

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
February 4, 2020 Minutes

OPENING PRAYER: from National Catholic Reporter

PRESENT: Helen Dickey, Carol Even, Barbara Ewalt, Harriet Hanlon, Patti Kaiser, John and Beebe Stroik

EDUCATION: For upcoming events, Harriet will fill a large container/basket with examples of compostable items to display. Her son and daughter opened a new restaurant in Ashburn, the Wicket Door Pub, that uses compostable items such as paper cups, cup holders made from plant sugars and a plant-based polymer, and compostable resin straws. The companies that provide these items include World Centric, (worldcentric.com), Stalk Market (stalkmarketproducts.com), and Envirolines – a Green Division of Royal Paper (my.royalpaper.com).

RECYCLING: Gary Voegelé reported that American Disposal Services offers tours on Tuesdays. He also sent Carol the County shredding schedule (See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/document-shredding>). Additionally, other local opportunities may arise, as some realtors, such as Buffy O’Gorman and Weichert in McLean do public shredding events on occasion.

Glass recycling is catching on. The County is getting more bottles – and making money at recycling the glass into products. (See: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/glass-recycling-a-smashing-success/>).

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS: starting with the Welcome Committee providing soups on February 28th, Parish organizations will be providing a variety of soups for several Friday nights in Lent. Supper will be served at 7:00pm after the Stations of the Cross.

Our CCH group will do March 6th, providing 4-5 soups to serve 10 people each, and no more than 3 crock pots to prevent overloading the circuits. Other soups can be kept in hot pots. Helen advised that soup in a pot will stay hot if heated in a thick bottom pot then stacked on potholders. During this event, we will have a tri-fold information board, and a selection of recyclable/compostable materials for people to examine. Carol will provide posters and other material. Our committee will bring soups and do serving, dishwashing, and clean-up. We will need to bring out the bowls and utensils. Bread and butter will be provided, and tables will be set up beforehand.

DISCUSSION: Carol shared a letter of gratitude thanking members of our ministry, Betty, Lauren, Carol, Helen for washing dishes at the Hypothermia Shelter on January 23rd at St. John Neumann.

Composting kitchen scraps can reduce solid waste that must be picked up. Our composting members, Carol and Helen, might give us some instruction for members who have an interest in this ecological activity. Harriet stated a goal for the summer – to learn to compost correctly.

John suggested a cooking/nutrition workshop using sustainable and healthful foods.

Harriet suggested that each of us name the 4 environmental things that we are most concerned about, and then of these, we can choose where to concentrate our bulletin tips. Also, she recommended a bulletin committee for bulletin boards and tips. Limiting our bulletin information will help us to concentrate on various seasonal issues.

Because recycling can be confusing with recent changes in the disposition of materials, we might compile a list of questions to present to our recycling companies – things we need to know. A very well-informed owner of one recycling company would like to do a presentation to our community. Perhaps this will tie in with Earth Day.

Roof top solar in our Parish may become a reality with a new assessment for feasibility that might prove the financial and environmental benefits.

RECENT EVENTS: Carol attended a small group meeting with our Hunter Mill representative on the School Board.. The County has a net-zero building strategy and is actively working on solar energy for the schools.

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions Advocacy Day: Carol and Patti attended. The day began with a talk on the C-PACE financing program for sustainable energy, a resource similar to the CATHOLIC ENERGIES Program. Later, there was instruction and role-playing to practice techniques for advocacy to our legislators.

Carol attended the Quarterly Diocesan Care for Creation Network meeting. Different parishes reported on their activities. Three parishes are planning to install solar panels using Catholic Energies contracts.

COMING EVENTS: The Diocesan Peace and Justice Commission announced a program on March 14th at Nativity Church with the theme of "Racism". Fr. Bob Cilinski, Bishop Wilton Gregory and Bishop Burbidge will concelebrate.

EARTH DAY PLANNING: April 22nd The Diocesan Care for Creation Network suggests that pastors celebrate the combined 5th Anniversary of Laudato Sí and the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day with daily practices, holy hours, reparations for sins against creation, etc.??

LEGISLATION: The Solar Freedom Act is currently being considered in VA in the form of several House and Senate bills.

ACTION:

Sign-up when you receive Carol's reply-all email request for help at the March 6th Soup Supper. Prepare the posters and recyclable materials display for March 6th.

Patti will contact Mrs. JoAnne McCoy at Champion Services to arrange a speaking date.

seek Wildlife Habitat Certification and/or Audubon Sanctuary Certification for the Parish grounds or our own properties. Audubon certification requires observing use of property by 10 Sanctuary Species or other specified wildlife, a Healthy Yard Pledge and continuing measures of success as your habitat changes.

Think of four specific areas that need focus in the coming year – for discussion in the next meeting.

Gear up with more ideas for Earth Day/Laudato Sí Anniversaries.

Carol will put recycling posters from SJN on the downstairs bulletin board. One side of the board will be aimed toward children, and the other for their parents and other adults.

Carol will contact Walter Alcorn about adding a purple bin in Reston, at Baron Cameron park or the Government Center offices.

POPE FILM UPDATE We need to pick a date on a weekend, either April 19th or 26th to show the film documentary by Wim Wenders "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word".

NEXT MEETING: March 3, 2020

CLOSING POEM: "Ode to a Blizzard" by Tom Disch