



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, August 27, 2023

### Good News to Celebrate for Our City and Country

“We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith.” (USCCB, 2001). As we continue the never-ending work in a world where respect for creation is often lacking, it is good to take time out to celebrate the wins.

#### Monument Shields 1M Acres Around the Grand Canyon

“Heeding the call of the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition and the Center for Biological Diversity, President Biden just designated the Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument. Capping 15 years of work to protect this iconic place from new uranium mining, the historic move **forever safeguards almost a million acres surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.**” (*Center for Biological Diversity*, No. 1205, August 10, 2023)

#### Two Sisters Give \$3 Million for Land Adjoining the Schuylkill Center

“The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education in Philadelphia just closed a deal to permanently preserve an adjoining 24-acre wooded tract it owns that was used decades ago as a Boy Scout camp.... Under the arrangement, the Schuylkill Center will retain ownership of the tract...in the Upper Roxborough and Shawmont neighborhoods. But Natural Lands, a regional nonprofit land trust, will hold a conservation easement that **permanently preserves the land from development....**

Their donation... eliminates all development rights on the Boy Scout tract. The tract will now join the 340-acre main campus, bringing the center’s protected land holdings to 364 acres. The center holds the largest preserved private property in Philadelphia.” (Frank Kummer, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 11, 2023)

#### Philly Will Replace Street Lights

“Philadelphia will replace all of the city’s 130,000 streetlights with energy-efficient bulbs over the next two years with the dual purpose of showering high-crime neighborhoods with brighter light and cutting electricity use citywide....

City officials say it will result in a 10% reduction of the municipal government’s carbon emissions and will be **the largest energy conservation project the city has ever undertaken....** According to Streets Department officials, the energy savings will be enough to cover the debt service for the project....

Michael Carroll, the deputy managing director for transportation, infrastructure, and sustainability, said the city’s replacement schedule prioritizes neighborhoods that have higher rates of crime at night and disproportionate amounts of traffic and pedestrian accidents.” (Anna Orso, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 9, 2023)

**So let us not lose heart. And as Pope Francis enjoins, “let us sing as we go. May our struggles and concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.”**