



Friends of St. Francis: Caring for Creation

St. Mary – Holy Cross Parish

What We're About!

Friends of St. Francis are dedicated to raising awareness and support for Pope Francis' encyclical *On Care for Our Common Home* and to address related issues. Through prayer, learning and education, advocating and action Friends of St. Francis practice Catholic principles regarding care for God's creation and poor and vulnerable people locally and globally. Everything is interconnected and that all of is a "kind of universal family" that we support locally St. Mary-Holy Cross.

Friends of St. Francis gather about once a month, generally on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
We invite you to join us!

Since our first gathering in July 2009, the Friends of St. Francis have developed and are implementing the following action items.

Notify the parish about the US Conference of Catholic Bishops position on climate change legislation.

Create and maintain a section of the parish website devoted to educating about Pope Francis' *On Care for Our Common Home* at <http://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>.

Incorporate care of creation into each weekend's Prayers of the Faithful.

Host parish-wide dialogues such as that on *On Care for Our Common Home* drawing ideas of how the parish could respond to the Pope's letter.

Educate parishioners about the importance of recycling, reducing, repurposing, and safely disposing of environmentally unfriendly waste material.

Plan and celebrate parish-wide care for creation liturgical commemorations like the first anniversary of Pope Francis' letter to all people of Earth *On Care for Our Common Home* and around Feast Days of St. Francis of Assisi.

Present religious education catechists and students with background on why recycling is supported by our faith and encourage them to recycle in the religious education center.

Replace light bulbs and lighting fixtures with more energy efficient ones when due for replacement in conjunction with Building and Grounds Committee.

Help parishioners safely dispose of potentially hazardous waste such as a FREE parish-wide drop-off of old appliances and electronic waste and regularly collect at the parish materials that are not picked up at curbside or accepted at recycling drop-offs (batteries, CFLs, electronics, etc.).

See that an energy audit is conducted at St. Mary Church, parish social hall, parish office, and religious education center.

Host educational programs for the parish like its nationwide screenings of the movie *Sun Come Up* about some of the first "forced climate migrants" from the Pacific Carteret Islands.

We regularly invite any and all parishioners to join is in our regular gatherings.

Find out more about *On Care for Our Common Home* at www.saintmaryhc.org