

Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: MAY 12, 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 meeting of the full committee: Apr 14 2025

Next meetings of the full committee: June 9 (facilitate Kate), July (skip this month)

TONIGHT:

facilitate: Judy Opalach

notes: Dick Weber

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.

Attendance at tonight's meeting:

Kate Campbell, Dick Weber, Mary Holtz, Judy Opalach, Denise Rowland, Mary Grace DeStefanis, Brian Stefan-Szittai, Bill Merriman

I. Prayer (Denise)

Memories of nature in our lives.

Adaptation of Francis' Prayer for Our Common Home

Agenda Items added:

Collaboration Process items for consideration

Issues that impact our planning:

- New parish calendar begins July 1 and not available till then
- Bishop visit to celebrate new collaboration planned for the fall with not date yet
- Possible procession between parish and oratory marking the new relationship
- Planning for ministries will reflect overlapping and new continuities of two sites
- New commissions:
 - Creation Care is included with Ministries of Charity and Social Concerns
 - Hospitality is included with Events & Community Building
 - Other commissions: Liturgy and Worship; Communications; Faith Formation and Spiritual Life; Buildings and Grounds

II. Pilgrimage of Hope

Volunteers for the planning committee: Mary, Denise, Kate, Judy (since withdrew)

- a. Pick a date and time— any date would be tentative for now given above issues
- b. Route of the pilgrimage – options considering: between sites (Pat's/Malachi), walk around St. Patrick boundary, other proposals to consider
- c. Prayer Service: 4 directions, sky, earth focus; 5 senses, etc.,
- d. Advertising: To be considered later
- e. Banner: Prayer of Hope/St. Francis prayer, purchase a Season of Creation
- f. Judy will attend Zoom meetings with Catholic Climate Covenant

III. Updates on ongoing projects

- a. NEORS grant for storm water diversion (parking lot) – postponed till discussion with Jared Bartley. St. Casimir Parish grant work: Brian recounted a recent conversation with a St. Ignatius grad who is also a Casimir parishioner, who started a garden at Ignatius while a student there. Brian suggested we consider re-connecting with St. Casimir sometime.
 - b. Mother's Day fellowship: Large turnout after each mass, enthusiasm at gathering opportunity expressed, great bakery, Mothers' Day connection works better than Earth Day
- Hospitality plans:
- Men's Prayer Group: for 10- 11 weeks after 8:30 mass
 - Young Adults are seeking volunteers for hospitality
 - c. St. Kateri Garden: clean up scheduled for May 13, statue purchase to be discussed. Kateri signed purchased by Mary Grace. Bench idea has been benched.
 - d. Anniversary of Laudato Sí in May: procession planning will commemorate
 - e. Newcomer Placard: create a handout card to introduce Creation Care to parishoners. Mary Grace will work on the text, Mary do graphic design.

IV. Create a Project to Invite Parish to Work On

How do we involve parishoners in a project related to Creation Care? Denise feels energy and hope from the collaboration process. Brian asked how Creation Care might use an activity such as the Giving Tree and Monthly Charity to show our engagement with the environment. "Green" history and tradition of these Irish parishes might inspire activities that connect themes.

Judy urged consideration of Cincinnati diocese's bigger support at the parish level.

Jared could promote green efforts with long term planning on the parish Buildings&Grounds Commission.

Grant money to do it: St. Joseph Sisters have money available to disperse

Example: Buy water bottles (not plastic) with St. Pat's Logo and "Creation Care" on it.

-Sell for \$1.00 at parish picnic.

-Educate about plastic waste and clean water.

-Let folks know about water fountain in the parish hall.

New member Mary Holtz recounted that she has stayed at St. Patrick based on the priests' homilies, volunteering in the neighborhood, and its location.

V. Climate Action Now app

VI. Brian: Walk us through Catholic Climate Covenant email for us to tap into some of these actions. Catholic Climate Covenant <katie@catholicclimatecovenant.org>

VII. Additional items, etc.

VIII. Closing Prayer Denise

IX. Next Meeting: June 9: Chair: Kate. Prayer: Bill. Note Taker: Mary Grace