**MAY 2019**

**STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH**



**Bulletin: May 5**

“It is not enough, however, to think of different species merely as potential ‘resources’ to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves. Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.”

**— *Laudato Si’* 33**

Dear Holy Cross Parish! Come be an active part of our Earth Day celebration! We’re downstairs after each of the Masses this weekend ready to share with and hear from you ways we can do a better job of caring for the beautiful earth God gave us.

You’ll get to see a short video, hear from your fellow parishioners, participate in a fun activity, and enjoy some refreshments. Bring the whole family!

**Bulletin: May 12**

Thank you so much to all our fellow parishioners who participated in the Earth Day celebration last weekend! Your thoughtful reflections on the readings and video made us even more aware of the importance of caring for the earth and all its creatures.

The interdependence of human, animal and plant species has been well established. The numbers and diversity of animal and plant species is declining at an alarming rate, and as human beings sharing this planet, we are major drivers of this decline, especially with our reliance on dirty energy sources and increasing deforestation. But we can also be major contributors to reversing this decline if we choose to.

It is significant that just last week, Pennsylvania, one of the nation’s largest fossil fuel producers, became the 24th state to join the U.S. Climate Alliance. Our state has set a goal for cutting carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping emissions 26 percent by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050, using 2005 as a baseline. (Philadelphia Inquirer, April 30, 2019)

Those attending the Earth Day program, created a tree of hopeful action with pledges for creation. Here are some of those pledges.

I pledge to become more aware of the interdependence of all creation in everyday life.

I will plant 12 plants that sustain pollinator caterpillars, thereby increasing the number of butterflies.

I pledge to decrease use of all kinds of plastic; recycle; and determine what to use for kitty litter.

I pledge to use public transportation as much as possible or walk.

If you would like to add to this tree of commitment, you will find it standing in the church meeting room downstairs with some leaves and a pen. We hope you will add to its blossoming!

**Bulletin: May 19**

**One Thing You Can Do: Know Your Plastics**

Climate Fwd: newsletter from *The New York Times* climate team

April 24, 2019

Ever notice those recycling symbols, the triangles with the numbers inside, on plastic packaging and containers? They let you know what plastic is recyclable. Some categories of plastic are more widely recyclable in the United States.

“We always encourage people to focus on **Nos. 1, 2 and 5** because we have great markets for them in the U.S.,” said Brent Bell, vice president of recycling at Waste Management, a major garbage collection and recycling company.

Water and soda bottles, milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles, yogurt cups and butter tubs are mostly made of these plastics. You could lend a helping hand by rinsing these kinds of containers and removing labels.

On the other hand, placing items marked with Nos. 4, 6 and 7 in the recycling bin is usually not a good idea. These are used to make squeezable bottles, plastic bags, pouches, meat trays, some clamshells and disposable plates and cups. Sorting plants will quite likely throw them in a landfill, together with other items considered contaminants.

Finally, No. 3 — the category that covers the PVCs (polyvinyl chloride) often used in packaging for cosmetics, some food wrap, blister packs and pipes — is particularly bad. Because of its chemical composition, it can contaminate large batches of plastics in the recycling system that would otherwise be acceptable.

Regardless of what they’re made of, shopping bags and other soft plastics like cling film and Bubble Wrap shouldn’t be put in recycling bins because they tend to jam sorting machines.

If you’re not sure if it should be thrown into the recycling bin, better to keep it out.

(taken from article by Eduardo Garcia)

**Bulletin: May 26**

Lord of all Creation, Maker of Heaven and Earth, Good Provider,

Today we come before you in grief, in shame, to lament the loss of beautiful creatures.

We grieve the more than one- in-four flowering plants, the one- in-five mammals,

the nearly one-in-three amphibians, and the one-in-eight birds that are vulnerable to being

wiped out completely.

We acknowledge that we play a part in this dying by our carelessness, ignorance, and indifference. Forgive us our part in the death of healthy ecosystems and the resulting extinction of your creatures.

Refresh our love for all you have made. Renew our resolve to advocate, fight, nurture and defend

our fellow creatures. Thank you for those who care for the earth - the gardeners, the activists, the scientists, the zoologists - sustain them and protect their hearts as they strive and grieve.

We thank you for the magnificent world which you have bestowed upon us. We thank you that you can do more than all we ask or imagine and so we ask for your help - restrain human evil, energize us for service, fill us with courage and hope.

May your world ever be very very good.

Amen

**—Prayer from Common Grace** (offered by Catholic Climate Covenant)

**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!**