



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, May 21, 2023

Laudato Si' – Praised Be

Caring for our brothers and sisters means caring for the home we share. This responsibility is “essential to a life of virtue” – (LS 217).

Laudato Si' Week 2023 will be celebrated May 21-28 with the film “The Letter” to mark the **eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on care for creation**. This global celebration will unite Catholics to rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life, and it will show how the protagonists of “The Letter” are already doing so. [Watch The Letter.](#)

Here in our parish, the Social Justice Committee is sharing materials from Catholic Climate Covenant's program, **"Simple Living: God's Vision of Abundant Life."** **Stop by our table during Hospitality Weekend, May 20/21** to explore some ways you can contribute to a sustainable lifestyle.

“The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling), and avoiding single-use items (e.g., plastic, etc.).” (Laudato Si' Action Platform's Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles Goal)

As one participant in a survey conducted by *Salt Magazine* so aptly stated, **“Live simply so others may simply live.”** A couple of questions you may consider as you reflect on this quote is *What is your biggest incentive for living a simpler lifestyle? What is your biggest obstacle?* At our table this weekend, we will share with you an Abundant Living Worksheet outlining some small and larger steps you can take to live more simply, sustainably, and in solidarity as an individual, a family, and community. You may already be doing some of these. If not, commit to starting with one or two steps in your journey as an intentional steward of our earth.

“The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.”
— Pope John Paul II, Sept. 1987 Mass for rural workers in California

“Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to **the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us**. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society.” (LS 208)

We're all part of God's Plan(et). Throughout His ministry, Jesus wove creation into teachings, parables, and prayers. Jesus often used creation to illustrate how we are called to love one another, and in doing so affirmed the goodness of God's gift for which we must care. (Catholic Climate Covenant)