

Some Winners of Laudato Si' Champion awards 2023

St. Camillus Parish - Silver Spring, MD St. Camillus Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, has demonstrated commitment to environmental stewardship and extensive efforts in promoting the principles of Laudato Si' among parishioners and staff. Page 13 The parish has engaged in a range of activities outlined in the Laudato Si' Action plan, both at the local and regional levels. St. Camillus played a key role in creating Maryland Catholics For Our Common Home and its impressive advocacy efforts. The parish was very involved in the local interfaith advocacy efforts around clean jobs, engaging hundreds of Latino St. Camillus' parishioners in adding their voice for strong provisions in the law. In addition to local and regional projects, they have offered financial support for international ecological projects. The parish has done extensive ecological formation education, equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions regarding our common home. Their solidarity with the poor is also evident through their efforts to address environmental justice issues. Through their comprehensive formation, concrete actions, financial support, and commitment to ecological education and solidarity with the poor, St. Camillus Parish has exemplified the principles of Laudato Si' and Catholic Social Teaching. Their dedication to environmental stewardship and their holistic approach to sustainability make them a recipient of the U.S. Laudato Si' Champion Honorable Mention

Individual Category WINNER INDIVIDUAL: Fr. James Flynn - Louisville, KY Fr. Jim Flynn designed an educational program on Laudato Si' that is being presented not only in the Archdiocese of Louisville, but to anyone via Zoom. He put together a team of knowledgeable corroborators to implement the program that uses the virtual platform. Archbishop of Louisville Shelton Fabre has promoted it to all parishes within the archdiocese. Fr. Jim has been hard at work educating folks about Laudato Si' since its release. From small book clubs to parish-wide presentations, he has reached countless Catholics. The Laudato Si' presentation, which he produced himself, is beautiful,

with quotations from the encyclical throughout. At age 94, Fr. Jim is retired, yet he continues to lead study groups across the diocese. He even sent a quote and an image from Laudato Si' to priests and groups in the diocese every day of Lent. He has made numerous trips to Central and South America, working with indigenous people and learning from them, too. In short, Fr. Jim is relentless in his efforts to promote the values of the encyclical.

Fr. Jim's dedication to promoting the principles of Laudato Si' is truly remarkable. His efforts to educate and inspire others, even in retirement, make him a deserving recipient of the U.S. Laudato Si' Champion award.

<https://franciscanaction.org/laudato-si-presentations-from-fr-james-flynn/>

WINNER INDIVIDUAL: Sr. Kathleen Deignan, CND - New Rochelle, NY Sister Kathleen Deignan is known for exceptional leadership and contributions to environmental education and advocacy. As a member of the Congregation of Notre Dame and a GreenFaith Green Fellow, Sister Kathleen has been at the forefront of the movement since its inception, earning recognition for her commitment. Sister Kathleen's impact extends beyond her individual efforts. She founded two influential institutes at Iona University of New Rochelle: "The Thomas Berry Forum" and "The Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit," both dedicated to addressing environmental issues. Her workshops and programs on Laudato Si' have reached audiences across the East Coast, Ireland, and Rome. Sister Kathleen has mentored a generation of young adults who have become advocates for the healing of creation and the restoration of the cosmos. Sister Kathleen's collaborations with esteemed scholars, particularly Christian Brother Kevin Cawley, have further amplified her impact. Brother Kevin, currently representing his congregation at the United Nations on environmental matters, joined Sister Kathleen as she accepted this award. Sister Kathleen Deignan's visionary leadership, extensive workshops, and mentorship have made her a recipient of the U.S. Laudato Si' Champion award. Her dedication to environmental advocacy and collaboration with scholars have had a profound impact on

the movement, inspiring others of faith to join the cause and work toward a more sustainable future.