

Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: FEB 10, 2025

Location: Faith Formation room – Club Building

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

Contact us at Creation.Care@stpatrickbridge.org

Previous meetings of the full committee: Oct 14, 2024 and Dec 9, 2024 (social gathering)

Next meetings of the full committee: Mar 10, Apr 14

TONIGHT:

facilitate: Mary Grace DeStefanis

notes: Brian Stefan-Szittai

prayer: Denise Rowland

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

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,

may the *faith* you have given us

in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,

and the flame of *charity* enkindled

in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,

reawaken in us the blessed *hope*

for the coming of your Kin-dom.

May your grace transform us

into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos

in the sure expectation

of a new heaven and a new earth,

when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,

your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee

reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,

a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread

the joy and peace of our Redeemer

throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,

be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

Creation Care Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2025

Present: Bill Merriman, Brian Stefan Szittai, Judy Opalach, Mary Grace DeStefanis, Denise Rowland, Paul Kapzcuk, Brenna Davis

[from Nov 2024 meeting]: What do we want to accomplish in 2025? A. reduce waste at parish events (or other events held at the parish) with a goal of zero-waste through compostable plates, cups, cutlery. B. storm water diversion project for the west side parking lot next to the Club Building (i.e., NEORS grant).

C. Jubilee of Hope (aka Pilgrims of Hope) 2025 from Pope Francis (a Jubilee Year occurs every 25 years in the Catholic Church)

-During 2025, we will structure our monthly meetings around prayer, education, advocacy, action for those three items/goals.

1. Prayer: Denise

What about the earth has lifted our hearts recently?

Read St Kateri Tekawitha prayer: let all that is in the earth lift our minds, our hearts, our lives...

2. Jubilee Year of Hope and Laudato Si' tenth anniversary: Brenna

2025 is

Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

Laudato Si' tenth anniversary (May 24) <https://laudatosimovement.org/event/laudato-si-week-2025/>

Canticle of the Creatures (St Francis) – 800th anniversary

Pilgrims of Hope for Creation Website: <https://catholicpilgrimsofhope.org/>

Webinar on Pilgrimages: February 18th at 12pm ET / 9am PT- [Sign Up here](#)

Jubilee Year Resources from the Vatican: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

Papal Bull on Jubilee: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/lettera-di-papa-francesco.html>

What is the Jubilee: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/segni-del-giubileo.html>

Diocese of Cleveland Jubilee Resources: <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/pilgrims-of-hope/jubilee-resources>

Pope Francis issued a Papal Bull of Indiction re the Jubilee Year (May 9 2024)

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/pope-francis-proclaims-2025-jubilee-papal-bull-hope-does-not-disappoint>

The papal bull, titled "[Spes Non Confudit](#)," meaning "Hope Does Not Disappoint," declares that the Jubilee Year will officially begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024. A jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church. It typically takes place once every 25 years.

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

Some of the language in the Papal Bull, divided into 25 sections, is about ecological conversion (see sections 15 and 16)

Quotes from the Papa Bull:

-In addition to finding hope in God's grace, we are also called to discover hope in the *signs of the times* that the Lord gives us.

-The first sign of hope should be the desire for *peace* in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of *war*.

- Looking to the future with hope also entails having enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it... In certain quarters, the tendency "to blame population growth, instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the [real] issues".

...we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. I think of *prisoners* who, deprived of their freedom, daily feel the harshness of detention and its restrictions, lack of affection and, in more than a few cases, lack of respect for their persons... In order to offer prisoners a concrete sign of closeness, I would myself like to open a Holy Door in a prison, as a sign inviting prisoners to look to the future with hope and a renewed sense of confidence.

-With renewed passion, let us demonstrate care and concern for adolescents, students and young couples, the rising generation. Let us draw close to the young, for they are the joy and hope of the Church and of the world!

-*Exiles, displaced persons and refugees*, whom international tensions force to emigrate in order to avoid war, violence and discrimination, ought to be guaranteed security and access to employment and education, the means they need to find their place in a new social context.

-The *elderly*, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned, also deserve signs of hope. Esteem for the treasure that they are...

-[The poor] from exclusion and indifference on the part of many. It is scandalous that in a world possessed of immense resources, destined largely to producing weapons, the poor continue to be “the majority of the planet’s population, billions of people.

...the Jubilee reminds us that *the goods of the earth* are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone...I think especially of those who lack water and food: hunger is a scandal, an open wound on the body of our humanity... I renew my appeal that “with the money spent on weapons and other military expenditures, let us establish a global fund that can finally put an end to hunger and favour development in the most impoverished countries, so that their citizens will not resort to violent or illusory situations, or have to leave their countries in order to seek a more dignified life”. [8] Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*, 262.

-I ask that [the more affluent nations] acknowledge the gravity of so many of their past decisions and determine to *forgive the debts* of countries that will never be able to repay them... It is made all the more serious today by a new form of injustice which we increasingly recognize, namely, that “a true ‘ecological debt’ exists, particularly between the global North and South, connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time”. [9] Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si’*, 51.

-The Council of Nicaea sought to preserve the Church’s unity [1700th anniversary in 2025]... The Council Fathers chose to begin that Creed [that we still recite each Sunday] by using for the first time the expression “*We believe*”, [10] as a sign that all the Churches were in communion and that all Christians professed the same faith... Nicaea represents a summons to all Churches and Ecclesial Communities to persevere on the path to visible unity and in the quest of finding ways to respond fully to the prayer of Jesus “that they may all be one.”

-Hope, together with faith and charity, makes up the triptych of the “theological virtues” that express the heart of the Christian life (cf. *1 Cor 13:13*; *1 Thess 1:3*)... The most convincing testimony to this hope is provided by the *martyrs*. Steadfast in their faith in the risen Christ, they renounced life itself here below, rather than betray their Lord. Martyrs, as confessors of the life that knows no end, are present and numerous in every age, and perhaps even more so in our own day. We need to treasure their testimony, in order to confirm our hope and allow it to bear good fruit. The martyrs, coming as they do from different Christian traditions, are also seeds of unity, expressions of the ecumenism of blood.

- The *sacrament of Penance* assures us that God wipes away our sins. We experience those powerful and comforting words of the Psalm: “It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion... The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy... He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults... This experience of full forgiveness cannot fail to open our hearts and minds to the need to *forgive others* in turn.

-Hope finds its supreme witness in *the Mother of God*. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life... *Stella Maris*, a title that bespeaks the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust.

-“May we who have taken refuge in him be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the

curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered” (*Heb 6:18-20*). Those words are a forceful encouragement for us never to lose the hope we have been given, to hold fast to that hope and to find in God our refuge and our strength...The image of the anchor is eloquent; it helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus

Catholic Pilgrims of Hope for Creation : <https://catholicpilgrimsofhope.org/>

Is a consortium of about 20 Catholic organizations, including Ignatian Solidarity Network, Catholic Climate Covenant, and Laudato Si’ Movement. They are kicking off a year of invitations to “pilgrimages” with a virtual event on Feb 18, 12noon.

St Pat’s – what kind of pilgrimage(s) might we do? Let’s invite St Malachi Creation Care folks to join us. (Mary Grace will reach out to Judy Slivka to invite others from Malachi)

-use discernment as the purpose of your local pilgrimage

-Awe Walk. “Praise Be” (St Francis of Assisi) to the wonder of God’s creation around us

-Destination for the “walk.” Is there a place/project in jeopardy of losing funding?

Catholic Pilgrims of Hope for Creation has a three year arc of programming

2025: local pilgrimages

2026: parallel gathering to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) national gathering

2027: regional gatherings focused on Creation Care

Diocese of Cleveland: <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/pilgrims-of-hope/jubilee-resources>

We can seek guidance on how to implement the Jubilee Year of Hope with ecological conversion themes into life at St Pat’s/St Malachi

Next meeting: bring ideas for how to integrate Jubilee into St Pat’s/St Malachi’s parish life this year.

Mary Grace will talk to Charlene McElwee re liturgy and to Judy Slivka re Creation Care Team at St Malachi

Judy Opalach will bring a grant application from the Congregation of St Joseph; we can apply for a mini-grant to implement Pilgrims of Hope for Creation programming.

3. West Side Creation Care Team: Brian, Mary Grace

-meets 3rd Wednesdays 7pm at St Paul’s 4427 Franklin Blvd. Brian, Kate and Mary Grace are on a rotation to represent St Patrick. The West Side Creation Care Team is planning a “Lament for Creation” during Lent.

Here are the minutes from the WSCCT meeting held January 15, 2024

Present: Heather Gerheim (Blessed Trinity) Marty Smith (St. Ladislaus) Ronaldo Rodriguez (City Church) Jeanette Nappier (St. Christopher) Tom Nappier (St. Christopher) Kate Campbell (St Patrick’s Bridge) Judy Slivka (St. Malachi) Dean Van Farowe (Calvary) Tim Walters (St. Paul) Karen Morley (St. Malachi) Martha Krozniak (Our Lady of the Lake)

Jim Connell - Facilitator

Opening Prayer: Dean

Introductions

Look to the past: What have we accomplished in the past?

- Created the Lament (environmental stations of the cross)
- Monthly Litter Pilgrimages
- St. Francis Prayer Service and celebration of creation

- Creation of WSCCT Facebook
 - Educational presence at environmental summits ie Magnificat, John Carroll, Evangelical Environmental Network
 - Letter Writing campaigns to representatives, CEOs, senators
 - Members are part of the Diocesan Care for Creation Team
- Present: What have we accomplished within the couple years?
- Our Creation Care Team was mentioned at a Business Summit
 - Litter Pilgrimage was attended by St. Christopher parishioners
 - Successful lament in Tremont and St. Christ
 - Connection with Trashfish - Kayaking litter pilgrimage

3 strengths (we were asked to write on an index card and share)

- Faith
- Support
- Outreach
- Diversity (we come from a variety of faith communities)
- Love of creation
- Hope
- Inspiration
- Respect for each other

3 opportunities for growth (we were asked to write on an index card and share)

- Diocesan/Parish active disinterest
 - Age and Health prevent us from some action
 - Need younger members
 - Need more energy
 - Need more consistent communication
 - Clearer action steps
-
- Better use of resources from Catholic Climate Covenant, Evangelical Environmental Network and other groups
 - Diversity (age, race, ethnic background)
 - Connect to other environmental groups
 - Members cannot commit to time necessary
 - Increase participation (in both group and events)
 - Increase educational outreach
 - Tension between personal and group interests
 - Follow up each meeting with a specific action
 - Contact people who showed interest but are not attending

Maintain goals of Prayer, Education, Advocacy, and Collaboration

Discussion:

Participation: What would be preferable for participation?

- Litter Pilgrimage- at least 10 people
- Events (lament- prayer events-educational events) at least 30 people
- What are we doing to increase participation?

Diversity: What does diversity mean?

- What have we done to increase diversity?

Moving Forward:

How is our world being spread? Increased online presence, update FB page, create a website

3 things members want to say (written on index card and shared)

- What can I do specifically? Heather
- Do we want more? How do we do that? - Marty
- Renewed commitment - Martha
- Creating awareness - find a way of sharing ecological information with bulletins- educate and collaborate-Tim
- May 18th is the tenth anniversary of Laudato Si. This would be a good occasion to celebrate and gather people together - Kate
- Persevere, let's not give up - Dean
- Speak up and Step up, take the lead and come up with new ideas.- Jeanette
- Thank you - Tom
- With gratitude optimism is sustainable - Ronaldo
- What will be coming our way with the new political administration? What is the best way to use our time?- Karen
- Collaborate with other groups - Judy, Tim
- Tap into our resources for example Brenna Davis - Kate(?)
- Advertise and educate using the Plain Press - Kay Vine via email
- Connect with Drink Local, Drink Tap - Jim
- Update and share WSCCT brochure widely - Jim

Closing Prayer Jim

Take time to pray about all of this until we meet again on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 at St. Paul's. Respectfully submitted by Karen Morley.

4. Kateri Garden: Denise, Judy

The signage that Jared ordered has been misplaced and Christy and Terry Bush are trying to track it down

5. Facilities Committee

Jared Bartley is absent so there is no report. (from last meeting: . NEORS grant proposal design is done . Applying for construction for water diversion in parking lot in September.)

6. Implementing the Jubilee Year at St Pat's

Mary Grace drafted a letter to Fr Gurnick. Brian will revise and submit to Fr Gurnick

7. Young Adults Ministry

Brian visited the young adults gathering in January. Gave a brief invitation and explanation of Creation Care at St Pat's. Spelled out our focus on Prayer, Education, Advocacy, Action. Said that a focus this year is the Jubilee Year and 10th anniversary of Laudato Si'. We need to think of some specific tasks we could invited them to do (e.g., write prayers that we can share with the parish) and then Brian can follow up with them. Some of the main players are Claudia, Marisol and Dominic.

8. Quarterly flyer on Creation Care

Since we are planning to integrate the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si' with the Jubilee Year of Hope, we can design a flyer to focus on the integration of those two and include any of our four pillars: prayer, education, advocacy, action. Once we have a draft ready (for the Lenten season) we can ask Fr Gurnick.

9. Semi-annual Creation Care Fellowship Hour

May 11: Mother's Day. Pass out something (like a flowering plant) to remind people of the generative power of women, of Mother Mary, of Earth herself.

Host coffee and donuts (Sunday only). 8:30 Bill and Brian. 11am Mary Grace and Paul

10. Lenten reflections

Lenten reflection for each Sunday focus on Laudato Si - Brian has assigned (and will collect, edit) weeks 1-5: Mary Grace, Dick, Kate, Judy, Brian

MAR 9 - Brian

Dt 26: 4-10

Ps 91: 1-15

Romans 10: 8-13

Lk 4:1-13

Verse before the Gospel: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God

MAR 16 - Dick

Gn 15:5-18

Ps 27: 1-14

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Lk 9:28-36

Verse before the Gospel: From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.

MAR 23 – Mary Grace

Note: listed here are Year C readings. (There is an option for Year A Scrutiny readings that will be used at only one Mass this weekend; Creation Care does not need to use the Year A readings.)

Ex 3:1-15

Ps 103:1-11

1 Corinthians 10: 1-12

Lk 13:1-9

Verse before the Gospel: Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

MAR 30 - Judy

Note: listed here are Year C readings. (There is an option for Year A Scrutiny readings that will be used at only one Mass this weekend; Creation Care does not need to use the Year A readings.)

Joshua 5: 9-12

Ps 34: 2-7

2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Verse before the Gospel: I will get up and go to my Father and shall say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

APR 6 - Kate

Note: listed here are Year C readings. (There is an option for Year A Scrutiny readings that will be used at only one Mass this weekend; Creation Care does not need to use the Year A readings.)

Isaiah 43:16-21

Ps 126: 1-6

Philippians 3: 8-14

John 8: 1-11

Verse before the Gospel: Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart; for I am gracious and merciful.

11. Closing Prayer: Denise

Jubilee Prayer

<https://www.dioslc.org/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope#:~:text=The%20Jubilee%20Prayer,the%20coming%20of%20your%20Kingdom.>

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen