Mary Grace** will ask Fr Gurnick to incorporate Create Care themes

12) 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.

-**Jared** offered to do this with his household and then report back to us how it went.

-whether we want to approach the parish office about doing this is something we'll consider in the future . We don't feel the parish is ready at this moment to make the commitment to becoming a Laudato Si' parish, so why bother the parish staff to take the survey?

13) Closing Prayer (Kate) – prayer of thanks for a particular animal in your life

8pm meeting adjourned