

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH  
Care for Our Common Home Ministry  
7:30pm Thursday, February 16, 2023  
Online meeting via Zoom

**PRESENT:** Lori Brady-Neuman, Helen Dickey, Barb Ewalt, Carol Even, Patti Kaiser, Alan Kruml, Mary Ricotta, Betty Sullivan

**JANUARY 2023:** There was no meeting. Instead, a small group volunteered to wash dishes for the Hypothermia Shelter at Saint John Neuman (SJN) Church on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**T-SHIRTS:** So far we have had few opportunities to wear our T-shirts with the STB-CCH imprint. People have worn the aprons at STB and SJN. Carol shared some aprons with others at SJN as a way of bringing about awareness of our group. If we needed a greater number of printed garments, Carol knows about a shop that has been used in the Diocese for large orders.

**MEDITATION:** Patti reported on the group that meets weekly online on Tuesdays at 3:30 for study of Laudato Sí, and 4:30 to 5:30 for Centering Prayer – 20 minutes of silent prayer followed by faith-sharing.

Additionally, there is a course on Centering Prayer being offered online by SJN leaders starting on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30pm. All members of the CCH list should have received a copy of the flyer, but if you have not seen it, the [link to the flyer is here](#),

**MINISTRY FAIR:** We participated in the Parish Ministry Fair along with many other Parish groups. Carol spoke with four new members, one of whom attended this meeting online.

Other groups also signed up people interested in volunteering.

In general, it seems difficult to draw younger, busier people to attend meetings and volunteer. Perhaps we need to ask each member to invite one other person to our meetings each time.

**BROCHURE:** Lori, Barb, Carol, and Lois put together a full-color brochure with quotes from Pope Francis and our Mission Statement, along with photos and ideas for people to get involved. The brochure was completed in time for the Ministry Fair and served to enhance our exhibit and give people something to take along with them as a reminder that we welcome them to join us.

**DIOCESAN CARE FOR CREATION TEAM UPDATE:** Carol reported that the Diocesan Team may start meeting in-person again next month. One parish (Nativity) on the Diocesan Team starts out each year making a calendar of all the events that they will hold through the year – a good example for us to follow.

Dan Misleh, head of CCC spoke about a new Catholic Action project – a carbon-offset program that would contribute funds to environmental causes from individuals, organizations and parishes that choose to offset their carbon footprint.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Interfaith Power and Light (IFPL) has provided a Lenten Calendar again this year with daily suggestions and items. Carol will send out copies in email.

Educating parish members about CCH Ministry is a real challenge. Fortunately, we are able to insert relevant items in the Bulletin every week during Lent. Carol plans to offer weekly Lenten challenges.

**LOOKING FORWARD:** First, a look back to 2018 when we started, we showed films and were visible in the Parish. Now, after COVID, we might restore the level of activity we had then.

For Pope Francis' 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we plan to present the movie: *POPE FRANCIS: IN HIS OWN WORDS*, to parishioners on an evening around the date of his anniversary, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Discussion revolved around what night to show it, and was not firmly decided. It could be shown on Saturday night, the 12<sup>th</sup> after 5:00pm Mass, or the following day, Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> – when we have sprung our clocks forward. Carol will decide on the time and reserve the Hall.

**EARTH DAY – APRIL 22:** Earth Day falls on a Saturday this year.

We have a lot of enthusiasm for doing a give-away event where there is no exchange of money. A free-cycle event will be just the thing for Earth Day! It fits with the environmental value of simplicity, and can help people who are down-sizing, and those who have neglected clothing that might be a treasure for someone else. We need to get the word out so people can gather items to give away. Each person can deal with their own items, or we could share tables. It might be like a market or people could just open their car trunks and share from their tailgates. Publicity would be essential, and it would need to be cleared up by 5:00pm Mass.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES TO SCHEDULE:**

The bi-annual Weihle Avenue clean-up will be needing volunteers to clean our stretch of the sidewalk around Earth Day.

We will be gathering and growing garden plants, saplings, and house plants to give away on or around Mother's Day, perhaps on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

More movies to show: *THE LETTER: LAUDATO SÍ FILM* is still online. We might offer to show it to a group in the parish hall or in a room downstairs. After the movie, we can invite discussion. Alternately, we might just include the link in a bulletin announcement or show it online to a group. There is also a new film coming out about the Pope's travels, *IN VIAGGIO*.

Sometime before July we can advise parishioners to visit [plasticfreejuly.org](http://plasticfreejuly.org) to learn about the challenge and prepare for a Plastic Free July. This is an international movement that began in 2011.

**NEWS/IDEAS:** St. John Neuman is presenting speakers and soup suppers for several weeks in Lent. We can consider this an inspiration to start thinking about next year's Lenten programs. This would require coordination of several parish organizations joined together to provide speakers and soups. It is just one of the ways we can reach out to work with others in the parish for the benefit of all involved.

**CLOSING POEM:** "The Cure for It All" by Julia Fehrenbacher