

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
February 17, 2022 Minutes
On Zoom 7:00 to 8:00pm

OPENING PRAYER: led by Carol Even

PRESENT: Betsy Coffey, Helen Dickey, Carol Even, David Godshall, Harriet Hanlon, Patti Kaiser, Bob Ruedisueli

CARE FOR CREATION – BOOK – FOREWORD AND INTRODUCTION:

Our fifteen-minute discussion of the beginning of this book included thoughts on some questions. What made us lose the awe we had (as people connected to the land/earth)? What does ecological conversion mean to you? For our next meeting, we will read pp. 21-34, and the discussion will come at the end of the meeting, to allow for those who did not read those pages.

NOTICE OF MEETING TIME CHANGE:

Although we discussed moving the meeting time to evenings on the third Thursday each month, after this February meeting, for several reasons, we decided to adjust the time of the meeting. Keeping the third Thursday of every month, in March we will return to in-person monthly meetings at 9:45am in Room 5.

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES –Friday April 22:

- planting and distributing saplings that Carol received from Meadows Farms –Arbor Day is April 29th.
- cleaning the roadside for our Adopt-A-Highway commitment will be scheduled around this time. We walk one mile to the south and back up, making about a two mile walk along Wiehle Avenue. In two events this past year, we have picked up all kinds of discarded plastic and trash that had been carelessly discarded on the road.
- we discussed having an open-air fair – to celebrate our care for creation.
- at some point, when indoor events can be held, Carol would like to show “Pope Francis – a Man of His Word”, a film that sets out the Pope’s ideas and his message with his own expressions. It contains moments from St. Francis’ life very effectively depicted in sepia tones.

IN THE NEWS:

Walter Alcorn, the Hunter Mill District Representative to the County Board of Supervisors since 2020, has reported that more spending will be allocated toward charging stations for electric vehicles. Once a month he gives a report that we should listen to, particularly because he pulls together a local overview of what churches and other groups are doing on environmental issues.

Regarding local parishes, Carol wonders if there is financing available for churches to install charging stations.

Harriet asked about diocesan building projects, and Carol replied that any new improvements or buildings will require solar installation.

Carol reported that there have been a shocking number, many tens of thousands of pounds of plastic and trash removed from the Potomac Conservancy area. Clean-ups help! We will do a part for the cleaner environment when we pick up the trash on Wiehle Avenue as our commitment to Adopt-A-Highway.

The more we can do for the overall Creation Care ministry, the better – indoors and outdoors. We especially hope to draw more young people, families, and children into Laudato Sí activities.

NEXT MEETING: please note that we will meet in Rm. 5 at the Church at 9:45am on the third Thursday, March 17th.

CLOSING POEM: Mary Oliver – The Sun (see over)

The Sun by Mary Oliver

Have you ever seen
anything
in your life
more wonderful

than the way the sun,
every evening,
relaxed and easy,
floats toward the horizon

and into the clouds or the hills,
or the rumpled sea,
and is gone--
and how it slides again

out of the blackness,
every morning,
on the other side of the world,
like a red flower

streaming upward on its heavenly oils,
say, on a morning in early summer,
at its perfect imperial distance--
and have you ever felt for anything
such wild love--
do you think there is anywhere, in any language,
a word billowing enough
for the pleasure

that fills you,
as the sun
reaches out,
as it warms you

as you stand there,
empty-handed--
or have you too
turned from this world--

or have you too
gone crazy
for power,
for things?