



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

### Persisting into the New Year in Our Care for God's Creation

We have seen environmental victories in 2021, and hopefully these encourage us to persist in addressing the challenges in 2022.

#### Victories

The **Keystone XL Pipeline was cancelled**. The pipeline “would have carried 830,000 gallons per day of the dirtiest oil on the planet from the Alberta tar sands through Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska – threatening farmland, water, and wildlife habitat along the way.”

**Tongass National Forest Protections were restored**. The Tongass is “home to some of the last remaining stands of temperate old-growth rainforest in the world and serves as a hub for tourism, fishing, and outdoor recreation in Southeast Alaska.”

**The United States rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement**. The U.S. is committed to cut emissions to at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

**Methane rules were reinstated**. “By passing this resolution, Congress will ensure that no future administration could once again strip standards on methane pollution from oil and gas operations.” (Sierra Club 2021 Year in Review & Action Plan 2022)

#### Challenges

**Reducing the energy burden for low-income families**. “More than 30 million Americans spend over six percent of their income on energy and struggle to pay monthly bills.” We need to invest in energy efficiency upgrades “ensuring that households spend no more than six percent of their income for energy and permanently end utility shut-offs for low-income families.”

**Enacting regulation on toxic chemicals**. “Regulatory agencies are woefully behind in setting standards for chemical exposure, which disproportionately impacts children, workers, lower-income families, and people of color.”

**Equitable access to clean water**. “Fresh water will become more scarce due to continual droughts and more pollution by toxic chemicals, and access will be impacted by destructive storms.... Remaining water sources – rivers, bays, lakes, and streams – must be protected, as they are vital to a healthy climate and vibrant economy.” (Sierra Club 2021 Year in Review & Action Plan 2022)

“In reality, those who enjoy more and live better each moment are those who have given up dipping here and there, always on the look-out for what they do not have. They experience what it means to appreciate each person and each thing, learning familiarity with the simplest things and how to enjoy them.... Happiness means knowing how to limit some needs which only diminish us and being open to the many different possibilities which life can offer.” Laudato Sí, 223

Take the **St. Francis/Laudato Si' Pledge** and (re)commit to living out the vision of the encyclical and our Catholic faith through prayer, concrete action, and advocacy. Get started on your journey once again to care for creation and the poor. (Catholic Climate Covenant)