

**ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH**  
**Care for Our Common Home Ministry**  
**March 16, 2023, 7:00pm virtual meeting minutes**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Carol read a prayer from the Catholic Climate Covenant

**PRESENT:** Carol Even, Harriet Hanlon, Patti Kaiser, Betty Sullivan, Gary Voegele

**FILM NIGHT:**

On Sunday, March 12, 2023, we showed “The Pope, In His Own Words”, a film directed by Wim Wenders. We projected the video from a DVD onto the wall in the Parish Hall. About twenty-five people attended and stayed a short while afterwards for refreshments. Feedback from attendees will help us to fine tune future events. There was also positive encouragement from some who would like to view it again. This film has been on our radar for three years, and finally, with COVID restrictions lifted, we were able to present it to the Parish. Perhaps we could do an encore on the eighth anniversary of Laudato Sí, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**FUTURE FILMS:**

As outreach to parish members, we would like to show more videos and to include time for discussions afterwards.

“The Letter: A Message for Our Earth” is a collaboration between the Vatican and the Laudato Sí Movement. It brings together stories that represent the unheard voices of climate refugees, indigenous peoples, youth, and the poor. These stories are about the people who receive a letter from the Vatican inviting them to come and speak, to dialogue with each other and the Pope. The message highlights the Pope’s focus on affected groups as he recognizes how the climate crisis draws us all together with finding common values, solutions, and actions to protect our common home.

Before COVID, we showed “The Human Element” in the Parish, to an audience of about 78 people. In it, environmental photographer, James Balog, points out that human activity is shaping our present world much as the physical elements of fire, earth, air, and water shaped it in ages past. We might show this video again.

**RECYCLING COMMITTEE:**

We need someone who would like to take charge of this committee. There are some incredible challenges in the area of recycling. We can continue to move forward using the example of other Catholic parishes and groups.

**SPRING EVENTS:**

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Carol has proposed an event where parishioners bring items to give away. We will need help to organize and advertise this trash to treasure event.

Road Clean-up will be scheduled depending on the people willing to help. A survey will be sent out asking your interest and your availability.

Other local outdoor events will be proposed as they become available, such as Invasive clean-up with Reston Association, or helping to add signage to storm drains in Reston.

Mother’s Day is May 14<sup>th</sup> this year. Once again, we will have a plant give-away. Parishioners are asked to provide plants of all sizes, indoor or outdoor, to give away at no cost, in celebration of Mother’s Day and the new growing season.

**NEWS TO USE:**

Some news and reminders about Earth-friendly businesses:

Trace, in Vienna, is a Zero-Waste store that sells bulk spices, grains, liquid detergent, body wash, sustainably produced kitchen and bath items, gift products, and lots more.

PayMore, near Home Depot, will buy, sell, trade, and safely recycle old electronics, including cameras. They are committed to 'Go Green' and keeping used electronics out of landfills.

MOM's grocery in Herndon recycles cork, eyeglasses, alkaline batteries and more!

**NEWS/IDEAS FROM YOU:**

Harriet continues her work with Al Gore's program as a Climate Reality Leader. This April she will do additional training in identifying areas in our local region where climate will have serious effects on poor people. She will hear from scientists and innovators about the solutions that are available.

**CLOSING POEM:** "Daffodils" by William Wordsworth

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