

Friends of St. Francis Dialogue
January 12, 2017 Summary

Participants: Dona Cowman, Beth Hart, Tracy Kangas, Lisa and Tim Kautza, Tammi and Garrett McClain, Robin Olberding, Meri and Ray Parent, Delila Roberts

The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you! Amen! Pope Francis, Solemnity of Pentecost, May 24, 20

Our **next gathering** (tentatively) will be Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. We'll continue implementation of the following priority activities.

New and Ongoing Actions

On Care for Our Common Home event update

- This event will be held March 26 in the social hall following the 10:00 a.m. mass until about 2:00 p.m.) according to the following outline.
Preliminary event outline:
Following 10:00 a.m. Mass sung processional from church to the social hall
11:00 a.m. Welcoming care of creation songs while people settle
11:15 a.m. Opening prayer and introductory remarks (all ages)
11:30 a.m. 1st presentation *On Care for Our Common Home*: The situation and call (concurrent sessions)
12:10 p.m. lunch (all ages) Care for Creation exhibits
12:35 p.m. 2nd presentation *On Care for Our Common Home*: How shall we respond? (concurrent sessions)
1:15 p.m. Concluding activity (St. Francis pledge? Tree-planting overview) remarks and prayer (all ages)
1:30 p.m. Closing prayer and Care for Creation exhibits
- Meri Parent and Celeste Meulenthaler will develop a **song list** for transition from Mass to social hall, prelude to kick-off to the event, and closing song. Tracy Kangas may provide suggestions of popular songs for consideration.
- All Friends will be invited to submit suggestions for **titles** of this event by email before our next gathering, February 23. Suggested titles should attract attention and attendance of parishioners.
- The **outcomes** of the event will be ...
 - Participants will individually discern and record how they will personally and/or as a family address the encyclical in their lives.
 - All parishioners will be invited to individually plant a tree provided by the parish later in the spring with related photos individually or assembled being shared with others on the parish website, possibly a wall mural, and in the parish newsletter. Tracy Kangas will provide a more detailed plan for implementation of this at our next meeting.
 - As part of the event, Robin Olberding will take the lead to identify and organize a Care for Creation exhibit or sharing activity of parishioners and others who have an eco-friendly business or service, or have special interest, skills and ways to improve care for our common home (butterfly garden, beekeeping, prairie restoration, re-purposing items, local food production, etc.). This may occur during lunch time or immediately following the formal conclusion of the event.

A Long Walk to Water -- Tammi McClain will organize a parish-wide intergenerational reading and conversation of this book in April 2017.

Flower/prairie/pollinator/reflection garden – Tracy Kangas will continue to plan this and present a possible design at our next meeting.

Mass Appeal newsletter article – Beth Hart is preparing an article of Friends of St. Francis activities for the February issue of our Mass Appeal newsletter.

Waste management **bulletin blurbs** – Beth Hart will continue to work with Barb Liske to provide these popular tidbits in upcoming bulletins.

Donation Options – Robin Olberding is compiling a list of organizations that accept donations of goods as alternatives to sending them to the landfill.

More about *On Care for Our Common Home* at <http://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>

On Care for Our Common Home Parish Event January 2, 2017

Participants: Meri and Ray Parent, Tammi and Garrett McClain, Lisa and Tim Kautza, and Hannah Landgraf

Purpose: The purpose of the meeting was to continue to develop a parish-wide event that will raise awareness about *On Care for Our Common Home* and care of creation issues on a Sunday, after 10:00 a.m. Mass in February or March (tentatively 2/19/17 or 3/26/17). Currently we have two presenters who have agreed to speak on both dates ...

- Matt Hallbach, exec. Dir. St. Joe's Educational Center
 - 40 minute Interactive overview of *On Care for Our Common Home* with an emphasis on the Pope's call to action based on Catholic social teaching.
- Hannah Landgraf, Climate and Energy Policy Specialist, Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
 - 40 minute interactive conversation about what individuals, families, and parishes can do to mitigate climate change; addressing both personal lifestyle changes and affecting parish, state and national environmental policy.
- interweave prayer (spoken, sung and silent) throughout.
- intergenerational perhaps
 - beginning in one large group,
 - splitting into two concurrent sessions by age, and
 - concluding with large group.
- begin at about 11:00 a.m. and conclude around 1:30 p.m.
- A simple, light meal would be included.

Preliminary event outline:

Sung recessional from Mass to the social hall

11:00 a.m. Welcoming care of creation songs while people settle

11:15 a.m. Opening prayer and introductory remarks (all ages)
 11:30 a.m. 1st presentation *On Care for Our Common Home*: The situation and call (concurrent sessions)
 12:10 p.m. lunch (all ages) Care of creation songs as background music
 12:35 p.m. 2nd presentation *On Care for Our Common Home*: How shall we respond? (concurrent sessions)
 1:15 p.m. Concluding activity (St. Francis pledge? Mural?) remarks and prayer (all ages)
 1:30 p.m. Closing prayer, song and dismissal

Other decisions and discussion:

1. **What are options for dates?** We discovered there are many conflicts after 10:00 a.m. Masses in February and March and when presenters are available. Feb. 19 open, but concern was expressed regarding its closeness to the Feb. 13 Chris Norton parish-wide presentation. On March 26 Confirmation-sponsor stations will be set up in the RE center from 11:15 – 3:00 p.m. class but it might only be in one or two classrooms. We might only need one classroom. There may be choir rehearsal immediately after Mass that day. We'll make final decision Jan. 12. Conversations between Celeste M., Nicole C. and Tammi M. subsequent to our Jan. 2 meeting and they said **March 26th** was a date they could be flexible with! So, it sounds like that date might be a real and our preferred option. Hannah is available that day and Tim will determine Matt's availability. If Matt is not available, Hannah is willing to handle both presentations.
2. **How should the room be set?** The social hall will be set to accommodate the large group and adult presentations and set up in such a way to facilitate small group conversations.
3. **How do we interweave prayer?** We will try to coordinate sung prayer beginning after the silent prayer following Mass simultaneously in the sanctuary and social hall with cantors in both locations. Opening and closing prayers might be spoken. Silent prayer may be used as discernment for personal reflection.
4. **What activities for young people?** How many concurrents? We'll plan for two concurrent sessions during the presentation time for children and adults; self-selecting. Hannah will provide some resources for children and Tammi will continue to develop ideas for interactive and hands-on children activities including a possible video.
5. **Transition from Mass to event?** Meri will discuss music options with Celeste. We will encourage celebrants to greet Mass attenders in the social hall rather than the stairway to encourage participation.
6. **Opening song/prayer & activity** -- TBD
7. **Seek/require RSVP?** We will request RSVPs, but not require them and make sure people feel welcome to stop in at the last minute.
8. **What might the meal be? Who can we get to help? Is 25 minutes realistic?** The meal should be simple and suitable for both age groups, perhaps sandwiches or spaghetti with fresh vegetables, light dessert, and beverages. There was some consideration given to potluck or potluck for desserts only. There was inconclusive conversation about asking the Knights to assist. 25 – 30 minutes should be adequate.
9. **Meal activity** – with limited time to eat, it might be best just to allow time for socializing and eating.
10. **What might the concluding activity look like?** It will be intergenerational and might provide time for all to discern and record in some way (pledge cards/write on poster paper) what they will do in their personal and family lives to address *On Care for Our Common Home* and what they might do to influence public policy. This could draw upon ideas already expressed through several meetings of Friends of St. Francis (e.g. organic garden, bat houses, farmers market, legislative campaigns, etc.) and parish activities that are currently underway (prairie/pollinator

garden , solid waste tips in the bulletin, recycling batteries, CFLs, etc.). This should be done in such a way that it would be demonstrated to all parishioners and perhaps used by the parish for future considerations (website, wall mural, newsletter, bulletin, etc.).

11. **Publicity (what do we call this event?)** We'll discuss this with the larger Friends gathering Jan. 12.
12. **Coordinate with Celeste & staff** – Meri will discuss music options with Celeste and coordination of the transition of music after mass/before event. Tammi will communicate with staff.
13. **Costs?** Terry indicated that speaker honorariums could be covered by adult faith budget and we assumed food costs might also be.
14. **Meet next?** January 12 with Friends of St. Francis.

Friends of St. Francis St. Mary – Holy Cross Parish

December 1, 2016

Summary



Participants: Beth Hart, Lisa and Tim Kautza, Barb Liske, Tammi and Garrett McClain, Ray Olejniczak, Meri Parent, Di and Deacon Terry Schleisman

Our **next gathering** (tentatively) will be Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Religious Education Center. We'll continue implementation of the following priority activities.

New and Ongoing Actions

1. **Meri, Ray, Tammi, Lisa and Tim** will outline for future consideration by Friends of St. Francis a parish-wide intergenerational educational event that will raise awareness about *On Care for Our Common Home* and care of creation issues perhaps including (Bill Cox (science background), Susie Tursi (Catholic Social Teaching), and someone to lend a spiritual component. Activities for children will run concurrently. All will gather at the conclusion for an intergenerational activity and prayer. This may be done this winter (February?) after a Mass and include a simple meal (catered, potluck). This event will

replace the presentation of Fr. Horan 14 videos considered earlier. **Tim** will invite Robin Olberding to assist.

2. **Beth and Barb** will cooperate to condense waste management information and personal action compiled by Beth for presentation to the parish through the bulletin and website. **Tim** will develop brief introductory expressions of concern related to particular actions. **Tim** will look into the development and maintenance of “swap” type community bulletin boards as a way to disseminate information to parishioners.
3. **Tammi and Barb** will develop a parish-wide intergenerational reading and discussion of the book *A Long Walk to Water* to perhaps be done in conjunction with the RE activity related to water wells.
4. **Tim** will prepare bulletin reminders drawing attention to information about On Care for Our Common home on the parish website.
5. **We will all** personally invite other Friends on the email distribution list and other parishioners to join in our future gatherings.

For your information, following is a draft St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and Poor and Vulnerable People prepared through several gatherings by a 2009 gathering of Friends of St. Francis. We may consider this at upcoming gatherings, possibly update it to include other ideas generated by parishioners, and consider whether or not to share it with the parish and how it might guide future deliberations.

Draft St. Francis Pledge

We the Friends of St. Francis at St. Mary – Holy Cross Parish in the Diocese of Des Moines pledge to:

- **PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God’s Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable and help others do the same by adding intercessory prayers to each weekend Mass as part of the Prayers of the Faithful.
- **LEARN** about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change by helping religious education catechists and students understand how our faith supports recycling and giving them the opportunity to practice recycling in the religious education center.
- **ASSESS** how our parish contributes to climate change through energy use in our parish facilities by conducting an energy audit.
- **ACT** to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change by replacing lights and appliances when needed with more energy efficient alternatives.
- **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change legislation by sharing with all parishioners the USCCB “backgrounder” on climate change legislation.

For your information ...

The 2009 Friends of St. Francis brainstormed ideas of what they thought the parish could do to follow the St. Francis Pledge to ...

- (1) **pray** and reflect on the duty to care for God's creation and poor and vulnerable people?
- (2) **learn** about and educate others about caring for creation?
- (3) **assess** how we as a parish, individuals, families contribute to climate change or otherwise degrade God's creation?
- (4) **act** to better care for God's creation?
- (5) **advocate** for Catholic principles in discussions and decisions regarding care of creation?

Action Items:

1. Purchase energy efficient (Energy Star) appliances when replacing existing appliances or when purchasing those we don't have, but need. **(uncertain)**
2. Ensure that care of creation is taught in religious education. **(Karen presented)**
3. Consider a care of creation service project for religious education. **(ongoing)**
4. Incorporate care of creation as an emphasis of adult faith formation. **(did through two videos)**
5. Notify parish about US Conference of Catholic Bishops position on climate change legislation [learn & advocacy] **(did through bulletin)**
6. Offer to collect from parishioners to recycle batteries, eyeglasses, electronics, CFLs, etc. (those things that curbside won't pick up or drop-offs won't accept. **(ongoing)**
7. Include care of creation in each week's prayers of intercession. **(ongoing occasionally)**
8. Use more energy efficient lights and lighting fixtures in parish facilities. **(ongoing)**
9. Solicit ideas from parishioners of things they'd like to learn more about and things that they know about regarding care of creation and conduct learning experiences accordingly.
10. Encourage and facilitate the exchange of unwanted material, furniture, dead trees, etc. as a way of reducing landfills. One person's junk is another person's treasure.
11. Ask religious education, youth ministry, and adult faith formation students and catechists to use recycling containers. **(ongoing)**
12. Develop parish facilities and property into models of sustainability.
13. Ask the town to not spray our ball fields with pesticides.
14. Expand Work of Our Hands to include sustainable products and care of creation opportunities.
15. Plant trees on parish property to enhance climate control of the buildings.
16. Provide parishioners regular St. Francis updates (Mass announcements, bulletin, website, etc.)
17. Present to parishioners tidbits of what people can do to pray, assess, learn, advocate, and act regarding care of creation with sources of additional information. **(on website)**
18. Post a Q & A board to which St. Francis will respond.
19. Consider sustainability in future design of renovations.
20. Plant a communal church garden **(rectory garden)**
21. Hold periodic farmers market/farm stand in parking lots
22. Use only green certified (Green Seal, etc.) or homemade non-toxic cleaning supplies in our facilities. **(ongoing)**

23. Use recycled (post-consumer preferred) products (paper, plastic, wood, etc.) and reusable products (ceramic serveware, silverware, plastic cups etc.) in parish facilities. **(occasional)**
24. Consider alternative sources of energy (wind, solar, geothermal, etc.) for parish facilities. **(new rectory)**
25. Use local foods for church meals.
26. Conduct an energy audit of parish facilities. **(done for old rectory)**

See the *On Care for Our Common Home* website for summaries of previous Friends of St. Francis gatherings.

Summary of September 21, 2016 Dialogue Regarding On Care for Our Common Home

Participants

Barb Liske	Tammi McClain
David Liske	Meri Parent
Lisa Kautza	Ray Parent
Tim Kautza	Sonya Staudt

Summary

Following updates on action initiated August 2 and ongoing, the participants agreed to the following next steps.

1. We will continue to monitor and support the development of a butterfly garden/mini-prairie and worship space as part of the rectory landscaping and coordinate with religious education. Tracy Kangas has the lead on this.
2. We will collaborate with religious education for an intergenerational parish read and conversation of the book *A Long Walk to Water* in January 2017. Tim will cooperate with Tammi.
3. Meri and Ray Parent and David Liske agreed to prepare communion bread for October 1 & 2 Masses. Kautza's will provide instructions.
4. We will host the 16, 15-minute video series *Understanding Laudato Si* by Franciscan Friar Dan Horan this winter. Tim will coordinate with Deacon Terry regarding facilitation and Fr. Dan with capturing the videos.
5. Barb will check with Arlene Anderson to determine the number of hits on various pages of the parish website regarding *On Care for Our Common Home*.
6. Tim will place reminders in the bulletin about educational resources on the website.

Summary of August 2, 2016 Dialogue Regarding On Care for Our Common Home

Participants

Dona Cowman	Marion Panyan
Beth Hart	Di and Deacon Terry Schleisman
Lisa and Tim Kautza	

Summary

Following a review of the ideas presented during dialogues after Masses on July 9 & 10, 2016, (see below) the participants agreed to the following next steps.

1. Due to an apparent interest about waste management (reduce, reuse, recycle) as expressed by parishioners in initial dialogues (nearly 1/3 of the items; see below), it was agreed that in order to “change our individual and parish habits/practices that are detrimental to our common home” (Item #3 below) that we would “develop a list of what parishioners can do to change their individual behaviors and beneficially affect our common home and include ideas of the week regularly in the bulletin and Mass Appeal newsletter (Item #12 below).
 - a. Beth Hart will take the lead on this activity. Each participant will identify to Beth various types of common household waste (Styrofoam, bubble wrap, plastic bags, clothing (Amy’s Closet at SVdP), electronics, furniture, tires, spent oil, paper scraps, plastics not picked up by community recycling, CFLs, paints, batteries, etc.) and determine methods of reducing their use, reusing them, or where they can be recycled. Beth will prepare a list of these ideas for occasional insertion into parish bulletins, Mass Appeal newsletter, and posting on the Parish Community Bulletin Board.
 - b. Information for distribution to parishioners will be prepared to explain the value to our common home of reducing the amount of waste being taken to landfills and the values of recycling and reusing materials.
 - c. Information developed should be shared with Directors of Religious Education for coordination with their related monthly projects.
2. Because of significant interest expressed by parish leadership (Pastoral Council, Stewardship Committee) to highlight *On Care for Our Common Home* at special feast days throughout the liturgical year, it was agreed to work with Fr. Dan and Celeste Muehlenthaler regarding liturgy and Deacon Terry regarding blessing of pets to again draw parish attention to the encyclical at all Masses October 1 & 2 (see Item #2 below).
 - a. Tim Kautza will take the lead on this activity. Tim will develop various ideas for further education of parishioners regarding the encyclical and care for our common home for discussion at the next gathering of interested parishioners that might be presented after Masses October 1 & 2.
3. It was agreed to determine when the greatest number of interested people can gather in September to further develop ideas on how we can address *On Care of Common Home* in our parish. Dates to be presented for consideration are Thursday, September 8; Monday, Sept. 12; Wednesday, Sept. 14; Monday, Sept. 19, or Wednesday, Sept. 21.
 - a. Deacon Terry will take the lead on this activity.

Summary of After-Mass Dialogues
Regarding *On Care for Our Common Home*
July 9 – 10, 2016

Participants

Arlene Anderson
Elaine and Jerry Barnwell
Sarah Baumberger

Marti Birchmier
Kelly Dunbar
Sharon and Bill Dunbar

Katie Frederickson
Susan Genalo
Bradon Hines
Doug Jones
Bill and Shirley Jorgenson
Lisa and Tim Kautza
Tracy Kangas and sons
Fr. Dan Krettek
Barb and David Liske
Tammi and Garrett McClain
Ray Parent
Marion and Steve Panyan
Meri Parent

Lori Phelan
Pat Phelan
Diane Reid
John Roberts
Di and Deacon Terry Schleisman
Dennis Schmidt
Lisa and Cory Schoening
Karen Stafford
Susan and Greg Stillmunkes
Kris Sturtz
Beth and Norm Wagoner
Carol Weber

Ideas of how the parish/individuals might respond to *On Care for Our Common Home ...*

1. Inform ourselves of the positions and inclinations of political candidates and vote according to our values and beliefs.
2. Show the "Top 10" video or other videos at Mass or incorporate more about the encyclical into Masses to reach more people.
3. Change our individual and parish habits/practices that are detrimental to our common home.
4. Learn how to Influence legislation that impacts our common home.
5. We can all individually recycle more (bubble gum wrapper effect).
6. Determine what can be done to make recycling easier in rural areas.
7. Determine where our recycled waste really goes after it's picked up.
8. Host another hazardous waste recycling pick-up.
9. Continue to offer parishioners the opportunity to recycle compact fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, etc through the parish.
10. Learn more about the encyclical by bringing knowledgeable people to present to the parish and include a regular column related to it in the bulletin.
11. Attempt to change parishioners attitudes toward our common home.
12. Develop a list of what parishioners can do to change their individual behaviors and beneficially affect our common home and include an "idea of the week" regularly in the bulletin.
13. Highlight in the parish newsletter and bulletin what individual parishioners are already doing to beneficially affect our common home including creative ways to reuse what is usually thrown-out as waste.
14. Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides on parish grounds, parishioners homes, and globally.
15. "Practice what we preach" in the operation of the parish.
16. Work with other organizations like the Center for Social Ministry, Just Faith, Des Moines Diocese, and the Iowa Catholic Conference.
17. Present more educational sessions on Catholic social teaching.
18. Be sure to include young people (children, youth and young adults) in all that we do in this regard.
19. Support local and organic farmers.
20. Explore ways for the parish to help provide clean water and sanitation to poor and vulnerable people (e.g. Sister Water Project by the Franciscan Sisters of Dubuque).
21. Meet again to further develop these ideas and develop additional ones.

In June, the **Pastoral Council and Stewardship Committee** were asked for ideas on how they thought we might celebrate and increase parishioners understanding of *On Care for Our Common Home*. Below find a summary of the responses received from those two parish leadership groups. The development of the *On Care for Our Common Home* element of the parish website and the Masses celebrated July 9 & 10 resulted from this input. We present these here as additional ideas for consideration for further development.

___5___ A one-hour discussion including a video overview of the encyclical and discussion on what the parish and individuals can do respond to it.

___3___ Environmentally-themed community service projects, perhaps with other churches in our communities.

___6___ A Mass or interfaith prayer service with the encyclical as the special intention.

___3___ A series of Rosaries before Masses based on major messages of the encyclical.

___3___ A potluck using local products as much as possible highlighting local producers and referencing the encyclical.

___3___ Gather signatures after Masses on a petition that could be sent to candidates or governmental authorities asking them to support care for creation.

___5___ Special celebration of the Feast Day (Oct. 4) of St. Francis of Assisi (patron of ecology) highlighting the encyclical or on other special days such as the Feast Day of the Patron of Farmers St. Isidore (May 15), World Day of Peace (Jan. 1), Thanksgiving, Rogations Days, Ember Days, Earth Day (April 22), World Environment Day (June 5), World Water Day (March 22)

___2___ A parish garden with produce to be used for parish events, at food pantries, and meals for St. Joe's Emergency Family Shelter.

Additional ideas:

- We should try to get our youth involved somehow.