



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, September 24, 2023

### *The Way of Francis: Seeking Peace and Justice for All Creation*

The need to answer the "Franciscan" call to seek peace and justice for all of creation has become more and more urgent, as our planet, and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, are living the consequences of climate change and its associated economic and social disruptions.

In this season of creation and in honor of St. Francis, we ask:

**"God of love show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight."** (From A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation, *Laudato Si'*)

**Join us for the Blessing of the Animals after the 11:00 Mass on October 1.**

If you are looking for some positive actions to promote / celebrate St. Francis in this Season of Creation, here are a few to consider.

#### **SHARE YOUR HOME**

Take good care of your pets.

Adopt a shelter dog or cat.

Foster a shelter or rescued dog or cat.

Volunteer at an animal shelter or SPCA.

Donate to or volunteer at a cat rescue and neuter program.

#### **SHARE YOUR YARD**

Plant native trees, bushes, or perennial flowers that support and protect insects, birds, and wildlife.

Reduce lawn size.

Avoid using pesticides or poisons that sicken and kill animals in the natural environment.

Provide water for birds and wildlife.

When possible 'leave the leaves.'

Learn about wildlife so you understand and are not intimidated by their behavior.

Be good neighbors to non-human creatures.

#### **SHARE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Pick up trash along the way.

Support organizations that care for injured and orphaned animals or migrating animals such as birds, toads, turtles, and horseshoe crabs.

Drive carefully, especially at dusk and dawn, when wildlife might be crossing the roads.

Support local environmental organizations such as the Schuylkill Environmental Education Center, Fairmount Park, Wissahickon Park, Lights Out Philly, Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center, and Wetlands Institute.

**Love and enjoy your non-human neighbors!**

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at [socialjustice@holycrossphl.org](mailto:socialjustice@holycrossphl.org).