

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
April 6, 2021 7:00pm virtual meeting Minutes

OPENING PRAYER:

from A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation (last verse) by Pope Francis

PRESENT:

Ali Althen, Lori Brady-Newman, Carol Even, Barbara Ewalt, Harriet Hanlon, Patti Kaiser, Mary Ricotta, Betty Sullivan

DISCUSSION:

It appears that everyone has had their COVID shots. Our next meeting could be in person in the daytime, rather than a zoom at night. Carol suggested we meet outside, around the Mary statue, where there are benches, and there is room for fold-up chairs.

Several different ideas arose about creating a recipe book with earth-friendly recipes. Inspired by the NOVA community online book, we might do something similar, or select 50 recipes for the 50th Anniversary of the Parish. Other Ideas included accepting suggestions online, creating a list of six bullet points covering healthy criteria. Lisa Erhardt, on the Pastoral Council, might be interested in pursuing this with the CCH. A committee was formed including Barb and Mary.

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES:

The Adopt-A-Highway project is planned for Earth Day, April 22nd. We will pick up litter and trash from the roadside paths along Wiehle Avenue from Baron Cameron to the second intersection of North Shore (by Lake Anne Kindergarten). Patti will supply vests, bags, and signs from VDOT, and volunteers will bring their own gloves and grabber sticks, if they have them. All details have been sent via email to the entire group.

On Saturday, April 24th, from 10:00am to 12:00pm, volunteers will gather to work in the parish gardens, to weed and plant some native pollinator plants. Carol has some Coral Bells and Black Eyed Susans from her garden that she will donate. A preliminary walk to map the gardens by Carol, Harriet and Patti indicated that there would be plenty to do in two hours. Word of mouth will go out to possible volunteers asking them to join us.

NEWS TO USE and EVENTS:

April 24th from 10:00am to 2:00pm Fairfax County recognizes the DEA Drug Take Back Day, where unused or expired medications can be safely disposed. At other times, medications can be taken to Reston or Herndon Police Station for disposal, as well as to some CVS pharmacies.

On July 10th from 7:00 to 11:00am, or until the four trucks are full, Fairfax County, Hunter Mill District, will hold a Secure Document Shredding Event with residential shredding services offered at South Lakes High School for no charge. See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/document-shredding> for details.

Electronic devices are difficult to recycle, and more difficult when the contents must be wiped. Fairfax County does accept e-waste at the e-cycling stations at the I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex. They accept cell phones, computers, televisions and rechargeable batteries and cassette/VHS tapes. To erase the personal contents of a computer requires special treatment, e.g., removal of the hard drive. To recycle magnetic recording tapes, the tapes must be removed from the plastic holder.

To join in the City Nature Challenge April 30 to May 3rd, see: www.citynaturechallengedc.org. It is easy to participate using the iNaturalist app on your phone. Take pictures of flora or fauna in the wild and add them to the Metro DC Challenge. April 30th to May 3 – taking pictures of wild plants and animals, and May 4th to May 9th - identifying what was found.

In under five minutes, you can be delighted by Amanda Gorman's poem "Earthrise" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwOvBv8RLmo>. This energized and energizing poem is all about what we do – caring for our planet and its peoples.

NEXT MEETING: May 4th - location and time to be determined, possibly 10:00am outside the Church. If so, it will be our first in-person meeting since March 3, 2020.

CLOSING POEM: Ali played a video of Amanda Gorman reading her poem: "The Hill We Climb".

A Christian prayer in union with creation

*By Pope Francis**

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!
Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!
Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!
Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.
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.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
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.