**APRIL 2019**

**STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH**



**Bulletin: April 7**

*“April 22, 2019 marks the 49th anniversary of Earth Day, a secular celebration that many faith communities have incorporated into their annual calendars for awareness and action…. Catholic Climate Covenant’s 2019 Earth Day program calls upon us to live more faithfully and act more justly with all creation.”*

The Social Justice Committee is working on plans now to present the Earth Day program – *All Creation Gives God Praise: Protecting Biodiversity in a Time of Climate Crisis*. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

► Don’t forget to sign up on the sheets at the entrance to or in the middle aisle of the church so someone from the Social Justice Committee can contact you to hear about your contributions to the care of our earth.

**Bulletin: April 14**

**Thank you** to our parishioners who signed on to share the ways they are contributing as environmental stewards in the care of our earth. Here are some inspiring examples. More will be included in future bulletins.

☼ One parishioner uses drawstring mesh bags to pack her veggies and fruits at the supermarket. They are eco-friendly, reusable, and easy to wash. Bags come in small, medium, and large. You can do a simple search on the internet for places to buy them.

☼ Another parishioner responded that he makes locally grown food his first option to reduce his carbon footprint by reducing the negative effects of cross-country transportation.

☼ One resourceful parishioner makes her own yogurt and has been re-using the same yogurt containers for years now. “It's quite simple to make and I usually make and go through at least two containers per week.”

☼ Because she is particularly fond of animals, one parishioner focuses her environmental stewardship in that direction. “For several years I participated in helping American toads and toadlets go from the woods to the water where they lay their eggs in early spring. We did this by getting a permit to close a busy road that they were compelled to cross on warm rainy nights and to have volunteers assigned to check on the migration status and help them cross each night. On a high migration night, over 400 roads might cross the road.

If you would like to add your stories, feel free to leave your contact information on the sign-up sheets at the entrance to and in the middle aisle of the church. Someone from the Social Justice Committee will contact you.

**Bulletin: April 21**

*Son of God, Jesus,*

*through you all things were made.*

*You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,*

*you became part of this earth,*

*and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.*

*Today you are alive in every creature*

*in your risen glory.*

*Praise be to you!*

(Excerpted from A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation, Laudato Si’)

**Bulletin: April 28**

Here are some more waysour fellow parishioners are contributing as environmental stewards in the care of our earth. **Thank you** for your concern and care.

☼ In our house, we have a commitment to recycle paper and plastics. Plastic bags are washed and reused. Reusable bags are a priority for supermarket shopping. There is careful attention to limit the use of energy to what is necessary.

☼ Did you know you could elect a renewable energy source through your electric company? This is one of the easiest and significant ways to reduce your carbon footprint. Your local utility company continues to send you your electric bill and to provide your electric service. The option you have is to select the source from where your energy comes. One parishioner uses CleanChoice Energy with an extra charge of $0.13500 per kWh (kilowatt-hour). Between December 2014 and November 2018, she added 11,225 kWh of clean energy to the grid, which is equal to 16,837 lbs. of carbon pollution avoided and 204 trees planted.

☼ I am interested in the plight of horseshoe crabs and go to the Wetlands Institute in NJ in May when they spawn. I participate in an annual count and turn over stranded crabs that have flipped on their backs and can’t return to the ocean without a little help. One stormy night I and others turned over 800 horseshoe crabs!

**Make your Earth Resolution today!**

**Our Social Justice Committee meets on the 1st Sunday each month after the 11:00 Mass on the lower level of the church. All are welcome!**